



Sexual Orientation and Violence

Understanding Violence Against Individuals of Differing Sexual Orientations

What is sexual orientation?

Sexual orientation can be defined as a person's feelings of sexual attraction towards a partner(s) of the opposite sex, same sex, both sexes, neither sex, or another sex.

What are homophobia and heterosexism?

Homophobia and heterosexism are quite prevalent throughout Newfoundland and Labrador society today.

Homophobia refers to the unreasonable fear of LGBT persons. Homophobia can lead to behaviours such as name-calling, exclusion, discrimination, hate crimes and various other acts of violence and abuse.

Heterosexism refers to negative stereotyping, prejudice or discrimination against people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual.

What is violence? What is abuse?

Violence and abuse are best understood as a pattern of behaviour intended to establish power and maintain control over family, household members, intimate partners, colleagues or groups. The roots of all forms of violence and abuse are founded in the many types of inequality which continue to exist and grow in our society.

Individuals of differing sexual orientations in Newfoundland and Labrador experience physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, spiritual and cultural violence, as well as verbal and financial abuse and neglect.

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