

Arlene Foster, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party in Northern Ireland, is the latest person to dust off one of the most common excuses given for why she cannot be called homophobic.



UK

DUP leader Arlene Foster gets 'distressed' when she's called homophobic, insists she's got gay friends

EMMA POWYS MAURICE | APRIL 15, 2021

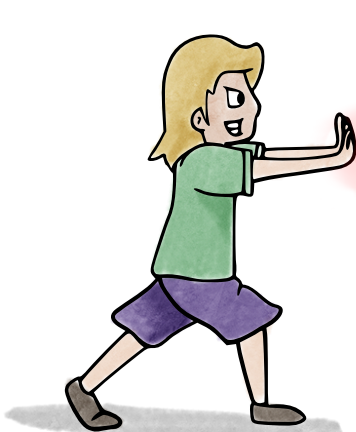


DUP leader Arlene Foster (Charles McQuillan/Getty)

I do get distressed when people call me a homophobe because that's something I am not

I have many friends who are homosexual, they know my views on same-sex marriage, and in any event, same-sex marriage is now the law here in Northern Ireland and has to be upheld.

As if her gay friends can create a magical forcefield through which no accusations of homophobia could possibly penetrate.



Despite it being a decades old notion that has been shot down as many times as it has been trotted out, it seems that the message is still not getting through to people, so here it is one more time.

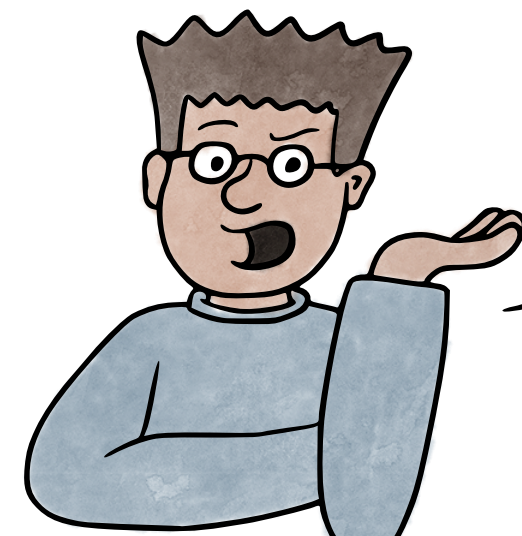
Having gay friends does not mean that you are not homophobic.

Why your gay friends put up with you is their affair, but that does not invalidate your homophobia.

The same goes for anyone who claims that they are not racist because they have black friends.



And while we're on the subject, here's another classic.

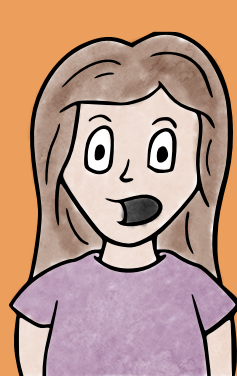


I'm not homophobic, but....

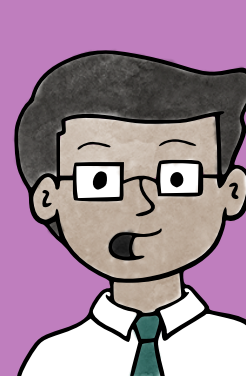
The other phrase often used by people to try and downplay their homophobia, racism, sexism, ageism, etc. is the well known "I'm not homophobic, but..."

There is pretty much no viable way to complete that sentence without clearly displaying the very prejudice you are claiming not to have.

I'm not homophobic, but I wish they wouldn't go on about it



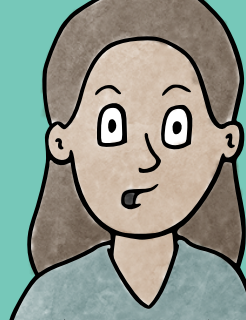
I'm not homophobic, but why do they need to get married?



I'm not homophobic, but I don't see why they need a Pride march?



I'm not homophobic, but I don't want my kids to be gay



Adding "I'm not homophobic" to the beginning of something indicates that you know that what you are going to say is offensive and probably homophobic, but you want to say it anyway.

Adding that statement up front seems to make some people think that they will be let off the hook for whatever they say next.

If you want to insult someone go ahead, but if you feel the need to add "I'm not homophobic, but" in front of your insult, that indicates that you are insulting someone because they are gay, hence you are homophobic.

so again, to be clear...

Saying "I'm not Homophobic, but..." is basically an introduction to something homophobic.

There is also no exception for anyone following a particular religious or spiritual path that preaches that gay people are less worthy, deserve derision, or hate, or that they don't really exist.

If you choose to follow these tenets (and unlike sexuality, the religion you follow is most certainly a choice) then you are homophobic.



If you are going to be homophobe, at least own up to it.

The first step to resolving a problem, is to admit that you have one.