

The nature of homophobia and how it might be overcome

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Outline

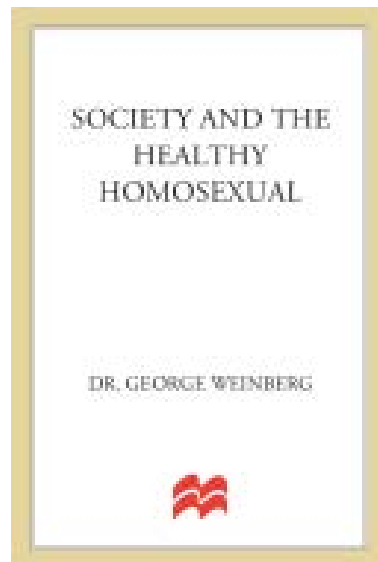
- What is homophobia?
- Homophobia across history, culture and time
- The forms of homophobia
- Its effects
- Its possible origins
- How it might be overcome

What is homophobia?

- Prejudice, stigma and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.
 - Transgender is included because opposition contains much of the same “moral outrage” at sex and gender
 - Can be severe within families, unlike other prejudice
 - Becomes an “internalised” sense of shame

Homophobia

- First used by George Weinberg in 1972
- Adopted to reflect
 - an irrational fear
 - discriminator's fears about his (or her) own sexual feelings



Has homophobia always been with us?

- *Homosexuality* arose as a term in late 19th C.
- Same sex *behaviour* previously regarded as sin
- Many religions object to the sin of same sex behaviour
 - Greatest disapproval found in the Abrahamic faiths
- But not all – e.g. Shinto is silent on homosexuality,
 - "homosexuality" is a Western concept,
 - Lack of scriptures or holy texts
- Few societies have tolerated, much less accepted as equal, homosexual relationships.

**One of the most extreme modern examples
can be found in the 20th century...**

“Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz. Lagern” “Markings for Protective Custody Prisoners.”

Kennzeichen für Schutzhäftlinge in den Konz. Lagern
Form und Farbe der Kennzeichen

	Politisch	Berufs- Verbrecher	Emigrant	Bibel- forscher	Homosexuell	Asozial
Grundfarben						
Abzeichen für Rückfällige						
Häftlinge der Strafkompanie						
Abzeichen für Juden						
Besondere Abzeichen	 Jüd. Rasse- schänder	 Rasse- schänderin	 Flucht- verdächtig	 Häftlings- nummer	 Beispiel	
	 Pole	 Tschetche	 Wehrmacht angehöriger	 Häftling Ia		

Variations marked:

- repeat offenders
- prisoners in punishment battalions
- homosexual Jews

Other colours identified:

- political prisoners
- previously convicted criminals
- emigrants
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- “asocials”.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Holocaust



- ~100,000 gay people imprisoned and ~ 15,000 sent to concentration camps and forced to wear the 'pink triangle'
- Up to 60% lost their lives.

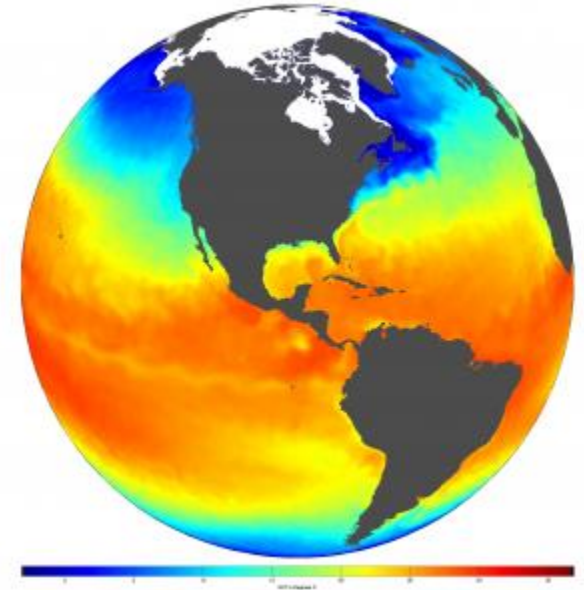


Pisagua – northern Chile

- Carlos Ibáñez del Campo (1927-1941) and possibly his successors
 - Incarcerated homosexuals in a concentration camp here
- Also used by Pinochet

