Addressing Homo- and transphobia in Schools
Program

► Getting into schools.

► How to create an eye opening effect with the teachers?

► Methods we use in the classroom

► Tips & Tricks 4 every1

► Conclusion
Getting into schools
Getting into schools

Know how your local school system works

- When do schools make a year planning?
- How much budget is there available for extra schooling?
- What is the school culture like?
- Email? Paper mailing?
School systems

- What is the reality in your own area? Pro’s & Con’s?
- 2012 Declaration on Gender and sexual diversity
- Case David Degheel
Getting into schools

You know your school system, what methods do you use?

- Do you have studies of LGBT related problems in schools in your country?
- Do you have a network of LGBT teachers who can work as a door opener
- Do you have (e-mail) addresses of all the schools in your district/country? And when do you mail them to promote workshops?
- Work together with ministry of education if possible. (school inspection etc.)

- HOW DO YOU SELL YOUR WORKSHOPS?
All boy’s are... All girl’s are...

- Direct
- Take the lead
- Caring
- Talk a lot
- Crying
- Funny
- Chaotic

- In your face
- Listening
- Talk about emotions
- Sweet
- Want the last word
- intelligent

- Director
- Helpfull
- Tidy
- Organiser
- Rational
- Looking good
- dominant
Gender what?
How to create an eye opening effect with teachers?

V mooi attractive cooking Taking care strong brave

M sterk brave career work cooking Taking care

not normal

normal
How to create an eye opening effect with teachers?
The importance of working on gender issues

FAQ pupils:

“Why do gay men always talk with high voices?”

“In a relationship between women, who mows the lawn?”

“Children need a mother and a father, so a same sex couple isn’t able to raise children.”

In 2013 cavaria published a new tool for the primary schools. More than ever before we focus on gender issues!
Tips & Tricks for teachers

- Integrate LGBT in the anti bullying policy
- Tackle stereotypes within your staff
- Invest in student counseling
- Invest in a inclusive employee policy
- Make LGBT’s visible (flyers, brochures, books......)
I am afraid to teach kids about LGBT subjects

Inform yourself. Go to organisations that you can trust.

Don’t try to convince students with your opinion
**Tips & Tricks**

It is forbidden in religion

---

Rule number 1: Try to avoid a direct discussion about religion…open up the conversation.

---

Be open minded if people have negative emotions towards the subject. Just place the emotions give it room but set a boundary because of safety.

---

Have a dialogue not everybody has the same opinion. Don’t convince but talk…let students correct each other!
Tips & Tricks

It is forbidden in religion

... The second thing I most hate in the world are gays. Gays are disgusting. Every day I see a gay my day is ruined. I never want to talk with one. Now that gays can marry here is even worse. It doesn’t fit in our society. The human being is not made for that. A woman must marry a guy and a guy a woman. ... Where did it go wrong? Every religion is against it. It is just inhuman. ...

Stimulate students to search in books for answers

... One of the things that bother me the most is that people can’t accept their differences. It could be differences in taste, religion, opinion, ethnicity and culture. We always have an expectancy of how we want others to be; it’s like people can’t be themselves anymore or they get judged. ... When we talk about religion or atheism, the conversation becomes really relative. It might be different for you than for the other person, but it’s not because someone doesn’t agree with your beliefs that they are wrong, ... I hate it [...] when they say gay people will go to hell. ...

Focus on the core values of religion. Love each other and respect.
It is forbidden in religion

Try to be curious about their opinion so students don’t feel attacked.

Know: ‘Gender stereotypes and macho culture are on the base of LGBT phobia not religion

Tips & Tricks

... The second thing I most hate in the world are gays. Gays are disgusting. Every day I see a gay my day is ruined. I never want to talk with one. Now that gays can marry here is even worse. It doesn’t fit in our society. The human being is not made for that. A woman must marry a guy and a guy a woman. ... Where did it go wrong? Every religion is against it. It is just inhuman. ...

... One of the things that bother me the most is that people can’t accept their differences. It could be differences in taste, religion, opinion, ethnicity and culture. We always have an expectancy of how we want others to be; it’s like people can’t be themselves anymore or they get judged. ... When we talk about religion or atheism, the conversation becomes really relative. It might be different for you than for the other person, but it’s not because someone doesn’t agree with your beliefs that they are wrong. ... I hate it [...] when they say gay people will go to hell. ...
It is not natural!

Question: ‘Wat is natural?’

Is being tired’ natural?

Is ‘falling in love’ natural?

Do you choose love?

‘The way animals live in nature. Is that natural?’

A lot of animals have homoseksual behaviour

... The second thing I most hate in the world are gays. Gays are disgusting. Every day I see a gay my day is ruined. I never want to talk with one. Now that gays can marry here is even worse. It doesn’t fit in our society. The human being is not made for that. A woman must marry a guy and a guy a woman. ... Where did it go wrong? Every religion is against it. It is just inhuman. ...

... One of the things that bother me the most is that people can’t accept their differences. It could be differences in taste, religion, opinion, ethnicity and culture. We always have an expectancy of how we want others to be; it’s like people can’t be themselves anymore or they get judged. ... When we talk about religion or atheism, the conversation becomes really relative. It might be different for you than for the other person, but it’s not because someone doesn’t agree with your beliefs that they are wrong, ... I hate it [...] when they say gay people will go to hell. ...
Tips & Tricks

They are going to attack my opinion!

Create a distance: let students hear other opinions. The discussion can’t be about your opinion. Just make sure opinions are respectful!
Conclusion

Importance of working together! Search ‘allies’ in individuals, politicians, non profit organisations,…

• Focus on **different levels** at the **same time**: Teachers, pupils, LGBT teachers, head principals,…

• Try to achieve quality in the LGBT sessions for pupils and teachers

• Working on LGBT issues is working on gender issues
Questions?
Remarks?
More information?

kaj.poelman@cavaria.be

www.cavaria.be

Kammerstraat 22,
B – 9000 Gent Belgium