



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



May 2019 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Hello, and thank you for reading our May newsletter.

It is a difficult time for the LGBTQ community in Birmingham. Protests against LGBTQ-inclusive primary school education have been heating up in recent weeks, perhaps unsurprisingly given the sustained backdrop of anti-transgender coverage in UK media.

However, while rallying against the negatives, it is also important to reflect on the positives. Birmingham Pride is coming up soon – a perfect opportunity for both protest and celebration. We're also progressing our plans for the LGBTQ Ally Network, and I look forward to going on this journey with you all. Watch this space!

March with us at Pride!

Birmingham Pride is a weekend-long LGBTQ+ festival held annually in the Gay Village and is the UK's largest LGBT festival. The Rainbow Network would like to invite all UoB staff and PhD students to march with us in the parade at noon on 25th May. We have rainbow mortarboards to wear this year!

The only requirement is to be on either the Rainbow Network or LGBTQ Ally Network mailing list - you can request to join by emailing us and letting us know which mailing list you would like to be added to.

Everybody can bring a +1 and any number of under 18s (under 18s who march are the responsibility of their accompanying adult). Participants will be asked to arrive before noon to sign in. Sign up to march and receive full details by emailing lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Dates for your diary MAY

LGBT Pride Month

Wednesday 8th May
National Day for Staff Networks

Monday 13th May, 12pm
Rainbow Network Committee Meeting
Arts G37

Friday 17th May
International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Wednesday 22nd May
Harvey Milk Day

Thursday 23rd May, 12.30pm
Staff Network Coffee
Bramall Mezzanine

25th and 26th May
Birmingham Pride
Birmingham City Centre

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



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



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

Top tips for staff travelling to Dubai

The Rainbow Network has worked with the University's Equality and Diversity Team and Stonewall to produce a ['top tips' document](#) for staff who plan to travel to the University's Dubai campus.

If you have travelled to Dubai, or if you travel to Dubai in the future, and you think of any additional tips for this document, please let us know on lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Following the launch of our Top Tips document, the Rainbow Network committee have agreed to reduce our focus on Dubai to enable us to concentrate on other areas where we can make an impact on LGBTQ inclusion within the University. We will of course continue to respond to any ad hoc queries and concerns that individuals may have about Dubai.

No Outsiders - our response

Protests against the teaching of the Equality Act in Birmingham schools, via No Outsiders, have drawn wide condemnation from MPs and Birmingham City Council.

The Rainbow Network committee fully supports No Outsiders and record concern about the protests. This kind of news can be distressing for members of LGBTQ communities, so all are reminded that committee members are available for informal chats if you feel you have been affected.

Get in touch any time on lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk

IDAHOBIT

Friday 17th May 2019 is International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

Dudley will be hosting its first ever IDAHOBIT event on the day, when the rainbow flag will be raised above Dudley Castle and the Council House, alongside speeches from the Mayor and others. The event is open to all and begins at 12.30pm.

Keep your eyes peeled for further events in Birmingham and beyond.

Global mobility for LGBTQ staff

We are considering setting up an informal scheme for Rainbow Network members who are travelling to a foreign country for the first time to enable them to meet with another LGBTQ member of staff who has visited that country.

Our plan is to compile a list of staff who have spent enough time in other countries to get a feel for the lived experience. This list will only be available to the committee, who will publish a list of which countries are included on our website. We can then put people in touch with one another.

If you would be willing to participate in such a scheme, please email lgbtq@contacts.bham.ac.uk, and include details of the country you are familiar with.

LGBTQ+ youth advisory group

The University's Institute for Mental Health is recruiting a small group of LGBTQ+ young people (16-25 years) who've had experiences of self harm or suicidal thoughts/behavior to advise on the progress of a doctoral research project. Those taking part will not be asked to share personal experiences or details, this would be purely an advisory role.

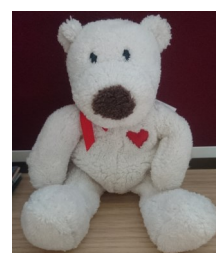
PhD student Jess Williams wants to hear from anyone interested in taking part in this group, which will meet 2-4 times per year.

Contact Jess for more information on a.williams.10@pgr.bham.ac.uk

May Network Social

May's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Thursday **2nd May** at 5:30pm in Bratby, University Centre.

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



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