Can emotion-based disagreements be resolved?

In this paper I would like to expose the nature of emotionally-based disagreements and suggest possible paths to take in order to resolve them. I strive to show that the resolution of emotion-based disagreements depends on our willingness to correct our emotional responses and to revise our emotional repertoire. It is clear that such a proposal is based on a certain understanding of emotions; therefore, I shall begin with my own understanding of them: what are emotions; what is their structure, and why I think that emotions can be held up for examination and critical reflection. I rely on Peter Goldie’s (2000, 2012) theory of emotions, an approach which has turned out to be helpful in overcoming the two opposing strands in modern philosophy of emotions (feeling-centred and thought-centred strands). I will show that if Goldie is right that emotional experiences have narrative structure, the imagination has an important role to play in the resolution of disagreements. Imaginative change of perspectives may be helpful on order to understand the emotions of disagreeing parties. Looking at the situation from a completely new perspective may show us that one’s emotion is inappropriate or even lead to the change of emotion.