Today's temperature on the global homophobia thermometer

- Tepid in western Europe
- Warm in Eastern Europe, particularly the Baltic countries, Ukraine and Russia
- Warm in India, China.
- Hot in several African countries
- Red hot in several Islamic countries



Current international law

- 75 countries
 - homosexual behaviour is criminal offence.
- African states, e.g. Kenya, Uganda, Malawi
 - laws strengthened – with support of main religious groups
- 2 countries - laws against 'propaganda' of homosexuality
 - Russia, Lithuania
- 8 countries - death penalty
 - Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Nigeria, Mauritania (Plus ISIS/ISIL)



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JUNE 4, 2013



The Global Divide on Homosexuality

Greater Acceptance in More Secular and Affluent Countries

Overview

As the United States and other countries grapple with the issue of same-sex marriage, a new Pew Research Center survey finds huge variance by region on the broader question of whether homosexuality should be accepted or rejected by society.

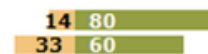
The survey of publics in 39 countries finds broad acceptance of homosexuality in North America, the European Union, and much of Latin America, but equally widespread

Should Society Accept Homosexuality?

N. America

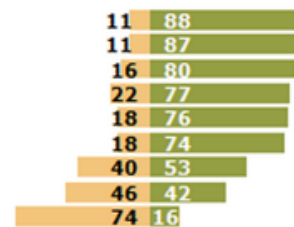
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Poland
Russia



Middle East

REPORT MATERIALS



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Regional Categorization



Country Coverage:
Spring 2013 Survey



Map: Global
Acceptance of
Homosexuality



Related: A Global

Interesting anomalies - Japan

Japan

- No national anti-discrimination laws that protect LGBTs, apart from some metropolitan centres.
- Little known about how LG couples are seen within the family based society.
 - Equal age of consent, but...
 - Heteronormative assumptions lead to marriage
 - No legal protection or immigration rights exist for same-sex couples
- Should society accept homosexuality (2013)?
 - 83% of people aged 30 or younger
 - 39% of people aged 50 or older do.

More subtle but no less damaging forms of homophobia...

- The 20th century recasting of homosexuality...
 - as illness...
- Research into the origins of homosexuality

The ‘medicalisation’ of homosexuality

- Sexology
 - Magnus Hirschfeld, Edward Carpenter
- Recast same sex behaviour and relationships in scientific terms
 - As natural, biologically driven...
- But this led to research and “treatments”



So, who is this?



Alan Turing – treated with oestrogens on a court order. Died by suicide June 1954 aged 41



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EIGHT CHILDREN FOUND STABBED TO DEATH AT SUBURBAN HOME IN AUSTRALIA

Harley Street doctor 'killed himself after his Muslim mother told him to seek a cure for being gay'



Came out as gay: Harley Street doctor Nazim Mahmood killed himself when told to 'seek a cure'

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Fabric nightclub saved from closure - but sniffer dogs will be put on patrol



Russell Brand replies to open letter from bank worker (and offers to buy him lunch)



Nick Hewer quits as Lord Sugar's sidekick on The Apprentice after a decade



Mother stabbed to death half a mile from home 'after row over shared parking space'



Nigel Farage: Ukip candidate in 'Chinky' race row just a rough diamond

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“Treatment of homosexuality

- Medical – 1920s - particularly in northern Europe
- Psychoanalytical – 1920s through 1970s
- Behaviourism – 1950s through 1980s
- Psychotherapy – reparative therapy 1990s to date

Top

Research article

Highly accessed

Open Access

Abstract

The response of mental health professionals to clients seeking help to change or redirect same-sex sexual orientation

Background

Methods



Results

Annie Bartlett¹ , **Glenn Smith²**  and **Michael King²** 

Discussion

¹ Division of Mental Health, St George's University of London, London, UK² Department of Mental Health Sciences, University College Medical School, University College London, London, UK

Conclusion

 author email  corresponding author email

Abbreviations

BMC Psychiatry 2009, **9**:11 doi:10.1186/1471-244X-9-11Competing
interests

The electronic version of this article is the complete one and can be found online at:
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-244X/9/11>

Authors'
contributions

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References

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BMC Psychiatry

Volume 9

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Responses to a client who wished to change or redirect their sexual orientation?

- Only 4% said they would attempt to redirect or change their client's sexual orientation
- But a further 10% said they would refer the client to a therapist who could do so.
- While 1 in 6 described a patient they had treated...

