



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



January 2019 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Happy New Year! Welcome back after the holidays – I hope that everybody reading this has enjoyed some time off and is starting 2019 feeling refreshed and relaxed.

The Rainbow Network committee are still looking for some new committee members to fulfil our vacant roles, and in the absence of a Communications Officer this monthly newsletter will be going on hiatus for a while. Get in touch at lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk if you are interested in joining the committee.

On 27th January, please take a moment to remember the victims of the Holocaust, including the approximately 100,000 gay men arrested during the Third Reich.

World AIDS Day

The Rainbow Network and the University of Birmingham supported World Health Organisation initiative World AIDS Day for the third time this year, lighting up Old Joe in red, displaying promotional posters on the TV screens in the Main Library, and selling red ribbons to raise money for the National AIDS Trust.

Read more [here](#).



Dates for your diary

JANUARY

Thursday 10th January, 5:30pm
January Rainbow Network Social
Bratby Bar, Staff House

Monday 14th January, 12:30pm
Staff Network coffee
Bramall mezzanine

Monday 21st January, 12pm
Committee meeting
Arts G14

Sunday 27th January
Holocaust Memorial Day

FEBRUARY

LGBT History Month

A full listing of this year's events
can be found on our [2019 Calendar](#)

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



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Government intersex consultation

Following the UK government's National LGBT Survey in 2017, and the subsequent consultation on a review of the Gender Recognition Act, BuzzFeed announced late last year that there will be a further consultation into the treatment, rights, and experiences of intersex people in the UK.

Intersex is an umbrella term for people whose bodies do not align physical with standard notions of either male or female. Estimates of prevalence range from 0.5% to 2% of the population, and there are widespread concerns among intersex organisations about the way that laws, human rights, and the medical profession treat intersex children and adults.

Read the full article [here](#).

Promoting workplace equality through staff led organisation

The Coordinator of the Rainbow Network at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen has written for Times Higher Education about the benefits which staff networks bring to advancing equality and diversity in workplaces.

Read the full article [here](#), including information about how the RGU Rainbow Network was established, what sorts of events they run, and who they work alongside to increase LGBT visibility and inclusivity.

We meet with RGU Rainbow Network and LGBT staff networks from across the UK Higher Education sector at biannual LGBT+ Network of Networks in HE events.

How many gay and bisexual people are in the UK?

Late last year, PinkNews reported on new statistics which suggest that the UK has a higher proportion of people identifying as bisexual, lesbian, and gay than ever before!

13% of respondents to a survey by healthcare company euroClinix identified themselves as LGB, with 7% identifying as bisexual and 6% as lesbian or gay. This amounts to around nine million LGB people in the UK, significantly more than previous estimates.

See [here](#) for the full story.

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

Join our mailing list: lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Rainbow Voices new members evening

Midlands-based LGBT+ choir [Rainbow Voices](#) are holding a [new members evening](#). Everyone welcome to this free event, no auditions necessary, as long as you can hold a tune and love to sing! Come see what it's like to be part of Rainbow Voices. Be part of something, start 2019 with something new.

Date: Tuesday 8th January 2019

Time: 8:00pm-10:00pm

Location: Edgbaston Friends Meeting House, St James Road, Edgbaston, B15 1JP

LGBT Workplace Stories

Stonewall have released a set of "[LGBT Workplace Stories](#)" to demonstrate that it is possible to be comfortable and successful at work without compromising on who you are.

They are also accepting expressions of interest from people to feature in future stories.

The Rainbow Network committee have our own set of staff profiles, produced in collaboration with the University's Equality and Diversity team—see [here](#). We are always happy to produce more profiles—get in touch at lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Next Rainbow Network Social

January's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Thursday **10th January** at 5:30pm in Bratby Bar, Staff House.

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!



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