Vilification

Legal protections from hatred, contempt, and ridicule

Vilification is...

an act that urges or **promotes hatred**, serious contempt, or severe ridicule of protected people and groups.

Vilification is a **public act** - things that other people could see, read, or hear including:

social media comments

graffiti and vandalism

actions and gestures

newspaper, radio and tv commentary

on the street

in the workplace

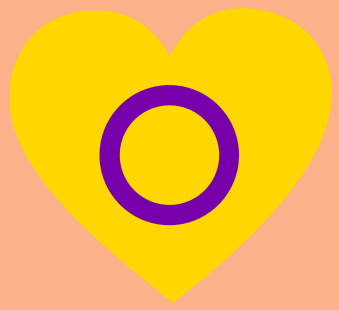
It targets a person, or a group of people, **because** of their:

race

religion

sexuality

gender identity



sex characteristics

Queensland
Human Rights
Commission

A vilification complaint can be brought to the Queensland Human Rights Commission by the person targeted or a member of a group targeted.

Most vilification complaints are handled using **conciliation** - where an impartial mediator helps people talk about what happened and come to an agreement.

If this doesn’t work out, it might be taken to a tribunal. This is similar to a court - people present evidence and an Adjudicator decides the outcome.

If vilification includes a **threat of harm** to a person or property, or urgers others to threaten physical harm to a person, this is **serious vilification.**

Serious vilification can have **heavy penalties** including the possibility of a jail sentence. It is dealt with by the police.

If you think you may have experienced vilification, contact LGBTI Legal Service for free legal advice