Reparative or conversion therapies

- Many (mainly religious) organisations in the US
- Fewer in the UK

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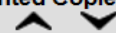
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Note the language

- The term **repair** arises from:
 - psychoanalytical and later behavioural literature of a “damaged” heterosexuality
- That homosexuals could be returned to their **heterosexual substrates**
- Beiber (1960s) “**In our view every homosexual is, in reality, a ‘latent’ heterosexual**”

Evidence on reparative therapies – poor research methods and little evidence of change

- Most are post-hoc surveys of volunteers
- Some larger “before and after” surveys show considerable harm and little benefit

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What is Exodus?

Exodus International is the world's largest ministry to individuals and families impacted by homosexuality.

With over 35 years of ministry experience, Exodus is committed to encouraging, educating and equipping the Body of Christ to address the issue of homosexuality with grace and truth.


[Find Out More](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Love Won Out - Phoenix**
Feb 19, 2011
08:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Phoenix, AZ
- **Equipping Event - Cincinnati**
Mar 23, 2011
09:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Support Exodus

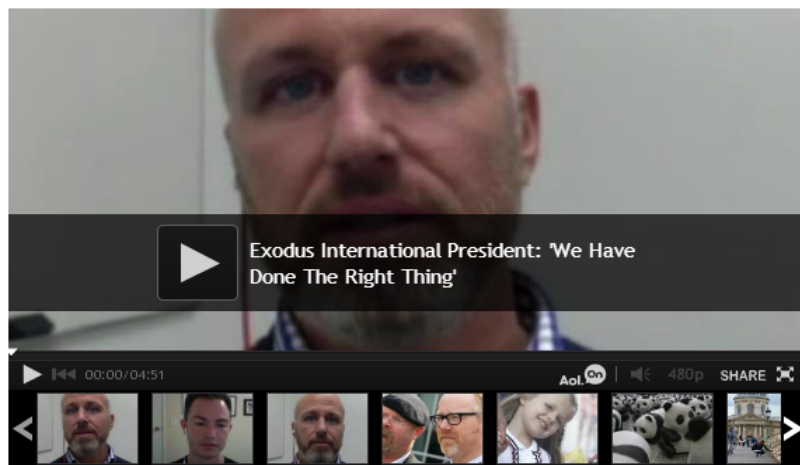


The work ahead is enormous, and we need your committed partnership to accomplish these vital goals. Will you help us to bring a message of Biblical truth and Christ-like



Exodus International Shuts Down: Christian Ministry Apologizes To LGBT Community And Halts Operations

Posted: 06/20/2013 6:39 am EDT | Updated: 06/21/2013 8:19 am EDT

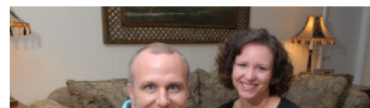


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Exodus International, a large Christian ministry that claimed to offer a "cure" for homosexuality, [plans to shut down](#).

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Dad Hits Teacher With Baseball Bat After 'Inappropriate' Texts Sent To Daughter



Alan Chambers, President of Exodus.

- For quite some time we've been imprisoned in a worldview that's neither honoring toward our fellow human beings, nor biblical.
- I am sorry for the pain and hurt many of you have experienced.
- I am sorry that some of you spent years working through the shame and guilt you felt when your attractions didn't change.
- I am sorry we promoted sexual orientation change efforts and reparative theories about sexual orientation that stigmatized parents.

Conversion (reparative) therapies

- Memorandum of understanding in UK
 - http://www.psychotherapy.org.uk/UKCP_Documents/policy/Conversion%20therapy.pdf



Conversion therapy

Consensus statement

And what are the consequences of homophobia?

