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## Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/03 19:38

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I just thought I'd introduce myself. I'm from the East End of Glasgow originally, but moved to London in 1990, and then to Spain in 1998 when my other half took early retirement. I still have the vague notion that one day I'll move back to Scotland.

As well as just about anything related to Scotland and Scottish politics, being gay I'm also very interested in lesbian and gay issues. I'm always happy to answer anyone's honest questions about gay issues. (I don't bite - not unless A. you ask nicely, and B. you're kinda cute.)

My big obsession however is language and linguistics, especially the history and development of Scottish languages. So if anyone would like a discussion on any aspect of Scottish linguistic history, I'm up for it. I can be quite opinionated about human evolution, archaeology, ancient history and anthropology too.

My ID is a term from human population genetics. It refers to the fact I've been told I was a strange mutant gene.

Cheers,

InfrequentAllele

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by dws - 2008/08/03 19:43

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Hiya and welcome!:)

We've already met in the chatroom today, so don't be a stranger!

I look forward to reading yer future posts, a'ra best!:)

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by TLJ - 2008/08/03 19:51

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Hi IA

Welcome aboard.

I hope you enjoy yourself here - we hold a wide range of opinion but generally we all respect that and get on with each other. (I did say generally ;)

All the best.

TLJ

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/03 22:55

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Hi and welcome it seems we will call you IA which will be less typing. Enjoy the site. The threads are lively but mostly civilised. ;)

You met DWS in the chatroom :silly: :silly: :laugh:

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

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Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 00:11

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"As well as just about anything related to Scotland and Scottish politics, being gay I'm also very interested in lesbian and gay issues. I'm always happy to answer anyone's honest questions about gay issues. (I don't bite - not unless A. you ask nicely, and B. you're kinda cute.)"

Hi Allele

I have an honest question. I'm heterosexual and I'd like to know why so many gay people seem to want to make that an issue themselves. For instance I don't introduce myself and mention my sexual preferences. I don't generally tend to have gay issues either just like I never meet people with heterosexual issues. I have gay friends I've been honest with about this and said to them, if all you're after is not to be treated differently then why make such a big deal about it yourself?

Welcome to Scotsgait.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Meg - 2008/08/04 07:54

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Hi IA,  
Good to meet you and I hope you enjoy this site as much as I do. It's a great bunch of people on here and I'm looking forward to reading your views.  
Meg

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by DoricMan - 2008/08/04 09:34

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May I also add my welcome InfrequentAllele, and I hope you will be a frequent poster.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Brenna1508 - 2008/08/04 09:56

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Hello IA, welcome to Scotsgait. :)

I think you'll find it quite lively here and there's always something new to comment on or chat about.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/04 14:56

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Thanks for the welcomes.

I'm happy to answer your question Clare. The reason so many gay people introduce ourselves as gay is because we live in a society where people are generally assumed to be heterosexual. Heterosexual people constantly "out" themselves as heterosexual; every time you mention a wife/husband/boyfriend/girlfriend you make a public statement about your heterosexuality.

Because there is a general assumption that people are straight unless you know otherwise (in lesbian and gay politics this is called heterosexism), straight people are able to make casual references to their sexual orientation without realising that they're doing so. When a female work colleague says - "I went to the cinema with my boyfriend last night to see the new Batman movie" she has made a public identification of herself as heterosexual.

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It's the same when you meet people socially for the first time. The information you give about yourself to new acquaintances will invariably include reference to a husband or wife if you're married, or a boyfriend or girlfriend if you're in a relationship. So in fact straight people do constantly mention their sexual orientation. (Being gay or straight isn't a sexual preference though. A preference is whether you want to do it with the lights on or off.)

A statement like "I went to see the Batman movie with my boyfriend" is not going to provoke a discussion about homosexuality for a straight woman, or worse, provoke bigoted remarks and hostility. It will provoke a discussion about the movie. But for a gay man to make a similar seemingly innocuous statement about going to a movie with his boyfriend, in a group of people who don't know he's gay, is to risk potential problems.

I'm not complaining about it, it's just a simple fact of life. There are more straight people than gay people.

I don't introduce myself as gay when I meet people face to face. I just operate on the assumption that everyone already knows. I came out as gay back in the 1980s when I still lived in Easterhouse. I learned to develop a thick skin and a good sense of humour. It's obvious I'm a gay, and it becomes obvious that I'm gay when I make a casual reference to my partner.

Online it's a wee bit different, especially if you use an ID like mine which is gender neutral. I find it's better to tell people right away, which spares the need for explanations further down the line. I don't consider it making an issue out of my sexuality.

I hope that answers your question!

