

LIVING TOGETHER

Scottish attitudes to
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people in 2012

INTRODUCTION



The creation of the Scottish Parliament over a decade ago provided an opportunity for us to shape a country built on tolerance and fairness, at ease with difference. Indeed the Parliament has delivered notable legislative protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Scots

in the form of strong hate crime laws, the introduction of civil partnerships and adoption laws, and Stonewall Scotland is proud to have played its part in securing many of these advances.

This polling conducted by YouGov among 1,968 adults from across Scotland shows the majority of Scots support what has been done to secure equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and they strongly support going further still. The vast majority also support the Scottish Government's proposals to extend the legal form of marriage – both civil and religious – to same-sex couples.

We may pride ourselves in being a welcoming nation but at Stonewall Scotland we suspect that it's too easy for us as a country to talk a good game about our decency when the truth may often be less noble.

We only have to look at some of the deeply offensive comments made by senior clerics about gay people recently – likening loving same-sex relationships to polygamy and bestiality – to see that prejudice remains deep-seated in some disproportionately vocal quarters.

The research also shows the scale of the challenge we continue to face; three in five people say there is public prejudice against LGB&T people in Scotland today. Six in ten people in Scotland aged 18 to 29 say there was homophobic bullying in their school and 216,000 thousand Scots have witnessed homophobic or transphobic bullying at work.

Thankfully, Scots say this sort of behaviour is not good enough and they want to see it tackled. We can rightly be proud as a nation of the progress we have made, but what this report shows is that Scotland expects brave and bold leadership to make the lived experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Scots the reality we all want to see.

Colin Macfarlane
Director
Stonewall Scotland

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1 SUMMARY AND KEY FINDINGS

- **THREE IN FIVE** (62 PER CENT) PEOPLE SAY THERE IS PUBLIC PREJUDICE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND TODAY.
- **MORE THAN FOUR IN FIVE** (83 PER CENT) PEOPLE BELIEVE IT IS RIGHT TO TACKLE PREJUDICE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE WHERE THEY SAY IT EXISTS.
- **TWO THIRDS** (65 PER CENT) SUPPORT THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS TO EXTEND CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES.
- **FIFTY EIGHT PER CENT** OF SCOTS AGED 18 TO 29 SAY THERE WAS HOMOPHOBIC BULLYING IN THEIR SCHOOL.
- **ALMOST FOUR IN FIVE** (78 PER CENT) PEOPLE OF FAITH BELIEVE THAT IT'S RIGHT TO TACKLE PREJUDICE AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE.
- **THREE QUARTERS** (76 PER CENT) OF PEOPLE THINK THE MEDIA STILL RELY HEAVILY ON CLICHED STEREOTYPES OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE.

- **MORE THAN FOUR IN FIVE** (85 PER CENT) PEOPLE WOULD BE 'VERY COMFORTABLE', 'COMFORTABLE' OR 'NEUTRAL' IF THE FIRST CHILD – AND HEIR TO THE THRONE – OF PRINCE WILLIAM AND THE DUCHESS OF CAMBRIDGE GREW UP TO BE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER.
- **SEVEN IN TEN** (71 PER CENT) PEOPLE BELIEVE SCOTLAND HAS A MORAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO CHALLENGE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE ABROAD.
- **ALMOST TWO THIRDS** (61 PER CENT) OF PEOPLE BELIEVE SCOTLAND HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT PEOPLE WHO COME TO THE UK FLEEING PERSECUTION IN THEIR HOME COUNTRIES BECAUSE THEY ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL OR TRANSGENDER.
- **SIX IN TEN** (60 PER CENT) PEOPLE THINK THAT LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE ARE MOST LIKELY TO CONCEAL THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY IN SPORT.
- **ALMOST SEVEN IN TEN** (68 PER CENT) PEOPLE NOW BELIEVE THAT LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL PEOPLE SHOULD BE OPEN ABOUT THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, NO MATTER WHAT.

2 PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY

Changes in legislation are not enough on their own. Attitudes need to continue to get better as well... we want LGBT people in this country to be more visible and be proud of who they are.