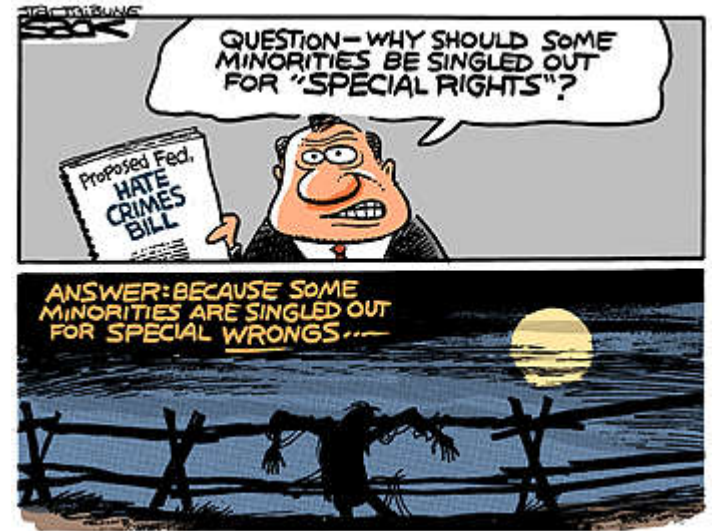
And what are the consequences of homophobia?

- Two systematic reviews:
 - King et al *BMC Psychiatry* 2008
 - Plöderl & Tremblay *International Review of Psychiatry* 2015

Psychological health and well-being

- LGB people have higher rates (up to 4x) of
 - Disorders of depression and anxiety
 - Substance misuse
 - Deliberate self harm
 - Suicide
- Bisexuals most at risk in both reviews
- Less evidence on alcohol misuse in Plöderl & Tremblay
- Closely associated with
 - Discrimination, bullying, social and family exclusion

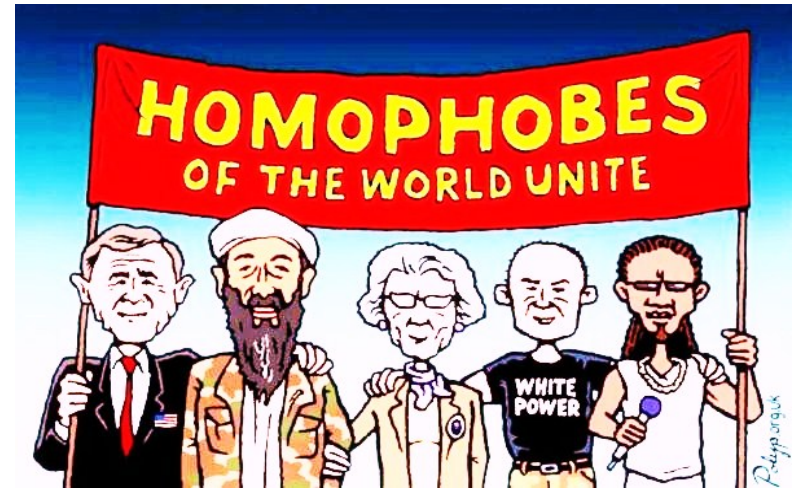
Why homophobia?



- Why are societies homophobic?
- Or rather why are (generally) men homophobic?
- Homophobia and sexism travel together

The usual ‘reasons’

- Disgust
 - Unnatural
- Against God’s law
- Corrupting
 - Young men and women at risk
- The theory of in/out groups
 - Simply a minority
- Fear of femininity
 - Abdication of the “male role”
- Homoerotophobia
 - Potentially testable...