Cheers

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 19:25

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Thanks for the response and I'm afraid it didn't really answer the question. You see I think my sexual orientation is pretty irrelevant as is everyone else's. It really isn't the issue. And at the moment I'm not in a relationship so your example kind of bombs there. What does that make me, not anything? Or is there something I should say on meeting new people to let them know whether I'm gay or straight? You see? Like I said I'm not going to refer to a husband or a boyfriend right now am I? So do I leave them wondering or should I drop hints. If this sounds absurd it's because I think it is. If we're attempting to live in a world where sexual orientation is down to the person deciding about it then why make it such a big deal?

And I'm not homophobic incidentally. I just think it is all quite unnecessary as is the "lesbian and gay politics" thing. As I said before if you want to blend why the need for lesbian and gay politics? I'm a general politics person and I'm concerned about people without worrying about their sexual orientation. And with respect bigotted remarks are par for the course in many areas of life not just sexual orientation.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by dws - 2008/08/04 21:12

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So....how was Batman?;) :laugh:

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/04 22:11

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dws wrote:

So....how was Batman?;) :laugh:

:laugh:

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/04 23:59

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Hi Clare,

The example I gave was not meant to be taken literally. With all due respect, you're completely missing the point. I've already tried explaining it, so let's just leave it there.

A person's sexual orientation ought to be irrelevant, I am in complete agreement with you, but you're talking about an ideal world. That's not the world we live in. Lesbian and gay political achievements have made an immense difference to my life in a huge number of ways. I'm sure these same achievements haven't altered your life in the slightest, but then there is no reason why they should. It's very easy to consider that something is "unnecessary" when it doesn't have any impact on you personally.

But I didn't actually join this forum to discuss lesbian and gay politics. I'm happy to answer questions people have, and I prefer to get them out of the way at the beginning. Then I can get back to talking about the Batman movie, or the price of petrol, or the impending end of the United Kingdom which is my favourite comedy viewing at the moment.

And I've still not been able to see Batman. ("I hate anything with that Heath Ledger in it" - quote from my other half.) We went to see Journey to the Center of the Earth instead. Don't bother. To say the acting is wooden is an insult to trees. I've seen more expressive larches.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by maria143 - 2008/08/06 15:46

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hello and welcome...InfrequentAllele

I'm glad you are here with us...and open to discussion...tell me why...I am always persude by women since I was in jr high...my boyfriend almost beat up a girl because she got upset that I cut my hair and was holding me from behind...even the mother of a friend of mines...Even now at work and going out...

I'm heterosexual...very by the way...lol: ;)

So don't try to tell, I'm in the closet...tell me something is it that normal...David (gay) my friend wants to change every straight man he sees...to him they are gay...but don't know it, I have never seen him act like these women...I love him too much so I just smack him once...

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/06 20:58

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Hi Maria, I dunno why women keep pursuing you. Maybe you're just irresistibile to lesbians?

Your friend David sounds like some gay friends of mine who are convinced that the difference between a straight man and a bisexual is approximately 6 pints of beer.

I don't agree with that theory.

It's more like 9 pints and a couple of vodkas.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by dws - 2008/08/06 21:16

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InfrequentAllele wrote:

Your friend David sounds like some gay friends of mine who are convinced that the difference between a straight man

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and a bisexual is approximately 6 pints of beer.

I don't agree with that theory.

It's more like 9 pints and a couple of vodkas.

IA, whatever floats yer boat, but there's no amount of alcohol...:laugh:

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Meg - 2008/08/07 08:45

Clare wrote:

"As well as just about anything related to Scotland and Scottish politics, being gay I'm also very interested in lesbian and gay issues. I'm always happy to answer anyone's honest questions about gay issues. (I don't bite - not unless A. you ask nicely, and B. you're kinda cute.)"

Hi Allele

I have an honest question. I'm heterosexual and I'd like to know why so many gay people seem to want to make that an issue themselves. For instance I don't introduce myself and mention my sexual preferences. I don't generally tend to have gay issues either just like I never meet people with heterosexual issues. I have gay friends I've been honest with about this and said to them, if all you're after is not to be treated differently then why make such a big deal about it yourself?

Welcome to Scotsgait.

I have some honest questions Clare. Why do you have a problem with people mentioning that they are gay? Why shouldn't they mention it? If you have no gay issues then why do you even notice them mentioning it? If AI had posted a description of his appearance and had mentioned his eye colour would you have asked him why he mentioned his eye colour? Also, how do you know that gay and lesbian people are often mentioning their sexuality? Maybe you know lots of them and they don't ever mention it. You probably just assume that they are heterosexual. I think that is an important point. We do assume that people are heterosexual unless we know otherwise.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Meg - 2008/08/07 08:56

Meg wrote:

If AI

Apologies IA for transposing the letters. I am terrible for doing this when I type and usually remember to check before I post. It did make me think though, do you mind your name being shortened to IA? I'm just a lazy so and so who can't be bothered typing the full thing but I will if you'd prefer. :)

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/07 12:05

Meg

Go back to the first post when we were told to ask any questions we had. I do not have "a problem" ok?