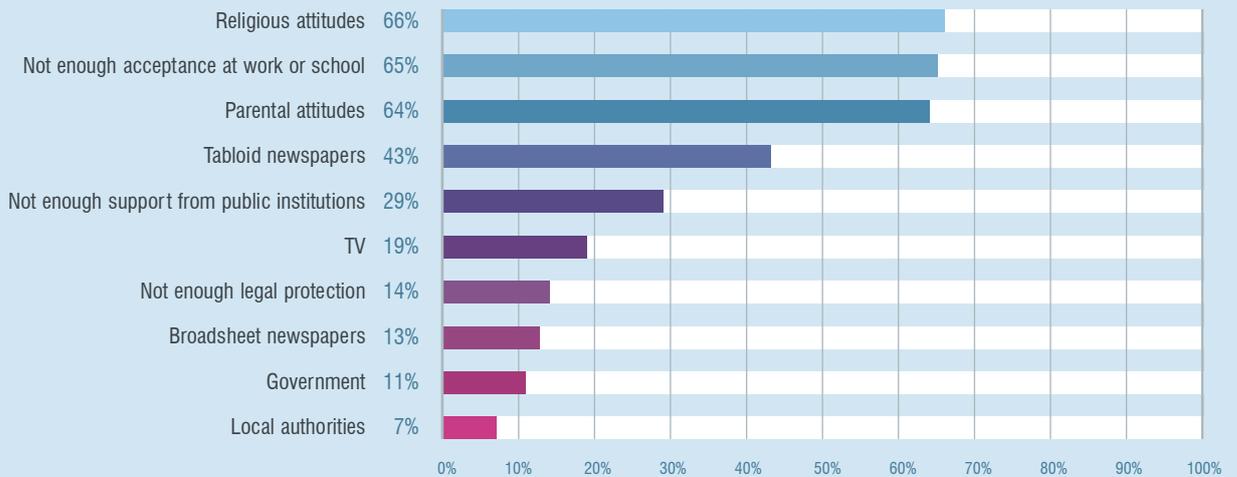
Alex Salmond, First Minister, 'It Gets Better' video message, 11 October 2011

SUPPORT FOR TACKLING PREJUDICE

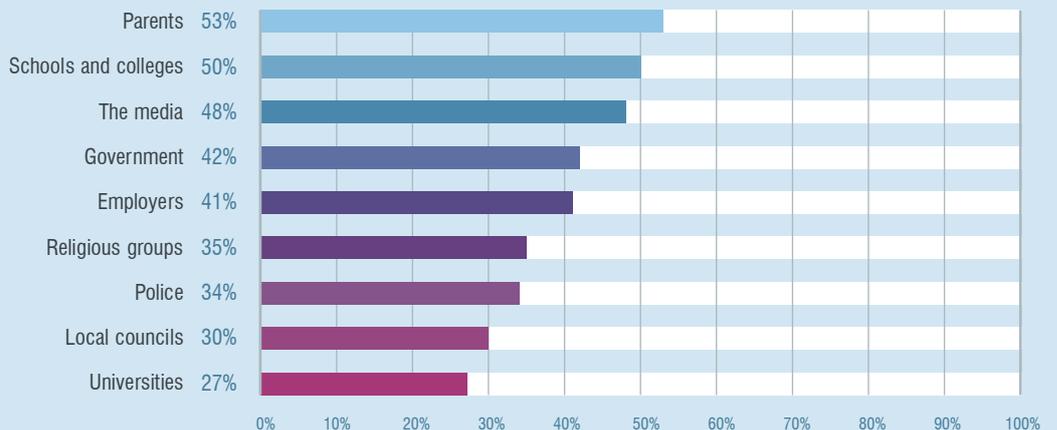
Three in five (62 per cent) people say there is public prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland today. People think negative religious attitudes, negative attitudes at school, at work, and of parents are the main sources of public prejudice against gay people in 2012.

More than four in five (83 per cent) people believe it is right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. People think parents, schools and the media have the greatest role to play in tackling prejudice.

What is responsible for public prejudice against gay people in Scotland today?



Who should be responsible for reducing the level of prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?



SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY

I am baffled that some religious leaders who preach about love and equality can so fiercely condemn gay marriage. Two people who want to declare their love for one another, before whatever deity they believe in, should be embraced by their place of worship. I find such narrow-mindedness incredibly sad.

Lorraine Kelly, The Scottish Sun, 28 April 2012

As a Muslim I find it sad those facing intolerance are now being called upon to attack another minority's rights. Change the word gay to Muslim, black or Catholic and we recognise bigotry... The biggest threat to mankind is nuclear holocaust, not gay marriage.

Aamer Anwar, The Scottish Sun, 29 April 2012

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Two thirds (65 per cent) of people support the Government's commitment to extend the legal form and name of civil and religious marriage to same-sex couples. **Seventy eight per cent** of people aged 18-29 and 72 per cent of people aged 30-50 support this proposal, as do **49 per cent** of people of faith.

There is greater support for legal equality since the 2010 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, when 61 per cent of people supported same-sex marriage.

Two in five (42 per cent) believe the Scottish Government should be responsible for reducing prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. **Nine in ten** people support protections under the Equality Act 2010 – secured by Stonewall – that prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at work and in the provision of goods and services like healthcare.

The Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012

specifically outlaws offensive and threatening behaviour at or around football matches, including homophobic and transphobic behaviour. Despite intensive lobbying by Stonewall Scotland and others, this Act only makes an offence of threats which incite religious hatred. We will continue to work with the Scottish Government and criminal justice agencies in Scotland to ensure that any further developments of this legislation considers the issue of homophobic and transphobic hatred.

Nine in ten people support legislation that would make it unlawful to incite hatred or send threatening communications to someone on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. **Almost eight in ten** (78 per cent) people think that Scottish football is not doing enough to tackle homophobic attitudes.