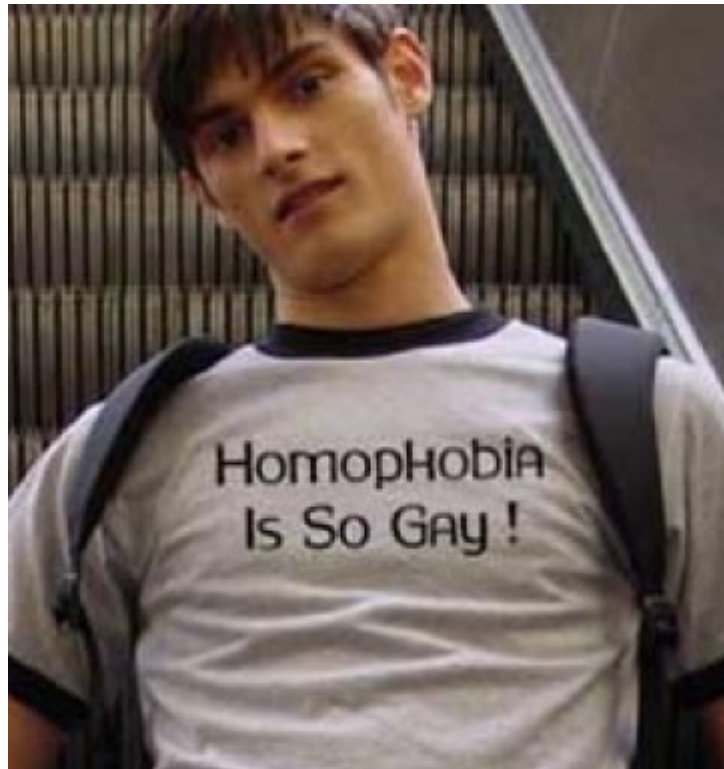
A student study

- 35 homophobic and 29 non-homophobic men (Index of Homophobia scale)
 - All exclusively heterosexual - sexual arousal and experience
- All viewed heterosexual, male homosexual and lesbian videotapes
 - **Measured: penile blood flow plus subjective ratings of arousal**
- Both groups showed equal arousal to the heterosexual and lesbian videos

First – a student study

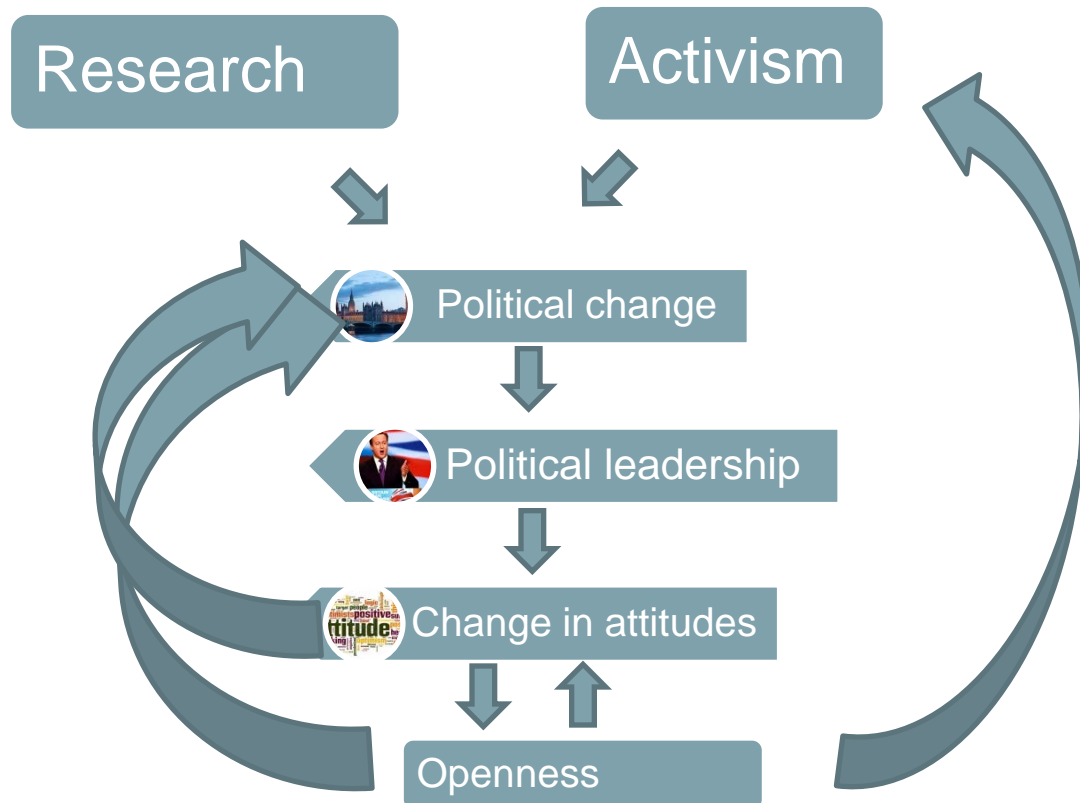
- 35 homophobic and 29 non-homophobic men (Index of Homophobia scale)
 - All exclusively heterosexual - sexual arousal and experience
- All viewed heterosexual, male homosexual and lesbian videotapes
 - **Measured: penile blood flow plus subjective ratings of arousal**
- Both groups showed equal arousal to the heterosexual and lesbian videos
- Only the homophobic men showed a significant increase in penile circumference to the male homosexual video (but low subjective ratings)

Perhaps we need more of this...



So how to oppose it?

