



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



August 2017 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Hello, and welcome to our August newsletter. Things have quietened down for summer, but we're already planning our events for the autumn term.

July marked the fiftieth year of the partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality in England and Wales, the start of the long road to equality for LGBTQ people in the UK. July also saw a commitment to reduce the blood donation deferral period for gay and bisexual men and their sexual partners to three months in England and Scotland, another positive step.

I see these developments as reminders of how far LGBTQ people have come, but also how much there is left to fight for. Networks like ours remain crucial to effecting change in our workplaces and local communities, and I am grateful for all your ongoing support.

Change of Date

In response to the feedback we've had from the Rainbow Network's annual survey, we are moving our socials from Mondays to Tuesdays.

The August social will therefore be held on **Tuesday 1st August** in Costa Coffee in University Centre at 5.30pm.

Look out for our new mascot (pictured right) if you're not sure which table we're sat at!

Facebook event [here](#).



Dates for your diary

August

Tuesday 1st August, 5.30pm
August Network Social, Costa Coffee (University Centre)

Wednesday 16th August, Midday
Committee Meeting, Arts G37

September

Tuesday 5th September, 5.30pm
September Network Social, Bratby Bar (Staff House)

Wednesday 20th September, Midday
Committee Meeting, Venue TBC

Saturday 23rd September
Bisexual Visibility Day

Monday 25th September
First Day of Autumn Term

A full listing of this year's events can be found on our [2017 Calendar](#)

Find out more: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/rainbownetwork
Join our mailing list: lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk



[/RainbowNetworkUoB](https://www.facebook.com/RainbowNetworkUoB)



[@RainbowUoB](https://twitter.com/RainbowUoB)

Birmingham Blaze

Fancy a kick around? The folks over at Birmingham Blaze Football Club have been in touch to extend an invite to all Rainbow Network members.

Birmingham Blaze FC are the West Midlands premier LGBT football club. They train every week and play matches locally and nationally. They cater for all ages, genders and abilities and are always looking for new players whether they want to play socially or competitively or just want to keep fit.

They meet every Wednesday 8:00-9.30pm for training at Star City, and your first session is free. For more information see their website, www.blazefc.co.uk, or find them via their social media channels:



[@blazefc](https://twitter.com/blazefc)



[/BlazeFC](https://www.facebook.com/BlazeFC)



Mental Health Training

The University of Birmingham Workplace Wellbeing now offer training courses on mental health guidance for staff and managers. For a full list of courses offered, click on the link below and click on 'Courses':

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/hr/wellbeing/workhealth/index-new.aspx>

LGBT Survey

The government has launched a survey to understand the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people living in the UK. The LGBT charity, Stonewall, has described it as:

“An absolutely vital opportunity for the LGBT community to have their say on what life is like in the UK today.”

- Stonewall UK Facebook page, 2017

The survey does not ask for any personal identifiers. You can access the survey here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-lgbt-survey>

No Bystanders

#NOBYSTANDERS. JOIN THE MOVEMENT. TAKE A STAND

Research carried out by the LGBT charity, Stonewall, finds that nearly half of lesbian, gay, bi and trans school pupils (45 per cent) are bullied at school for being LGBT. Hate speech against LGBT adults is also still a big issue.

In November 2015, one in five people admitted to making offensive remarks about LGBT people in the last year. In one month alone, 30 per cent of people heard offensive remarks about LGBT people but 63 per cent didn't do anything about it.

The #NOBYSTANDERS campaign aims to stand up for and empower others to challenge all forms of hateful language and abuse when they can. We can only succeed if we all play a part.

Sign the pledge and share this page with your friends on social media. We need everyone's support to tackle hate and abuse.

[SIGN THE PLEDGE](#)



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