



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



## May 2018 Newsletter

### Note from the Chair

Hello, and thank you for reading our May newsletter. This is always a busy time of year for the Rainbow Network committee as we prepare for Birmingham Pride and our AGM, and we hope to see plenty of members getting involved.

We will also be launching our 2018 survey for LGBTQ staff midway through May, so watch out for an email containing the link. This is your opportunity to tell the Rainbow Network and the University what we can do better for you.

Finally, our committee was recently represented at an LGBT Staff Network Development Day at the University of Chester – you can read some reflections from this day on our [website](#).

### Birmingham Pride Parade

Birmingham Pride is a weekend-long LGBTQ+ festival held annually in the Gay Village and is the UK's largest LGBT festival. The Rainbow Network would like to invite all UoB staff and PhD students to march with us in the parade at noon on 26th May. The only requirement is to be on either the Rainbow Network or LGBTQ Ally Network mailing list - can request to join by [emailing us](#) and letting us know which mailing list you would like to be added to. Everybody can bring a +1 and any number of under 18s (under 18s who march are the responsibility of their accompanying adult). Participants will be asked to arrive before noon to sign in. Sign up to march and receive full details by emailing [lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

### Dates for your diary

#### MAY

**Tuesday 1st May, 5:30pm**  
**May Network Social, Bratby Bar**  
**(University Centre)**

**Thursday 10th May**  
**Midday Committee Meeting**  
**Watson Building 240**

**Thursday 17th May**  
**International Day Against**  
**Homophobia, Transphobia &**  
**Biphobia**

**Tuesday 22nd May**  
**Harvey Milk Day**

**Saturday & Sunday 26th - 27th May**  
**Noon, Birmingham Pride**  
**Birmingham Gay Village**

**A full listing of this year's events**  
**can be found on our [2018 Calendar](#)**

## International Transgender Day of Visibility

On Wednesday 28 March, the Rainbow Network welcomed Serena Sidaway and Jesse Ashman, representatives from Stonewall, to deliver a presentation about the Gender Recognition Act. This event was organised to commemorate International Transgender Day of Visibility which takes place each 31 March. The speakers gave an overview of the current Act and Stonewall's objectives for the impending review, generating a lot of important questions and discussions among the attendees.



## Dubai Update

The Dubai project team hosted several meetings about equality and diversity last summer, and one of the outcomes of these meetings was the decision to use an "[embassy model](#)" on the advice of Stonewall. They have recently published a series of questions relating to equality and diversity on the Dubai intranet which you can find [here](#). Furthermore, the project team have committed to answering other questions, so everybody with an interest can contact them with additional questions at [du-bai@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:du-bai@contacts.bham.ac.uk).

## May 22: Harvey Milk Day

**Harvey Milk Day** is organised by the Harvey Milk Foundation and celebrated each year on **May 22** in memory of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected into California public office, where he acted as a city supervisor official back in 1977. San Francisco International Airport have officially announced plans to rename their Terminal 1, which welcomes more than 32,000 travellers each day, in honour of Harvey Milk, who was assassinated in 1978. Read more [here](#).

Find out more: [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/rainbownetwork](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/rainbownetwork)  
Join our mailing list: [lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia

Observed annually on **May 17**, [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia](#) is devoted to coordinating international events that raise awareness of discrimination and violence against LGBT communities and repression of their rights globally. The [Alliance Network](#) is organising an event to commemorate May 17 at Deutsche Bank in Brindley Place. The focus of the event is how to be an active LGBT ally.

Date: Thursday **17 May**  
2018

Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Location: Deutsche Bank, Five Brindley Place, Birmingham



## Protest against homophobia in Commonwealth countries

Over 120 LGBT+ rights activists gathered outside Marlborough House, the Commonwealth HQ on Pall Mall in London, to protest against homophobia in Commonwealth countries on April 19, the day Commonwealth heads of government met in London. The activists condemned Commonwealth leaders for refusing to discuss the persecution of at least 100 million LGBT people who live in Commonwealth countries where being LGBT+ is a crime. They also demanded decriminalisation in 36 of the 53 Commonwealth nations that still outlaw homosexuality.

## Next Rainbow Network Social

January's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Tuesday **1st May** at 5:30pm in Bratby Bar. Come and join us for a catch up. Facebook event [here](#).

Look out for our lovely mascot, "Bow" - the teddy bear, if you're not sure which table we're at!

