

Resurgence of Homophobia

FACT SHEET

Conventional homophobia

Historically homophobia has been understood as the fear of or prejudice against homosexuals that sometimes manifests in legal restrictions or, in extreme cases, bullying or even violence against homosexuals (sometimes called “gay bashing”). There have been marked improvements in community attitudes to homosexuality for example with the passing of same sex marriage laws in Australia

Resurgence of Homophobia

With the rise of the focus on so-called ‘trans rights’ LGBT are now regularly facing compulsory mixed-sex spaces, and can no longer gather in single-sex spaces as we have always done. This is due to “Diversity and Inclusion” policies and legislation that no longer recognises our same-sex attraction, but insists on alien terms such as ‘queer’ and ‘same-gender attracted’.

When we speak up and claim the need for single-sex spaces to socialise with other same-sex attracted people we have been described as bigoted or transphobic.

In some cases, lesbians have been abused for not agreeing to entertain sexual relations with males who call themselves lesbians.

We are also witnessing a trend to encourage young people who are questioning their place in the world to ‘transition’ to the opposite gender. In many cases gender-nonconforming adolescents are trying to come to terms with their nascent homosexuality. Instead of being allowed to develop as (healthy) gay or lesbian young people a new form of homophobia is pushing them to become ‘heterosexual’ by identifying and possibly surgically transitioning to the opposite gender. Thus a young woman who is attracted to women, a lesbian, now becomes a young trans-man attracted to women, now identifying as heterosexual.

This is taken to the extreme in the case of Iran where a program of forced reassignment surgeries of thousands of gay men is considered the key policy in eliminating homosexuality from the country. While not that bad in Australia we still confront the situation where the medical establishment is pushing a new kind of gay conversion therapy under the guise of transgender identity.

Role of dominant rainbow organisations

There is ample evidence that dominant rainbow organisations are actively campaigning against the LGBT community. For example, the Victorian Pride Centre refused a booking by a lesbian group who wanted single-sex event because it went against their “inclusion” policies. They also refused a lesbian group a room in the Pride Centre for women-only events.

Representation of LGBT community in the media

Media portrayals of the LGBT community often rely on stereotypical and exaggerated depictions, such as an overemphasis on glitz, drag performances, and sexually suggestive content. While drag shows hold cultural significance within the LGBT community, recent events involving drag queens reading to children in public libraries have raised concerns. Drag performances are unequivocally adult entertainment and are not suitable for children.

Want to learn more?

Visit LGB Alliance Australia
<https://www.lgballiance.org.au/resources>

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