



# Equality Act 2010

## 2010 CHAPTER 15

### PART 2

#### EQUALITY: KEY CONCEPTS

### CHAPTER 1

#### PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

## 12 Sexual orientation

- (1) Sexual orientation means a person's sexual orientation towards—
  - (a) persons of the same sex,
  - (b) persons of the opposite sex, or
  - (c) persons of either sex.
- (2) In relation to the protected characteristic of sexual orientation—
  - (a) a reference to a person who has a particular protected characteristic is a reference to a person who is of a particular sexual orientation;
  - (b) a reference to persons who share a protected characteristic is a reference to persons who are of the same sexual orientation.

**Changes to legislation:**

Equality Act 2010, Section 12 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 10 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 40A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 1](#)
- s. 120(9) inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 124A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 3](#)