



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



September 2017 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Welcome to our September newsletter! I hope that those of you who have been on holiday over the summer are feeling suitably refreshed and prepared for the new academic year.

This time of year is very busy in the annual diversity calendar – Bisexual Visibility Day takes place towards the end of September, followed by Black History Month, [Stonewall Season](#), and World Mental Health Day in October – and we are planning to mark these dates in true Rainbow Network fashion.

Wolverhampton Pride is also taking place in September – smaller Pride events often struggle to receive as much publicity and funding as Pride events in larger cities, so we will be arranging a meet up to show our support and solidarity on behalf of UoB. Keep an eye on our social media accounts for details!

Bisexual Visibility Day

23 September is the annual Bisexual Visibility Day, also known as Celebrate Bisexuality Day.

This day has been celebrated since 1999 and it constitutes a call for the bisexual community and its allies to celebrate bisexual history and bisexual community and culture.

Studies have shown that the majority of bisexual people feel that there is no visible bisexual community to connect with. A major aim of Bisexual Visibility Day is to create a safe space for those who identify as bisexual, so they know they are neither alone, nor different.

Dates for your diary

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 5th September, 5:30pm
September Network Social, Bratby Bar (University Centre)

Tuesday 12th September, 8:00pm
Rainbow Voices: New Members Evening, MAC Music Room 1

Wednesday 20th September, Midday
Committee Meeting, Strathcona Building (R18), Seminar Room 01

Saturday 23rd September
Bisexual Visibility Day

Monday 30th September, 12:00pm to 9:00pm, Wolverhampton Pride

OCTOBER

(Black History Month)

Tuesday 10th October
World Mental Health Day

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

LGBT Staff Profiles Request for volunteers

We're currently working towards creating a series of LGBT staff profiles to show new employees, especially those at the start of their career, that the University is an LGBT friendly employer, and help them to feel able to be out at work.

These profiles will only be displayed on the intranet, within the Rainbow Network pages. LGBT staff who have already been profiled can be found [here](#). If you are interested in being the subject of a profile, please email Alex Phokas at AXP666@student.bham.ac.uk or Tom Syder at T.M.Syder@bham.ac.uk.

Conference: Making Diversity Research Everyone's Business

The University will be hosting this one-day conference to share insights into its ground-breaking research on diversity. This research was carried out in collaboration with RCUK.

The event will showcase leading international research on diversity, equality and inclusion, focusing on how interdisciplinary research on diversity is helping to shape policy learning. More information can be found [here](#).

Date: Friday **22 September** 2017

Time: 10:00am-15:00pm

Location: Nicolson Building (G11)

Wolverhampton Pride

Wolverhampton Pride will be taking place on Saturday **30th September**. A festival for everyone to celebrate LGBT+ Equality and the diversity of the City of Wolverhampton.

More information and tickets can be found [here](#).



Date: Saturday **30 September** 2017

Time: 12:00pm-09:00pm

Location: Wulfruna Street & St Peters Car Park

Rainbow Voices New Members Evening

Midlands-based LGBT choir [Rainbow Voices](#) are holding a [New Members Evening](#). This is a friendly evening of singing and meeting new people who share the same passion for music. Free trial with no auditions involved.

Date: Tuesday **12 September** 2017

Time: 8:00pm-10:00pm

Location: Birmingham MAC, Music Room 1, Cannon Hill Park, Queen's Ride, Birmingham, B12 9QH

All Out Petition "A pardon isn't enough"

July 27th marked the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in the UK. Under the laws that existed before that, it was illegal for men to be gay or bisexual and many were convicted due to their sexual orientation. None of those have received a meaningful apology.

We urge Theresa May to issue an official apology and make amendments to all those who were unjustly punished under Britain's anti-gay laws.

To sign the petition follow this [link](#).

Next Rainbow Network social

September's Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Tuesday **5th September** at 5:30pm in Bratby Bar. Come and join us for a pint and a catch up. Facebook event [here](#).

Look out for our lovely mascot, "Bow" - the teddy bear (pictured right), if you're not sure which table we're at!



We're alternating between alcohol and non-alcohol based venues, so if a brew is more your thing, join us for the next one in October at Costa Coffee.

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

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