



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



August 2018 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

The end of the academic year is upon us, and I was pleased to end it in London with our last major event of the year – the official launch of the LGBT Network of Networks in Higher Education, a group which was established in 2017 to connect us with counterparts at other UK universities. The committee will now spend the summer going through the results of our recent survey and working out what both the Rainbow Network and the University can do better for you, our members. The only other thing to say is thank you to everybody who has supported us this year. I hope you enjoy your summer plans and look forward to welcoming you to future events from September!

Government LGBT action plan

In response to the July 2017 National LGBT survey, the Government Equalities Office has published an LGBT Action Plan outlining commitments to tackle issues faced by LGBT people.

With the vision that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics, should be able to live safely and happily without fear of being discriminated against, the Action Plan aims to advance the rights of LGBT people both at home and abroad, and improve the way that public services work for them.

According to the plan, the Government has agreed to spend £4.5 million on making changes to various sectors including health, education, workplace, the law, etc. Read more about the planned changes [here](#).

Dates for your diary

AUGUST

Friday 31st August
Midday Committee Meeting
Watson Building 240

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 6th September, 5:30pm
September Network Social, Bratby
Bar University Centre

Sunday 23rd September
Bisexual Visibility Day

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

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



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Gender Recognition Act Consultation

The Government Equalities Office has started an [open consultation](#) process regarding the impending reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2004, seeking the views of the public.

The government recognises that trans and non-binary people are members of our society and that they should be treated with respect. The consultation asks what the government can do differently to make the legal process of gender change under the Gender Recognition Act easier for trans and non-binary people. The consultation closes on 19 October 2018 at 11pm.

Stonewall have expressed their views on what reforms need to be made to the Act. You can read about them [here](#).

LGBT employees face hurdles at home and abroad

Despite the large progress that has been made in the recent years regarding LGBT+ equality in the workplace, there are still challenges that employees are facing at home and particularly abroad. Some of these challenges include the different assumptions that employees make as well as the risk of being harassed or even arrested when working in countries where LGBT rights are not recognised. Read more about those challenges in an [article](#) that was recently published in the Financial Times and shared in [myG-work](#).

LGBT and Equality post-Brexit

The Association of University Administrators (AUA) is [calling to action](#) people in the Higher Education sector to take steps to mitigate the erosion of LGBT+ safeguards and to help champion their continual development after Brexit.

A new network for LGBT+ people is currently being established to promote this championing. If you are interested in joining or learning more about it, please contact Stephen McAuliffe at S.McAuliffe@bham.ac.uk.

“Everybody’s Talking About Jamie”

The popular musical about a teenage drag queen was broadcast live from the Apollo Theatre in London to cinemas across the UK in July. Written in 2017 by Dan Gillespie Sells and Tom MacRae, it is based on the real life story of Jamie Campbell who was almost banned from his high school prom for wearing a dress and whose story achieved exposure in BBC Three documentary “Jamie: Drag Queen at 16” in 2011.

The show, which is well worth seeing for anybody who finds themselves in London, provides a solid and thought-provoking exploration of different types of prejudice and the persistent challenges faced by LGBTQ youth. The variety of musical styles underpinning the songs keeps the story fresh and interesting, while reflecting the diversity of its characters.

LGBT in Britain University Report

Stonewall commissioned YouGov to carry out a survey asking more than 5,000 LGBT people across Britain about their experiences. 522 LGBT students were asked specifically about their experience at Britain’s universities. Stonewall have published a report outlining the results of the survey showing that there are worrying accounts of students facing discrimination and a lack of inclusion. Stonewall have also found that 60% of trans students have experienced negative comments from other students because of their identity, while 20% of LGB students, who are not trans, did too. You can read more [here](#).

Next Rainbow Network Social

Following our survey’s results, we have changed the day of our socials from Tuesday to Thursday. September’s Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Thursday **6th September** 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!



Find out more: intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/rainbownetwork
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