



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



March 2019 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Hello, and welcome to the March edition of our monthly newsletter. As this goes out, we will be approaching the end of LGBT History Month 2019, and once again I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to the University's biggest and most ambitious events programme yet.

The work doesn't stop here – there are many opportunities to increase LGBT visibility and highlight LGBT history throughout the year, and the Rainbow Network committee are already looking ahead to International Transgender Day of Visibility in March and Lesbian Visibility Day in April.

We have also been working with the University on some very exciting plans for Birmingham Pride this year – keep an eye on upcoming communications for details.

Trans Day of Visibility

International Transgender Day of Visibility is observed every year on 31st March as an opportunity to raise awareness of transgender people and issues. 2019 is the ten-year anniversary of the date, which was created to honour and celebrate transgender people in a more positive way than other dates such as Transgender Day of Remembrance.

The last couple of years have been particularly difficult for trans people in the UK, with large amounts of transphobia to the fore in mainstream media and the public sphere. Why not take a moment to show your support for our trans students, colleagues, and friends – tweet using #UoBITDoV to help to raise awareness!

Dates for your diary

MARCH

Friday 1st March

Zero Discrimination Day (UNAIDS)

Monday 4th March, 12.30pm

Staff Network Coffee

Bramall Mezzanine

4th—8th March

LGBT Fostering and Adoption Week

Thursday 7th March, 5.30pm

Rainbow Network Social

Bratby Bar

Friday 8th March

International Women's Day

Monday 18th March, 12pm

Committee meeting

Arts G14

Sunday 31st March

International Trans Day of Visibility

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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Sex Education and black gay experience

Netflix new hit show, Sex Education, has been a hit among viewers, with its diverse and inclusive set of characters and unusual premise.

Actor Ncuti Gatwa plays Eric, an openly gay black teenager, and he has [spoken out about the importance of representing the black gay community](#).

Speaking to Pink News, Ncuti said: "It's very important to see a black gay teen represented. I think there's quite a narrow representation of gay people on TV and I think that we need to push that. The black gay experience isn't one that is often told. And that community is struggling to find its feet because being a minority within a minority is an extremely difficult thing."

BGSO Spring Concert

As winter warms into a springtime smile, join Birmingham's friendliest orchestra for an afternoon of melodious music. Birmingham Gay Symphony Orchestra performs Sibelius's most tuneful symphony - with resounding brass, soaring strings and wonderful woodwind, it's grand music that will whisk you away.

Saturday 23 March 2019, 3pm

St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Birmingham B3 1QZ

Doors open at 2.15pm

New study published

A new article, [Gender, sexual diversity and professional practice learning: findings from a systematic search and review](#), has been published by a group of academics at the University of Birmingham in the journal Studies in Higher Education.

The study looks at the way in which students are educated to provide appropriate support for LGBTQ people when they carry out professional practice placements.

Birmingham LGBTQ film fest

Birmingham is to get its own two-day queer film festival, courtesy of CineQ, aiming to focus on new stories and QTPOC (queer trans and intersex people of colour) perspectives, while producing 'New Queer Cinema'.

CineQ founder Rico Johnson-Sinclair said: "Queer cinema has often been a blind spot in the region's best independent and multiplex cinemas. Not to say that there isn't an offer, Love, Simon, Call Me By Your Name and God's Own Country were notable successes in recent years, but there's a plethora of films from a variety of perspectives that are being made, but just not shown in cinemas."

[The festival runs from 22nd to 24th March.](#)

Intersex call for evidence

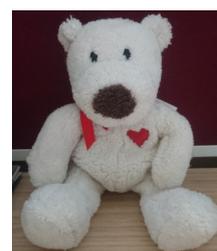
The Government is calling for evidence on people who have Variations in Sex Characteristics (VSC). The call is designed for VSC individuals—sometimes referred to as 'intersex' or those with 'differences in sex development', along with their parents, carers and legal guardians, alongside professionals and service providers. They are invited to share their views and experiences on terminology, healthcare, education, support, issues, sex assignment and more.

[Find out more and respond](#). The consultation remains open until 28th March 2019.

March Network Social

March's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Thursday **7th March** 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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