Four in five (81 per cent) people support civil partnerships which were introduced in 2005. **Three in five** people support laws allowing same-sex couples to adopt, following legislation introduced in 2008.

I want Scotland to be one of the most fair and progressive places in the world. Extending marriage equality to all is a really important part of that.

Willie Rennie MSP, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, 31 January 2012



LAW	IMPACT	LEVEL OF PUBLIC SUPPORT
Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 (now Equality Act 2010)	Protection from discrimination and harassment for lesbian, gay and bisexual employees	93%
Civil Partnership Act 2004	Grants partnership rights for same-sex couples similar to marriage	81%
Adoption and Children (Scotland) Act 2007	Allows same-sex couples to adopt children	60%
The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 (now Equality Act 2010)	Makes it unlawful to refuse people services such as healthcare, on the grounds of their sexual orientation	92%
Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012	Outlaws offensive and threatening behaviour at or around football matches, including homophobic and transphobic behaviour.	93%
Proposed extension of the legal form of marriage to same-sex couples	Would extend the legal form and name of civil marriage to same-sex couples	65%

GAY PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE

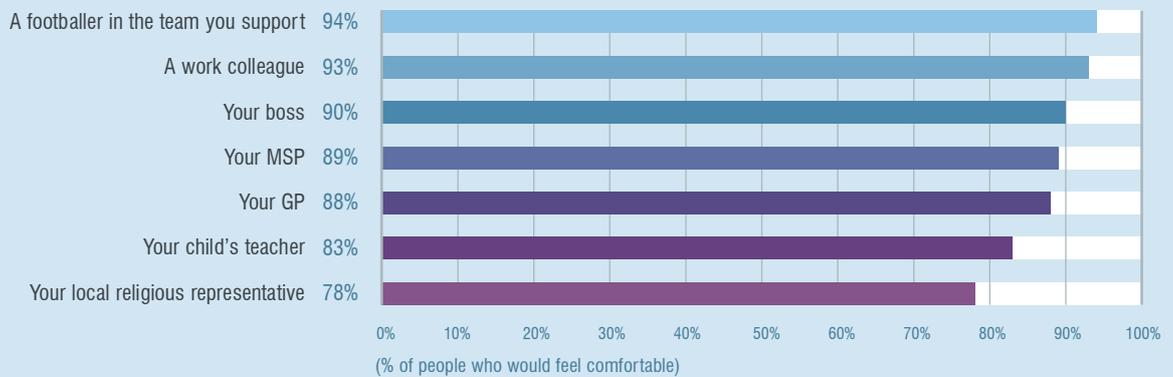
People in Scotland are increasingly comfortable having lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in their lives. Almost everyone would be 'comfortable' if a work colleague or footballer in a team they support were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Of those who were uncomfortable with this idea, the majority wouldn't change job or the team they support because of it.

More than four in five (84 per cent) people now believe that lesbian, gay and bisexual people should be open about their sexual orientation, no matter what. **More than four in five** (84 per cent) people would be 'very comfortable', 'comfortable' or 'neutral' if the first child – and heir to the throne – of Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge grew up to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

In recent years a number of celebrities have come out as lesbian, gay or bisexual. **Around nine in ten** (91 per cent) people said they did not change their opinion of openly gay celebrities such as John Barrowman, Mary Portas and Joe McElderry when they found out they were gay or lesbian. **Three in four** (74 per cent) said the same for recently retired rugby star Gareth Thomas while **one in five** (21 per cent) said their opinion improved on finding out he was gay.

Nine in ten young people (aged 18-29) thought that lesbian, gay and bisexual celebrities who are open about their sexual orientation are positive role models for young people.

How comfortable would you personally feel if any of the following were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?



LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

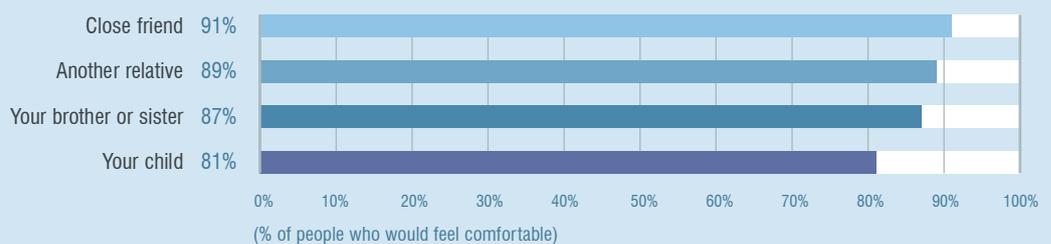
One in five (21 per cent) people say they have relatives who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. **One in seven** (14 per cent) say they have family members who are gay men, **one in twelve** (seven per cent) have lesbian relatives and **one in fifty** (two per cent) have bisexual relatives. **One per cent** have transgender relatives.

Almost half (46 per cent) of people in Scotland have friends who are lesbian, gay or bisexual. **Two per cent** have transgender friends.

Two in five (39 per cent) say they have gay male friends, **a quarter** (23 per cent) have lesbian friends and **one in nine** (11 per cent) have friends who are bisexual.