I don't meet new people and immediately announce I'm heterosexual. It isn't an issue for me. I asked a question. I got a lecture in response and was then told the subject was closed as I'd "missed the point". I did not. The point was ignored. Allele said he didn't want his sexual orientation to dominate here yet just look at the thread so far. Why is it such an issue? That's all I asked. Aren't we all people regardless of the different sides to us which make us who we are? I also pointed out the irony of a group that claims too much is made of their sexual orientation and how they want to blend in un-noticed yet seem unable to address any subject without dragging their particular orientation into the discussion. So I don't "have a problem". I contributed a view which I think is permitted. If you disagree I don't have an

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issue with that either but don't start implying that I'm homophobic because I'm not. As I have said elsewhere on this subject today it is a great pity that for being honest about something I am now being called "prejudiced" so I guess the homophobe word is next eh? So I'm just making it clear right now, it doesn't apply.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/07 16:37

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Clare - I showed your posts to a number of gay friends, and guess what - every single one of them agreed that you're a homophobe. There, I've called you a homophobe, are you happy now?

You are clearly homophobic, and like most homophobes you are in denial about your own condition. The shocking lack of self-awareness you display is one of the reasons why homophobia is classified as a mental illness. It's called cognitive dissonance, and you've got it in spades.

I'm very glad you identified yourself at the outset, so I can now proceed to ignore you. I won't be dignifying any more of your prejudiced rants with a reply.

IA / AI / or "that specky baldy git" all work for me Meg.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by maria143 - 2008/08/07 18:37

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InfrequentAllele wrote:

Hi Maria, I dunno why women keep pursuing you. Maybe you're just irresistible to lesbians?

Your friend David sounds like some gay friends of mine who are convinced that the difference between a straight man and a bisexual is approximately 6 pints of beer.

I don't agree with that theory.

It's more like 9 pints and a couple of vodkas.

No sweetie that is not what I meant...What I meant is even though I tell them I like men and will not ever in this lifetime change my mind...They still insist that I will change my mind....or that I don't know that I'm one already....

I'm conceited sweetheart...I know my value...but I'm not gods gift to women....:laugh: :laugh: :laugh:

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/07 20:36

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InfrequentAllele wrote:

Clare - I showed your posts to a number of gay friends, and guess what - every single one of them agreed that you're a homophobe. There, I've called you a homophobe, are you happy now?

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I'm very glad you identified yourself at the outset, so I can now proceed to ignore you. I won't be dignifying any more of your prejudiced rants with a reply.

IA / AI / or "that specky baldy git" all work for me Meg.

I deeply resent your accusation as you are wrong. Can I say in response that people like you typify the sort of gay person who gets many of you little sympathy. You are obsessed with your own label and you do not tolerate anyone who

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does not agree with you. What you have called me is insulting and grossly offensive but worst of all it is untrue. I have male gay friends too who happen to agree with many of my views when it comes to the aggressive campaigning conducted by many groups representing the interests of the gay community. They agree the aggression has actually increased hostility towards them and helped create the feeling that the gay lobby has a disproportionate influence at every level politically because many politicians are afraid to be labelled with the homophobe word.

Your attack on me below is what I would consider libellous actually. I would repeat, I am no homophobe and I am certainly not mentally ill. Your attack on me is an absolute disgrace.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by LYDIA REID - 2008/08/07 21:26

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InfrequentAllele wrote:

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I'm very glad you identified yourself at the outset, so I can now proceed to ignore you. I won't be dignifying any more of your prejudiced rants with a reply.

IA / AI / or "that specky baldy git" all work for me Meg.

The current political trend of calling every person prejudiced against a particular group whether they be gay an ethnic minority or disabled or a woman or an immigrant or whatever, when they disagree with them, is the result of an overly politically correct country that we live in.

I believe in equality for all but I do not believe in over equality for some groups.

I am disabled, have gay friends and in my family. If any person in any one of these groups were treated unfairly I would be the first person out there with a banner supporting there cause. As a person I reserve the right to disagree with them and also to dislike them no matter their sexual orientation or their nationality but then I am just a fair person and not very politically correct.

For instance, I would not allow someone to put me before them in a cue because I am disabled.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/08 13:32

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Maria - Maybe your lesbian friends just can't take no for an answer. You'll have to ask them why that is. But I am still sure it must be because you're irresistibly gorgeous.

