



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



October 2018 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Welcome to our October newsletter. This is a busy time of year for diversity dates, and I particularly want to recognise [National Coming Out Day](#), [Hate Crime Awareness Week](#), and [Spirit Day](#) (for which people are encouraged to wear purple in solidarity with victims of LGBT bullying). Later on is [Asexual Awareness Week](#) and [Intersex Awareness Day](#), both aiming to increase the visibility of underrepresented groups in the LGBT community. October also includes [World Mental Health Day](#) (of [particular significance to LGBT people](#)) and [Black History Month](#), for which I am excited to host the Rainbow Network's [third annual event](#). Finally, October is your last chance to respond to the government's [review of the Gender Recognition Act](#) – please visit <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/gender-recognition-act> for details on how to support your transgender colleagues and students!

Coming out in the workplace

To mark [National Coming Out Day](#) the Alliance Network will be hosting an event in partnership with Aston University to explore what coming out means to people from different backgrounds and situations. During the event, the key findings of two recent pieces of research around LGBT+ employees and the workplace will be presented, and the issues, barriers and support needs of LGBT+ workforce in relation to coming out in the workplace will be explored. You can register for the event [here](#).

Date: Thursday **11 October** 2018

Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm

Location: Susan Cadbury Lecture Theatre,
Aston Business School, Aston University, B4 7EQ

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

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

Dates for your diary

OCTOBER (Black History Month)

Thursday 4th October, 5:30pm
October Network Social, Costa Coffee, University Centre

Friday 5th October, 12:30pm
Staff Network Coffee
Bramall mezzanine

Monday 8th October
Midday Committee Meeting
Watson Building Room 240

Wednesday 10th October
World Mental Health Day

Thursday 11th October
National Coming Out Day

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



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



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

Rainbow Network shortlisted for European Diversity Awards

We are delighted to announce that the Rainbow Network has been shortlisted for Outstanding Employee Network in the 2018 European Diversity Awards (EDA). EDA have become the Europe's most prestigious diversity event, recognising individuals and organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to equality, diversity and inclusion. The award winners will be announced at the Natural History Museum on Thursday 29th November 2018.



'LGBTQ+ Student Mental Health' Student Minds Survey

[Student Minds](#), the UK's student mental health charity, has conducted a survey relating to the intersection of LGBTQ+ identity and experiences of mental health difficulties among students in Higher Education. The survey was completed by more than 300 university students and showed that the majority of respondents believe there is a need for additional mental health support specifically for LGBTQ+ students, while 89% think that peer support would be beneficial. Wonkhe covered the results of this survey [here](#). You can read the entire report [here](#) and a 2-page summary [here](#).

Survey: Quality of life in trans/gender nonconforming people

The Institute of Management Studies (IMS) at Goldsmiths, the University of London and the not-for-profit community interest company Gendered Intelligence are conducting a survey exploring the quality of life in transgender and gender nonconforming people in England.

You are eligible to take part if you are over the age of 18, live in England and identify as transgender and/or gender nonconforming. Read more about the survey and take part [here](#).

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

Indian Supreme Court decriminalised gay sex

In 2013, the Supreme Court in India made gay sex illegal, outraging LGBT+ rights campaigners across the world. Recently, the five judges of the Supreme Court decided unanimously to overturn the ban on consensual same-sex relations. The United Nations in India welcomed the ruling, adding that it "sincerely hopes that the court's ruling will be the first step towards guaranteeing the full range of fundamental rights to LGBTI persons". Activists and supporters across the globe have welcomed the decision.



Black History Month 'The Skinny' Film Screening

The Rainbow Network celebrates Black History Month with the screening of the film 'The Skinny', by Patrik-Ian Polk, starring Jussie Smollett of "Empire" fame. 'The Skinny' is a romantic dramedy about a group of gay and lesbian friends reuniting at New York City Pride. Staff, students, and community members are welcome. You can register for the event [here](#).

Date: Wednesday **17 October** 2018

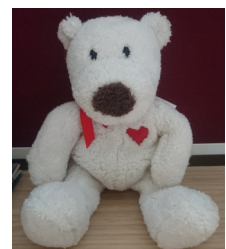
Time: 5:30pm

Location: tbc

Next Rainbow Network Social

October's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Thursday **4th October** at 5:30pm at 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!



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



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