Most people would be comfortable if their child, sibling or another relative were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. For those who are 'uncomfortable', the majority would not love that family member any less.

How comfortable would you feel if each of the following were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?

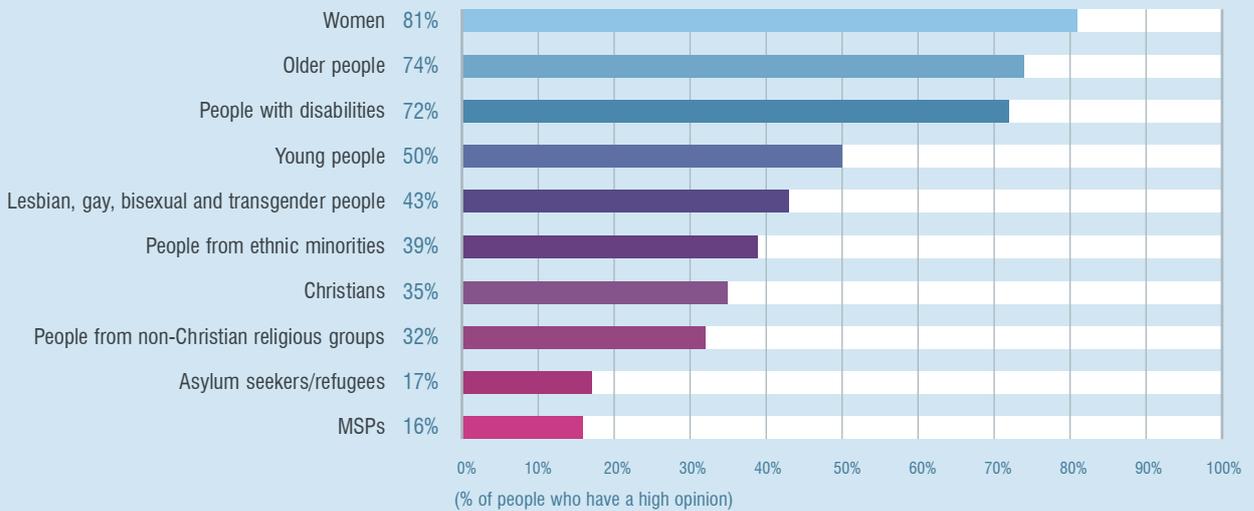


3 NEGATIVE ATTITUDES

One in five (19 per cent) people say they have a 'low opinion' of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, but just **one in 20** (five per cent) say they don't like lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Fewer than **one in ten** (8 per cent) disagree with legal protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at work or in the provision of public and commercial services, and **7 per cent** disagree with the outlawing of threatening communications on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

What is your overall opinion of the following groups of people?



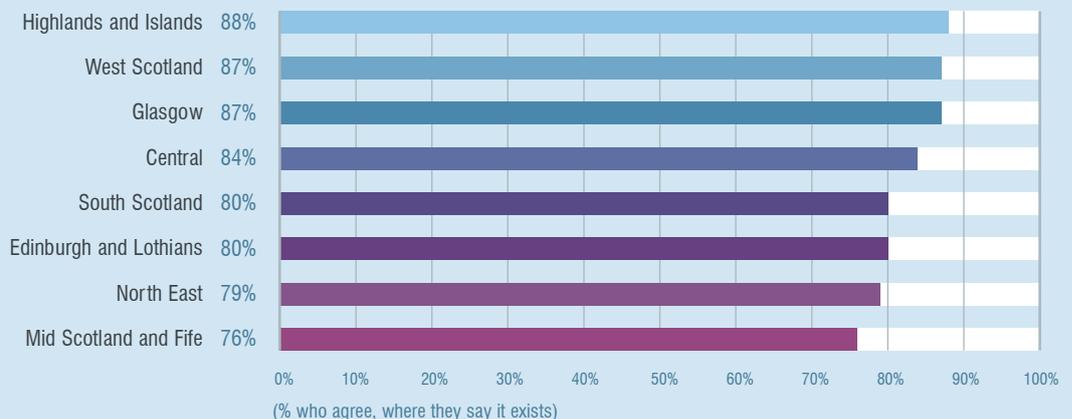
However, **three in five** (62 per cent) people still say there is public prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland. **Over four in five** (82 per cent) people believe it's right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people where they say it exists. Older men are less likely to believe that there is prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people or that it should be tackled.

There are also regional differences in attitudes towards tackling prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Support for tackling prejudice towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people is highest in the Highlands and Islands, and lowest in Mid Scotland and Fife.

We must do all that we can to progress the case for LGBT equality, because a more equal society benefits each and everyone one of us. Our quality of life. Our relationships, outlook and prospects as a nation. Progressing every aspect of the equality agenda is at the heart of what a modern, dynamic Scotland looks like to me.

Kezia Dugdale MSP, Shadow Minister for Youth Employment, 21 June 2012

Is it right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?



