

Bisexuality



Bisexuality is recorded throughout human history. From Ancient China and Greece, across the whole world and in every era, bisexuality is a normal part of human sexuality. Famous people like Alexander the Great, William Shakespeare and Virginia Woolf are known to have had intimate relationships with both men and women. In the 2021 UK census, 1.3% of the population described ourselves as bisexual, although it is usually assumed to be much higher. It seems that modern times have brought particular issues and anxieties with being bisexual.

Bisexual people face the same homophobia as lesbians and gay men when we are open about our sexuality. Our friends, families and colleagues may have the same questions or concerns and we may face the same discrimination because we are not heterosexual. It does not seem that people are 50% less homophobic towards bisexual people!

As well as those issues, bisexuality may bring another set of assumptions. Bisexuals may more easily be told that "it is just a phase", be pressured to be heterosexual or even be accused of being greedy. The classic "Bi Now, Gay Later" sees bisexuality as a stepping stone to homosexuality. Other accusations see bisexuals as refusing to commit to same-sex relationships and merely experimenting before settling back into heterosexuality.

These comments can be very hurtful and can almost make us feel that our sexuality is invalid. The myth that bisexuality is a transitional identity reinforces harmful stereotypes that hurt bisexuals and further creates a sense that it is "not a true sexual identity", and that we cannot be trusted.

LGB Alliance is specifically an alliance of lesbians, gay men and bisexual men and women. We know that we share many common issues. We believe that same-sex relationships and opposite sex relationships are equally valid and that society should not discriminate between them.

Being bisexual is something to be celebrated and, as bisexual people, we should be able to stand tall, be proud and not be fearful of what others think or say.

Myth-busting

Being bisexual means that we are sexually attracted to both sexes - men and women.

In the current craze for more and more invented identities, there are often new words that could be perceived as replacements for bisexual, such as "pansexual" and "omnisexual". These terms are used to claim that gender identity - internal perceived identities- are more important than biological sex.

There is nothing wrong in correcting someone who, upon hearing we are bisexual, says "You mean pansexual then". No, no we don't. If you, like us, believe that there are only two sexes and they are not interchangeable, then being attracted to both means you are bisexual.