

FYI - Some other facts about Homophobia and its devastating effects:

Studies reveal these worrying statistics:

- In comparison to heterosexuals, homosexuals are 2.5 times more likely and bisexuals 4 times more likely to be victims of violent crime.
- In 2010, 16% of hate crimes reported in Canada were motivated by sexual orientation. In 2009, this rate was 13 %.
- In the workplace, one quarter of people who are LGBT conceal their sexual orientation from all or most of their colleagues. Less than one quarter are open about their orientation. In 40% of cases, people conceal their orientation when there are indications it will not be accepted, and in 33% of cases, they do so because a colleague is homophobic.
- In secondary schools, 38.6% of students are victims of homophobia, through insults, teasing, exclusion, etc. Absenteeism among these students is twice that of other students. Children who are victims of homophobia have a weaker sense of belonging, and their academic goals are less well defined.

Some Definitions:

Homophobia: any negative belief, feeling or action directed against non-heterosexual persons or stimuli including gay, lesbian bisexual or transgendered individuals.

Homosexuality: to have feelings of affection and attraction, emotionally and physically to people of the same gender. Related terms: gay and lesbian.

Transgender: Transgendered is an umbrella term, relating to how some individuals express their gender identity. For some it might mean changing their gender, perhaps surgically; for others, to dress in the clothing of the “opposite” gender; for some, to be free to express themselves as neither



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