4 RELIGION

No Government has the moral authority to dismantle the universally understood meaning of marriage. Imagine for a moment that the Government had decided to legalise slavery but assured us that 'no one will be forced to keep a slave'.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien, Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, 3 March 2012

Two thirds (66 per cent) of people in Scotland who agree prejudice exists maintain that religious attitudes are responsible for public prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland today. **A third** (35 per cent) of people think religious groups should be responsible for tackling prejudice towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Contrary to the views expressed by a number of faith leaders in Scotland, **almost four in five** (78 per cent) people of faith believe that it's right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people where they say it exists. **Half** (49 per cent) of people of faith support Scottish Government proposals to extend civil and religious marriage to same-sex couples.

85 per cent people of faith disagree with the statement 'homosexuality is morally unacceptable in all circumstances'; **81 per cent** believe that lesbian, gay and bisexual people should be able to be open about their sexual orientation in any circumstances.

Marriage like most institutions has been changing. In my own religious tradition the theme is one of covenant and love and support. The sharing of these things should be greeted and celebrated.

Scott Rennie, Church of Scotland Minister, Aberdeen, Scottish Herald, 26 Sep 2011

The procreation process will stop if people started marrying same-sex people. Would the procreation process carry on? No, it would stop. Not everyone, but it would make a difference. If this trend goes on increasing, of homosexual unions, what will become of society? Where would civilisation end up?... Society will crumble... So far, governments have not been promoting homosexuality so much. Now it's different. If the Government thinks it's a good thing, then maybe their expectations are different. It is a sin in not only our faith but in Christianity and other faiths also. No faith approves or condones homosexuality.

Bashir Maan, writer, Sunday Herald, 22 April 2012

SUPPORT FOR EQUALITY

Contrary to what is often suggested by some faith leaders, people of faith are **as likely as** people in general to support tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools (92 per cent), protection from discrimination at work for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (92 per cent), outlawing incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation or gender identity (92 per cent) and protections that make it unlawful to refuse people services like healthcare on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (89 per cent). **Almost three quarters** (74 per cent) of people of faith support civil partnerships.

Almost nine in ten (87 per cent) people of faith say they would be comfortable being friends with a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender person – two in five (41 per cent) have lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender friends.

Almost seven in ten (67 per cent) people of faith would be comfortable if their local religious representative were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Whether or not we agree or disagree on religious or moral grounds about the rights and wrongs of same-sex relationships, as citizens of our nations, I believe we have a responsibility to enable same sex couples who are deeply convinced of their mutual love to celebrate and safeguard that commitment with public and legal significance. A civil partnership can take care of the business side, but marriage is the true endorsement of love.

John Lamberton Bell, Radio 4's Thought for the Day, 10 October 2011

I am somewhat upset that fellow Christians state the Bible is against same-sex relationships, it says nothing of that sort at all, it only talks about abusive heterosexual and homosexual relationships. It's not true that Christian faith groups are in particular against same-sex marriage but rather a minority.

Richard Holloway, former Bishop of Edinburgh, 11 May 2012

5 THE MEDIA

Another real sadness about Stephen Gately's death is that it strikes another blow to the happy-ever-after myth of civil partnerships. Gay activists are always calling for tolerance and understanding about same sex relationships, arguing that they are just the same as heterosexual relationships. Not everyone, they say, is like George Michael... As a gay rights champion, I am sure he would want to set an example to any impressionable young men who may want to emulate what they might see as his glamorous routine. For once again, under the carapace of glittering, hedonistic celebrity, the ooze of a very different and more dangerous lifestyle has seeped out for all to see.

Jan Moir, Daily Mail, 16 October 2009

The agenda is to outlaw all reference to traditional family... There have been indications the tolerance of a long-suffering public for the tyrannical initiatives dictated by political correctness is at last becoming exhausted. The rights of a majority must be respected too.

Scottish Daily Mail editorial, 28 May 2012

Over three quarters (76 per cent) of people think the media rely heavily on cliched stereotypes of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. **Almost two thirds** (63 per cent) think the media frequently use lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as the subject of jokes. **Almost half** (48 per cent) think the media have a responsibility to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Now back to the dyke on a bike, puffing up the nooks and crannies at the bottom end of the nation.

AA Gill review of Claire Balding's Britain by Bike, Sunday Times, 25 July 2010



Almost three in five (58 per cent) people believe that the BBC has an obligation to portray lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people accurately. **Almost seven in ten** young people aged 18 to 29 believe so. **A fifth** of all people think TV is responsible for prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, where they say it exists. **Almost a quarter** of people think that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are portrayed negatively on TV.

Forty three per cent of people in Scotland hold tabloid newspapers responsible for anti-gay prejudice, where they say it exists. **One in seven** (13 per cent) people think broadsheet newspapers are responsible for prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Unlike some journalists, the majority of readers across a range of broadsheet and tabloid newspapers think it's right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Scotland.

Contrary to what their publishers may think, **three quarters** of Daily Mail and Daily Express readers who say it exists believe it is right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. **Over three quarters** (77 per cent) of Sun and Daily Star readers think the same.

