

Take a Walk in Our Shoes¹

The comments below are frequently made about lesbians and gay men. In order to give a better sense of the realities of being a lesbian or gay man the terms 'lesbians and gay men' have been replaced with 'heterosexual'.

- When did you decide to become heterosexual?
- If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, how do you know you wouldn't prefer it?
- So what do straight people do in bed anyhow?
- But you look so normal – you don't look heterosexual at all!
- Why do straight people have to flaunt who they are and make a spectacle of themselves - like holding hands in public or marching in those straight parades? They don't have a special parade for us!
- You're too young to know that you are straight – this is just a phase – you'll grow out of it
- Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous?
- All you need is a good same-sex lover to change your mind.
- Do straight people hate or distrust people of the same sex? Is that what makes you straight?
- How would you feel if your child turned out to be heterosexual?
- Maybe you should go and see a therapist.
- Most child molesters are heterosexual. Wouldn't you be worried if your child had a heterosexual teacher/coach?
- I think straight people are totally disgusting.
- Who have you talked to about your heterosexual tendencies and how did they react?
- I have a great minister you could talk to -- he's helped other straight people become gay
- How can you do this to your family? How will they be able to hold their heads up in public?
- The holy book says that heterosexuality is a sin.
- You have always had a very close relationship with your parent of the opposite sex. Do you think that might have made you heterosexual?
- People like you are just not normal!

¹ Taken from: A Positive Space is a Healthy Place. The Public Health Alliance for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Two-spirit, Intersex, Queer and Questioning Equity. A Workgroup of the Ontario Public Health Association