

The portrayal of women in “blurred lines” by Robin Thicke is discriminatory because the music video is all about girls walking around/dancing in hot pants, crop tops and high heels. This could influence people’s ideas about gender by showing that girls must act and look ‘easy’ to attract males. The cultural attitudes in many music videos give a negative attitude to women by using them as sex symbols. It is giving the idea to younger girls [1] that they must act and dress like this in order to gain attention from males. Younger males who watch this may get the idea that they must treat girls badly in order to be seen as a man.

The values of social justice are not being met by having these images of women shown. Robin Thicke is putting these women in situations that do not happen in reality.

A societal strategy that the community could do would be to advocate for firmer rules around which video clips can be shown on TV during the day [4], and which need to be shown later at night. This will stop younger viewers from seeing these sorts of music videos constantly and they will be less likely to develop the wrong idea about what it means to be female.

Harry’s attitudes, values and beliefs are that he considers himself a typical kiwi male, but he believes that if he were to tell people he was same-sex attracted, he would not be accepted by his family, friends and peers and he may even be discriminated against. I believe that being gay is not a big deal. From the NZ stereotypes stated in the resource, these would make people believe that to be gay [2] you must enjoy fashion and not be interested in sports, and also must be feminine. Because Harry is not like this, he is confused about his sexuality.

Harry is not being shown social justice in a variety of ways, such as gays have to ‘come out’ as gay but heterosexuals do not have to ‘come out’ as straight. I believe this is unfair – you cannot help what you are born as.

A societal strategy is that others around Harry can support and accept him [3] for who he is. They can help him figure out who he is and make sure they encourage him and do not treat him any differently to how he was treated before. This will help Harry to feel included and accepted and will help social justice as he will be included and not discriminated against.

An interpersonal action people could use when communicating with Harry and other teenagers like him is that when they are having a conversation they could be open and supportive, and give advice. They would not discriminate against homosexual people and they would use inclusive language. They could also encourage each other to be more accepting of others who are different.

An action an individual person could do to encourage social justice is that any person could be open towards homosexuals (and other people who are different) and accept them and encourage them. The person could also learn more about sexuality and how to be empathetic to people who are trying to figure out who they are. This will help people with diverse sexualities to be more accepted within society.