Almost half (46 per cent) of people think the portrayal of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in newspapers is negative.

Is it right to tackle prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people?



6 SCHOOLS

Young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender have differences that should be celebrated, not discriminated against. No one should suffer at the hands of bullies, and we are working to make sure that schools are safe places that all young people can go without fear or trepidation.

Alex Salmond, First Minister, 'It Gets Better' video message, October 2011

Almost three in five (58 per cent) people in Scotland aged 18 to 29 say there was homophobic and transphobic bullying in their school. **More than a third** (35 per cent) of people have witnessed bullying of people who were – or were thought to be – lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in their school. **One in eleven** (8 per cent) Scots aged 18 to 29, many of who are heterosexual, say they were the target of homophobic or transphobic bullying at school.

Men aged 18 to 24 were more likely to have experienced and witnessed homophobic and transphobic bullying at school than women of the same age group.

For, mad as this may seem, schoolchildren are to be bombarded with homosexual references in maths, geography and science lessons as part of a Government-backed drive to promote the gay agenda... Alas, this gay curriculum is no laughing matter. Absurd as it sounds, this is but the latest attempt to brainwash children with propaganda under the camouflage of education. It is an abuse of childhood. And it's all part of the ruthless campaign by the gay rights lobby to destroy the very concept of normal sexual behaviour.

Melanie Phillips, Daily Mail, 24 January 2011

Teachers need to feel they can come out too, so children have positive role models. And parents need to talk to their children about being gay – to tell them that homophobic bullying affects everyone.

Paola Crouch, mother of Dominic Crouch who took his own life following homophobic bullying at school, Mail on Sunday, 29 April 2012

Almost two thirds (65 per cent) of people think lack of acceptance in places such as schools is responsible for prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, where they say it exists.

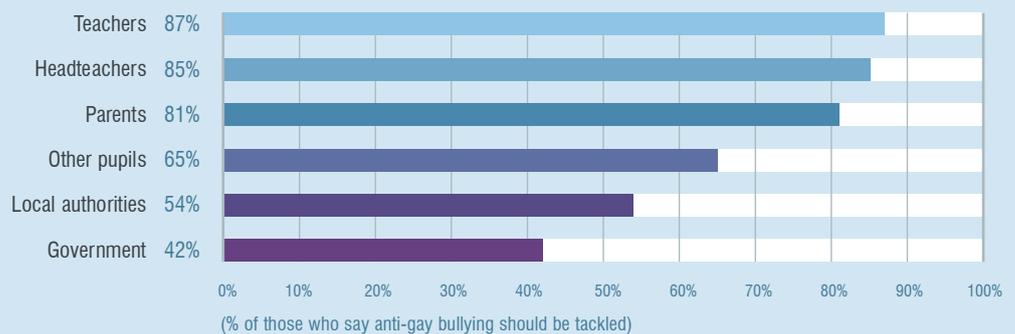
Half (50 per cent) of people think schools and colleges have a responsibility to tackle public prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The vast majority, **94 per cent**, think homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools should be tackled – including **95 per cent** of parents of under-18s and **92 per cent** of people of faith. The majority of people who say it should be tackled think head teachers, teachers and parents have a responsibility to tackle homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools.

No child should ever have to suffer homophobic bullying; school should be the best years of your life, not a prison of torment.

Mary Fee, MSP, Convener of the Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee, 19 June 2012

Who should be responsible for tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools?



7 AT WORK

If I'd been in Iraq and it wasn't fine to be open about the fact I was in love with another man, I wouldn't have been an effective soldier. If I'd had to live with that worry while fighting a war, there's a bloody good chance I wouldn't have come back.

Lance Corporal James Wharton, Role Models: Sexual Orientation in the Workplace, 2012

In the last five years 6 per cent of people – **162,000** Scots of working age – have witnessed verbal homophobic or transphobic bullying at work and two per cent – **54,000** Scots of working age – have witnessed physical homophobic or transphobic bullying at work.

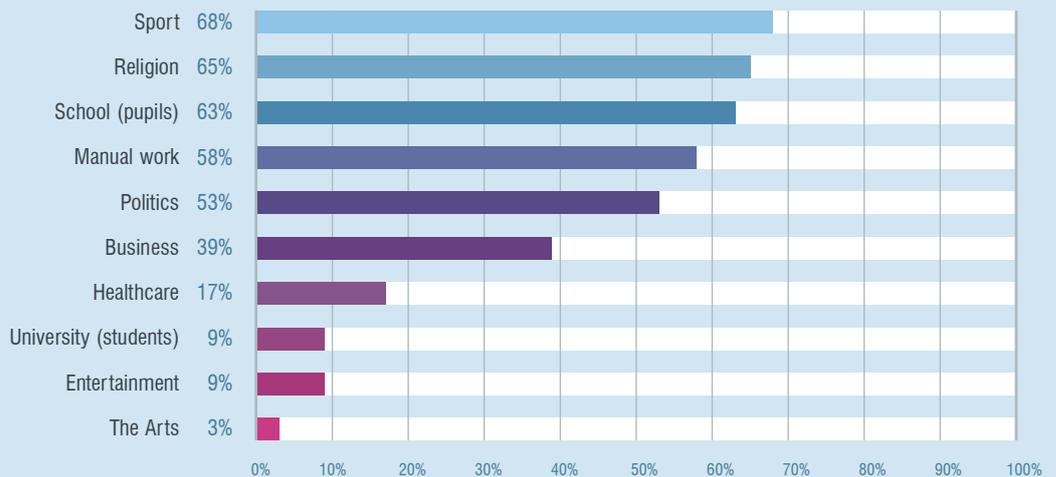
Two in five (41 per cent) people think employers should be responsible for tackling public prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

