

Innovative youth arts company Peer Productions have developed a new DVD feature film complete with teacher's pack which tackles homophobia in the classroom and beyond. This would be an ideal resource for your secondary schools and other youth providers and we are keen to see the film being used in your area.

[To view the trailer click here](#)

Why should Local Authorities tackle homophobic bullying?

Homophobia is a serious issue. Young people who experience homophobic or transphobic bullying are more likely to experience violent assault, more likely to experience mental health problems and attempt suicide and are more like to underachieve in education. This is why the Department for Children, Schools and Families has released guidelines on Homophobic Bullying in Schools and Baroness Morgan has recently written to every head teacher in England and Wales urging them to take this guidance on board. As 'Every Child Matters,' it is imperative for local authorities to tackle homophobic bullying and to go some way to meeting National Indicator 69 – reducing the percentage of young people who have experienced bullying in the past 4 weeks.

What is The Homophobia Project DVD about?

Imagine a world where everyone is lesbian or gay. All children are brought up by same sex couples and are conceived through artificial insemination. Despite 1 in 9 secondary school students 'questioning' their sexuality being hetero is still often viewed as something dirty or wrong. Many young people are bullied at school because they are thought to be heterosexual and 'hetero' is used as a word to mean pathetic or stupid. How would it feel to live in this world?

The Homophobia Project was made by young peer educators who worked directly with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered young people to bring their real life stories to the screen. By setting the action in an alternative society, where it is the heterosexuals who experience bullying and discrimination, the film encourages young people to question their behaviours and gain awareness and understanding about equality and diversity issues whilst providing teachers with a meaningful starting point for discussion and change.

How do I order copies?

The Homophobia Project DVD and teacher's pack is available to purchase for **£85 (inc p&p)**. To order your copies please contact General Manager Claire Tristram on 01483 476825 or claire@peerproductions.co.uk

For more information about Peer Productions visit www.peerproductions.co.uk



A Teacher's View

"The project itself dealt with a sensitive issue, not only the question of homosexuality but our own personal responses to it. When the film was shown to the student body the responses were immediate. Students began to have ideas about how to effect change and how to improve understanding not only for themselves but on a local and national level. The project prompted discussion on religious and cultural attitudes as well as the more personal ones. The students who had taken part were immensely proud of their contribution to the project. The DVD is an ideal length to use as part of a lesson topic. It falls naturally into two parts each of which has its own issues and thought provoking elements. I was immensely proud that my students were able to take part in the project. many still say it is the best thing they have ever done. their attitudes towards difference in any form have softened and they often use the project as a starting point for their opinions in such issues."

N. Selmes