The cycle of change



Legislation across the western world

- Decriminalisation of male homosexual behaviour
- Anti-discrimination laws
- Equal rights
- Civil partnerships
- Marriage

Legislative changes in Britain

- Wolfenden report 1954
- Decriminalisation 1965
- Sexual Offenses Act 1967
- Age of consent
 - 18 (1994)
 - 16 (rejected by HoL in 1999)
 - 16 (2000)
- Repeal of ban on LGB people serving in the British Army 1999
- Civil partnerships Act 2004
- Equal parenthood for lesbians on birth certificate 2009
- The Equality Act 2010
- Marriage (same sex) couples bill 2013
- Section 28 1988 - appealed 2003 – Cameron apologises 2009

Changing attitudes and openness

Survey data Netherlands - should gay marriage be abolished? (2,124)

Factors predicting rejection of same sex marriage (in order of importance)

Religious practice

Mother's attitude toward homosexuality when the child is 15

Respondent's highest educational level completed

Sex of respondent

% Protestants living in the region

% Catholics living in the region

Parental attitudes can be vital

For LGB people

For those who discriminate

Systematic review of parental influences on health of LGB people aged 10-24 (Bouris et al 2010)

Two dimensions of parenting are important - but hardly surprising

- emotional qualities of parent–child relationship,
 - support, caring, and parent–child connectedness
- parents' knowledge of and responses to their child's sexual orientation

Trouble is, many LGB youth are reluctant to engage parental support in the first place

Attitudes driving homophobia in students

- Negative parental attitudes
 - Pressure to prove their heterosexuality
 - Fear of being misclassified
-
- Poteat et al 2013,

Direct attempts to change attitudes

Bartos et al. J Sex Res 2013 - review

- Mainly Nth American college campus studies
- Education, contact with gay people, and combining contact with education
 - medium-size effect on measures of sexual prejudice.
- Manipulation of social norms effective in reducing antigay behavior.
- Other promising interventions, such as the use of entertainment media to promote tolerance

Review of effective interventions in US schools (Cruz 2015)

- Gay-straight alliances (since 1988 – widespread since 2000)
 - extracurricular groups led by 2^o school students that aim to
 - create a safe and supportive space to encourage the identity development and self-esteem of LGBTQ students
 - outreach and educate heterosexual, cisgender students and teaching staff
 - fight against anti-LGBTQ violence in general

Gay-straight alliances

- more effective than education
 - extracurricular seminars and intra-curriculum programmes

What about the UK?

- Particularly what is happening in schools

YouGov survey of primary and secondary school teachers

- 9 in 10 secondary school teachers and 2 in 5 primary school teachers say pupils experience homophobic bullying, even if they are not gay.
- Homophobic bullying is second most prevalent to bullying about weight.
- Teachers say vast majority of incidents go unreported by pupils.
- 43% of secondary school teachers and 30% primary school teachers have heard homophobic language or negative remarks about gay people from other school staff.
- Nine in ten teachers say they have never received training about homophobic bullying.

Alfred Salter **Primary** School in Southwark, London (Shaun Dellenty)

- In 2009 found that
 - 75% of pupils were hearing homophobic bullying/ language on a daily basis
 - 65% of staff felt the pejorative use of the word gay was not homophobic
 - 0% of staff had received training to enable them to support LGBT pupils or tackle homophobia

Alfred Salter **Primary** School in Southwark, London

- Training (role play, resources) of **all staff**
- Regular support and FU training of teachers
- Involvement of governors, school web site
 - **Outcomes - changed attitudes improved attendance and attainment**
- Training now extended to a range of schools, universities and community groups (“Inclusion for All”)
- <http://cpdnet.org/product/tackling-homophobic-bullying-language-in-schools/>

Finally – is it all negative?

- No – property prices....

Christafore and Leguizamon 2011

- Increase in same-sex coupled households associated with:
 - **increase** in house prices in more **liberal** neighbourhoods
 - **decrease** in house prices in more **conservative** neighbourhoods

Final thoughts

- Internalized homophobia is not exclusively a psychological issue but a political and social ill that perpetuates shame.
- Russell, G.M., & Bohan, J.S. (2006). The case of internalized homophobia: Theory and/as practice. *Theory & Psychology*, 16, 343–366. [10.1177/0959354306064283](https://doi.org/10.1177/0959354306064283)

John Gray

- “it is a dangerous myth to assume that once overcome, things like homophobia and anti-Semitism won’t return.”