People perceive sport, religion and school as the fields where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people would still be most likely to hide their sexual orientation.

In these tough times, we must make the most of the drive, the talent, the experience and the ability of every member of our society. We know that workplaces that are more inclusive are also more productive. That's because they draw on the talents of all their members.

Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary, 20 April 2012

In which of the following areas do you think lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are most likely to conceal their sexual orientation or gender identity?



8 POLITICS

The debate is not about forcing anything on anybody – it is about allowing religious organisations that want to, the freedom to hold same-sex ceremonies in their buildings. We believe the time is now right to consult on options to provide genuine equality for same-sex couples and their families, by addressing the different status of civil partnerships and marriage. Scotland absolutely should not be left behind on issues of gay equality.

Johann Lamont, Leader of the Scottish Labour Party, 3 August 2011

I'm aware of homophobic comments being made about me by some politicians, albeit not to my face. However, I think we've reached a point where people who hold ideas like that know they need to shut up and realise they won't make any friends by voicing those opinions.

Patrick Harvie MSP, Co-convenor of the Scottish Green Party, Scotland on Sunday, 15 April 2011

No single political party is seen as gay-friendly by a majority of people. **Four in ten** don't think any of the major political parties are gay-friendly. Women and young people are least likely to think of any political party as gay-friendly.

Four in ten people think the government should take responsibility for reducing public prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. **Almost three in ten** (27 per cent) people think having more lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender MSPs in the Scottish Parliament is a solution to tackling discrimination against LGB&T people.

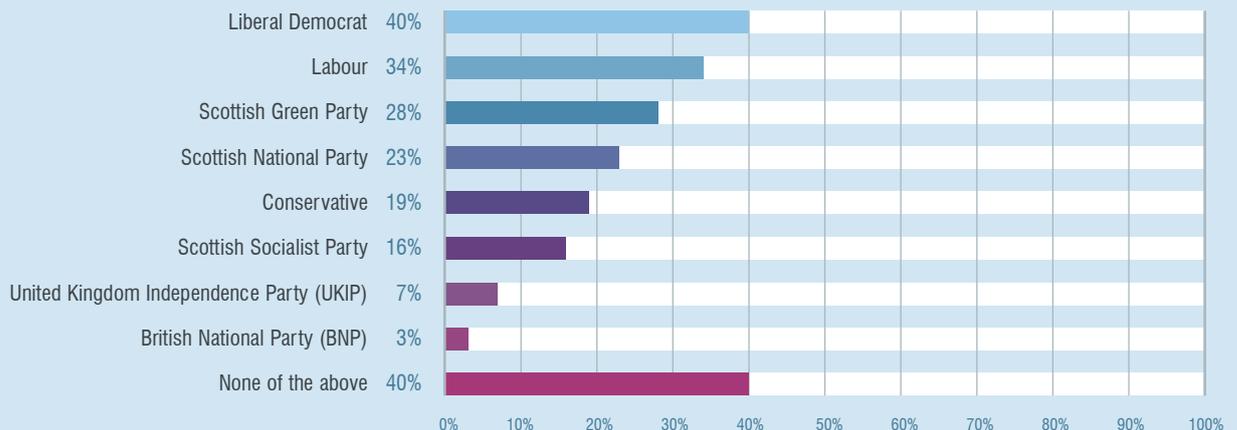
Young people would be **16 per cent** more likely to vote for a political party if they were gay-friendly, compared to those who are over 30.

Seven in ten (71 per cent) people believe that Scotland has a moral and social responsibility to challenge human rights abuses against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people abroad. **Almost two thirds** (61 per cent) of people believe Scotland has a responsibility to protect people who come to the UK fleeing persecution in their home countries because they are lesbian, gay or bisexual.

First and foremost I'm a regional MSP. If other people want to invite me to things as a lesbian MSP then I'm happy to attend and I'm happy to speak up. I'm very open about my background and what I am. Have I attended pride rallies, have I done stuff to do with the community? Yes I have. Is that the only policy area I'm interested in? No, it's not.

Ruth Davidson MSP, leader of the Scottish Conservatives, 21 June 2011

Which political parties do you consider to be gay-friendly?



