

Low-High Homophobia Grid

	Counsellor	Client
Low Homophobia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jane is a feminist therapist who has recently attended a seminar on counselling lesbians. She is new at a community agency and is completing her internship hours to license as a psychologist. She has been actively involved in the women’s community for many years and has a number of close lesbian friends. The community agency has a policy of nondiscriminatory practice, but she quickly notices that there is no overt inclusion of sexual orientation in collegial discussions or agency documentation. Frank has been a counsellor in private practice for 25 years. He specializes in issues related to sexuality and has a number of lesbian clients. He considers himself a humanistic counsellor, although he draws eclectically from a number of theoretical frameworks. He is often asked to speak in the secondary school system and in other professional contexts. He has been married for 15 years. Recently his wife disclosed to him that she has been having an affair with his best friend’s wife. They are currently in marriage counselling and Frank has also been discussing this issue with a colleague who had functioned as his professional mentor for a number of years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suzanne identified as a lesbian in adolescence and has been living “out” for 20 years. She works as a welder and has built a reputation as one of the best in her trade. She is well-known and well-respected in both lesbian and heterosexual communities. She has recently fallen in love with a woman that she sees as her soulmate. They met at a conference and discovered that they lived in the same community. Her lover has two children from a previous relationship and has lived a completely closeted life. She does not feel ready to change her way of being in the world for Suzanne. Wendy has recently changed jobs within the same large organization. She disclosed her lesbian identity in the interview and was delighted at the warm response she received. She let her new colleagues know early on that she was a lesbian so that she would feel able to be her authentic self. In the last few weeks she has developed a strong attraction for another woman in her workplace; the attraction appears to be mutual. The other woman is currently married and is 10 years younger than Wendy. Wendy sees herself staying with this organization for a long period of time. She has been discussing career advancement issues with her counsellor.
High Homophobia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> George has been trained as a classical psychoanalyst. He believes that homosexual tendencies develop when young children are unable to effectively resolve the Oedipal complex. He has worked with a number of lesbian clients using techniques of free association, interpretation, insight, and catharsis to enable them to identify and resolve unconscious conflicts underlying the misdirection of their sexual energies. Lisa is a counsellor working with a Protestant evangelical outreach program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elsie is 69 years old. She is a retired secondary school teacher and has lived with her lover, Mary, for 30 years. They have not used the word “lesbian” to describe their relationship but live as intimate life partners. They live in a small, rural community and are known fondly as the “spinster sisters.” The acreage they live on is out of the way a bit and provides enough privacy that they are able to conceal their day-to-day lives from others in the community. Mary has recently been diagnosed with mild Alzheimer’s and Elsie is facing the possibility that Mary’s estranged daughter may choose to place her in a seniors’ care facility.

	<p>for university students. She has been trained in a particular model of conversion therapy and is very pleased with her success rate in assisting female students struggling with sexual feelings towards other women to embrace heterosexuality. She sees herself as particularly effective because she has successfully overcome her own past and put behind her the years she spent in lesbian relationships as a young woman. She sees the lesbian lifestyle as a choice.</p>	<p>Mary's daughter recently came to visit for the first time in five years, and Elsie found her in the study, making notes of various pieces of furniture, art, and other memorabilia that she and Mary had collected over the years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer is a successful businesswoman in the oil and gas industry. She is bright, assertive, and task-focused. She is well-respected and is being groomed for a senior management position. She has had several female lovers over the years, but has always maintained her own home and kept her private and public lives completely separate. She recently broke up with a woman she had known for only a short time. Her ex-girlfriend has begun to call her at work, follow her when she leaves her home, and leave notes in her mailbox begging her to reconsider. On the day of her internal interview for a new position, her ex-partner showed up at the office with flowers for her and insists that she be called to the front to receive them.
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