Lydia - I don't call someone a homophobe simply because I disagree with them. I answered Clare's first question respectfully and politely even though as soon as she posed the question I recognised the homophobic sentiments which lay behind it. I was equally respectful in answering her follow up post, even though I declined to continue discussing the matter with her.

You and I are disagreeing about many things on another thread, but both of us are expressing ourselves in moderate language. We're able to have a reasoned exchange. I do not find that is possible with Clare. I don't call her a homophobe because of her religion either, my parents and sisters are practising Catholics and they're not homophobic. I know many Christians of various denominations who are not homophobes, and I've encountered quite a few homophobic atheists.

I do not lightly call anyone a homophobe. Calling a person a homophobe has much the same effect as calling a person a liar, it immediately shuts down debate and dialogue. I only called Clare a homophobe after I had come to the conclusion that further exchanges with her would be futile. Her reaction was entirely predictable.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/08 13:55

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InfrequentAllele wrote:

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Lydia - I don't call someone a homophobe simply because I disagree with them. I answered Clare's first question respectfully and politely even though as soon as she posed the question I recognised the homophobic sentiments which lay behind it. I was equally respectful in answering her follow up post, even though I declined to continue discussing the matter with her.

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You are wrong and your post in that respect regarding me was libellous, defamatory and outrageous. I am actually considering seeking legal advice on it. Your conduct has been deplorable. You immediately went on the defensive because I asked a question you did not like and then sought to close the discussion. I have not attacked homosexuals at any time, never, and your use of the word homophobe in my case is completely inappropriate. The additional allegations made that I suffer from a mental illness were utterly disgraceful and do not belong on a public forum. You clearly think you can say what you like about people, their characters, and everything else without knowing anything about them. Your attack on me, I repeat, was libellous and defamatory and is not acceptable to me. It should not be acceptable to anyone on this forum incidentally.

Your tactics are precisely why so many fear expressing a view that is different from yours. I know many people in the gay community who deplore such tactics who believe you are doing great damage. There are people who are gay who are not open about that and that is their decision yet on many occasions people in powerful places have been threatened with being "outed" by the gay lobby unless they back this, or that or the next thing. That is blackmail yet some in the gay lobby will stoop to such tactics in order to further what they see as their "cause". There are many issues in there which I am more than happy to discuss where you and I will not agree but to respond as you have with libellous attacks is just not on.

My English friend's son and his male partner visit me here and are always made welcome as guests on the occasions when they visit Scotland. I have visited them in Watford and stayed with them and I love them both dearly. I have other gay friends in my circle too. I am NOT a homophobe and you should withdraw your despicable comments from your earlier post which frankly you should be ashamed of. Friends of mine who are gay are capable of doing what most reasonable gay people wish to do and that is blend in without wanting special treatment and status nor do they keep banging on about their sexual orientation. It isn't an issue for them or for me either. I repeat, your attack on my character was outrageous and wrong and you had no right to say the things you have said when they are completely untrue.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by InfrequentAllele - 2008/08/08 15:15

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Clare - I am not impressed by your self-pitying attempts to defend yourself. I stand by my comments. Your threat of legal action is frankly laughable.

What I said was that homophobia is classified as a mental illness. One of its symptoms is cognitive dissonance. Cognitive dissonance refers to the inability of the patient to recognise that they have a problem. You are incapable of recognising your own homophobia. That is cognitive dissonance. Stamping your wee foot and yelling that you're not a homophobe doesn't magically make all your following comments non-homophobic.

Only the most extreme forms of homophobia are classified as a mental disorder and in order to receive a diagnosis, the person must display certain other symptoms as well. You've only displayed one of the symptoms - so far. So I wouldn't

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say you were insane, you're just not very bright and rather immature.

I said before that I would not respond to you again. This is my last comment addressed to you. Please refrain from addressing me in future.

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by Clare - 2008/08/08 16:07

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InfrequentAllele wrote:

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Only the most extreme forms of homophobia are classified as a mental disorder and in order to receive a diagnosis, the person must display certain other symptoms as well. You've only displayed one of the symptoms - so far. So I wouldn't say you were insane, you're just not very bright and rather immature.

I said before that I would not respond to you again. This is my last comment addressed to you. Please refrain from addressing me in future.

Can I just say that you are the one in denial. Homophobe, a word you throw at anyone you disagree with, a word intended to damage another person's reputation and for what, for daring to ask you a question you didn't want to deal with. Go and check out the definition because I don't meet the criteria whereas you, you more than meet the criteria of everything that is twisted and dishonest about the gay lobby. I will not be bullied by you and your conduct via your attack on me is quite disgraceful. Grow up!

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## Re:Hola fae Spain

Posted by maria143 - 2008/08/26 14:04

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:woohoo: Clare....I am gorgeous...I believe I am....:( and that is all that matters.):P :silly: :silly: :side:

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