



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



December 2017 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Welcome to the Rainbow Network's December newsletter. 1 December is World AIDS Day, an annual event which we are commemorating for a second year by lighting Old Joe red. HIV and AIDS continues to disproportionately affect LGBT communities, so I encourage all of our members to support a charity like the [National AIDS Trust](#) or [Terrence Higgins Trust](#) by buying a red ribbon.

Following our survey earlier this year, we will be trialling new arrangements for our monthly socials in 2018. From February we will hold our non-alcoholic socials during lunchtime to enable people to attend who are unable to attend events after work. Look out for details closer to the time!

All that's left to say is thank you to all of our members and friends for your support throughout 2017. I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday!

World AIDS Day Vigil

1 December is the annual [World AIDS Day](#). Since 1988, this has been a day dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic and commemorating those who have died of the disease. A [Vigil](#) supported by candles will be held in Birmingham in memory of those who have died with an HIV-related condition and in honour of the people living with it.



Date: Friday **1 December** 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Birmingham Cathedral Square

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

Dates for your diary

DECEMBER

Friday 1st December
World AIDS Day

Saturday 2nd December, 1:00pm
'Coming out' Exhibition Launch
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Tuesday 5th December
Midday Committee Meeting
Nuffield G07

Tuesday 5th December, 5:30pm
December Network Social, Costa
Coffee (University Centre)

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



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Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery 'Coming out' Exhibition

An exhibition will be held in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery between December 2017 and April 2018. The exhibition, which is entitled '[Coming out: Sexuality, Gender and Identity](#)' will feature over 80 modern and contemporary artworks by internationally renowned artists who explore themes of gender, sexuality and identity in art. The free [public exhibition launch](#) will take place on Saturday **2nd December** between **1:00pm** and **4:00pm**.



Australians vote Yes to same-sex marriage

Almost 13 million Australians (79.5%) voted in the country's non-binding postal ballot, the results of which were [announced](#) on 14th November. 61.6% said yes. As the public vote is not legally binding, legislation will need to be approved by the House of Representatives before it can be signed into law by the Governor-General.



'However you identify we must all be trans allies'

Read a [blog post](#) written by Ruth Hunt, the Stonewall CEO, for [Huffpost](#) on being a lesbian as well as a trans ally. In her article, Ruth talks about the recent discriminatory headlines about trans people, the stereotypes that exist in society about gender and how supporting trans equality can benefit everyone, however they identify.

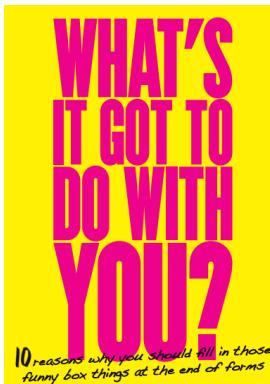


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The importance of disclosing personal information

Part of having a successful organisation that values equality and diversity is having a good monitoring system. Understanding the diversity of their staff allows managers to tailor their services to the needs of their staff and drive beneficial change.

Read Stonewall's '[What's it got to do with you?](#)' flyer to find out why it is important to disclose personal information on monitoring forms.



The Gender Recognition Act

In July 2017, the government announced that they would review the Gender Recognition Act 2004 (GRA), the law that concerns how trans people can get their gender identity legally recognised.

The aim of the reform will be to make the process much more straightforward and less reliant on medical examinations. The government is expected to launch a public consultation on the issue before the end of 2017.

Sign up to help Stonewall campaign for trans people and find out more information about the issue on the following [link](#).

Next Rainbow Network Social

December's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Tuesday **5th December** at 5:30pm in Costa Coffee. 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!