9

RECOMMENDATIONS

SCHOOLS

Fifty eight per cent of people aged 18 -29 say there was homophobic and transphobic bullying in their school.

Ninety four per cent of people think homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools should be tackled.

The Scottish Government Learning Directorate should continue to prioritise tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying and signpost schools to appropriate support and guidance.

Education Scotland should ensure through inspections that all schools deliver a zero tolerance approach to homophobic and transphobic bullying, creating a safe learning environment for all young people in Scotland. They should also signpost schools to appropriate support and guidance.

Initial teaching training providers should be required to equip all new teachers with the skills and knowledge necessary to combat homophobic and transphobic bullying in the classroom and beyond.

The Scottish Parliament Education Committee should carry out an inquiry into homophobic and transphobic bullying in Scottish schools, and to bring forward its findings and recommendations to the Scottish Parliament and Government.

RELIGION

Two in three people believe that religious attitudes are responsible for public prejudice against gay people where they believe it exists. **Almost four in five** people of faith support work to tackle this prejudice.

Religious leaders should listen to and better reflect the views of their congregations about equality and respect for LGB&T people. Government and the media should take care to reflect the views of the majority of people of faith, not just religious leaders, when considering issues of equality such as equal marriage. All congregations should feel able to visibly demonstrate their support for equality and proactively engage with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith.

AT WORK

In the last five years **six per cent** of people – **162,000** Scots of working age – have witnessed verbal homophobic or transphobic bullying at work and **two per cent** – **54,000** Scots of working age – have witnessed physical homophobic or transphobic bullying at work.

The Scottish Government, CBI Scotland, Federation of Small Businesses and Scottish Enterprise should publicly promote the business case for workplace equality.

Publicly funded advice services should measurably improve the quality of employment advice they provide to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Major public and private sector employers should actively seek and share good practice on improving their workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. All public sector organisations should embrace the provisions of the public sector equality duty and ensure they address inequalities experienced by their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff.

POLITICS

Almost three in ten (27 per cent) people think having more lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender MSPs in the Scottish Parliament is one way to help tackle discrimination against LGB&T people. **Two thirds** (65 per cent) of all people support the Government's commitment to extend the legal form and name of civil and religious marriage to same-sex couples, as do **49 per cent** of people of faith.

Senior Scottish politicians should publicly speak out against homophobia and transphobia in all aspects of Scottish society.

Scottish political parties should commit to increasing the number of openly LGB&T MSPs and councillors by 2016 and take specific steps to increase the number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people selected to stand in *winnable* seats and placed at the top of regional lists.

The Scottish Government should legislate for the legal form of civil and religious marriage for same sex couples by 2014.

The Scottish Government should bring forward proposals to extend the offence of threatening communications against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people by 2015.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality must be part of the debate around Scotland's constitutional future.

THE MEDIA

Over three quarters of people think that the media still rely heavily on clichéd stereotypes of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. **Almost half** of those who say it exists think tabloid newspapers are responsible for anti-gay prejudice and **a fifth** believe TV is responsible.

Ofcom should respond firmly to the stereotypical portrayal of LGB&T people in broadcast media and provide more robust guidance for broadcasters on portraying lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their families more realistically.

The Press Complaints Commission (or its successor) should be explicit that offensive homophobic or transphobic language and stereotypes are unacceptable and respond to complaints accordingly.

SPORT

Seventy eight per cent of Scots think that more needs to be done to tackle homophobia in Scottish football.

The Scottish Government and sporting bodies such as the Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Premier League and SportScotland should work together to eliminate homophobia in Scottish sport, most notably football.

The Scottish Football Association, the Scottish Premier League and its sponsors should make explicit their support to tackling homophobia in Scottish football ensuring fans and players alike are able to participate fully in our national game.

10 THE STUDY

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. The total sample size was 1,968 adults from across Scotland. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in Scotland. Fieldwork was undertaken between 23 February and 28 February 2012. The survey was carried out online. The resulting data was analysed and presented by Stonewall Scotland.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Living together – Scottish attitudes to lesbian, gay and bisexual people, by Heather Noller and Catherine Somerville

For information about Stonewall's practical interventions to support employers visit www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/atwork or contact workplace@stonewallscotland.org.uk

For information about Stonewall's practical interventions to support local authorities, schools and colleges visit www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/atschool or contact education@stonewallscotland.org.uk

For information on Stonewall's practical interventions in all other areas covered in this report visit www.stonewallscotland.org.uk/athome or contact info@stonewallscotland.org.uk or **0131 474 8019**

For information about Stonewall Scotland's campaign to secure the extension of the legal form of marriage to same-sex couples visit www.stonewall.org.uk/marriage

Stonewall Scotland
Mansfield Traquair Centre
15 Mansfield Place
Edinburgh
EH3 6BB

Telephone: 0131 474 8019
Email: info@stonewallscotland.org.uk
www.stonewallscotland.org.uk

Charity number SC039681

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LIVING TOGETHER

Scottish attitudes to
lesbian, gay, bisexual and
transgender people in 2012