

EQUALITY ACT 2010

EXPLANATORY NOTES

COMMENTARY ON SECTIONS

Part 2: Equality: Key Concepts

Chapter 1: Protected characteristics

Section 12: Sexual orientation

Effect

55. This section defines the protected characteristic of sexual orientation as being a person's sexual orientation towards:
- people of the same sex as him or her (in other words the person is a gay man or a lesbian)
 - people of the opposite sex from him or her (the person is heterosexual)
 - people of both sexes (the person is bisexual).
56. It also explains that references to people sharing a sexual orientation mean that they are of the same sexual orientation.