



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



September 2018 Newsletter

Note from the Chair

Hello, and welcome back from the summer break – hopefully you got a chance to spend some time in the sunshine.

There are a lot of annual LGBT diversity dates during the autumn term, kicking off with Bisexual Visibility Day on 23rd September. We have arranged for the Bramall building to light up for the second year in a row, sending a strong signal to new students about the University's commitment to LGBT inclusivity.

The Gender Recognition Act consultation will remain open until mid-October – this is a rare, and powerful, opportunity for individuals to make an impact on the legal and political situation for LGBT people in the UK, and I encourage all of our readers to have your say while you have the chance.

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, community and culture.

A major aim of Bisexual Visibility Day is to create a safe space for those who identify as bisexual, so they know they are not alone.



To celebrate the day, the University will light up the Bramall Music Building in the colours of the Bisexual flag — pink, lavender and blue — on the evening of Monday 24th September.

Dates for your diary

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 6th September, 5:30pm
September Network Social, Bratby
Bar University Centre

Monday 17th September, 12:30pm
Staff Network Coffee
Bramall mezzanine

Sunday 23rd September
Bisexual Visibility Day

Monday 24th-Friday 28th September
National Inclusion Week

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

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



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Gender Recognition Act Consultation

The Government Equalities Office has started an [open consultation](#) process regarding the impending reform of the Gender Recognition Act 2004, seeking the views of the public.

The government recognises that trans and non-binary people are members of our society and that they should be treated with respect. The consultation asks what the government can do differently to make the legal process of gender change under the Gender Recognition Act easier for trans and non-binary people. The consultation closes on 19 October 2018 at 11pm.

Stonewall have expressed their views on what reforms need to be made to the Act. You can read about them [here](#).

Enforcement of the Equality Act: Inquiry launched

The Women and Equalities Committee has launched an inquiry into the enforcement of the Equality Act 2010, legislation which is designed to “provide a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all”. Due to the increasing evidence that people have difficulties enforcing their rights under the Act, which questions the effectiveness of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the Women and Equalities Committee calls for people’s written evidence on various issues regarding the Equality Act. More information [here](#).

Health and social care and LGBT communities: Inquiry

The Government’s recent survey of 108,000 LGBT people showed that health outcomes are generally worse for LGBT people than for the rest of the population. In response to this, the Women and Equalities Committee has launched an inquiry to consider whether provision is adequate, discrimination is occurring, and what more needs to be done to improve access to health and social care. Read more and submit your views on the issue [here](#). The deadline for submissions is 5 October 2018.

Trans-inclusive Edgbaston Hockey Club

The [Edgbaston Hockey Club](#) is a local community club where many members are University of Birmingham staff and students. They train and play on the University of Birmingham hockey pitches and have sections for “Men”, “Women” (Age 13+) and “Kestrels” (Age 8-16). In [community hockey clubs](#), “men” and “women” are self-defined, and club members can play “in the gender they present”. If you are interested in joining please [email](#) Kate Stewart, Ladies’ captain.



Rainbow Voices New Members Night

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

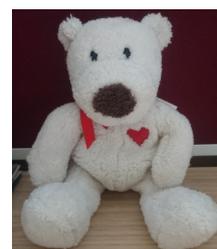
Date: Tuesday **11 September** 2017

Time: 8:00pm-10:00pm

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

Next Rainbow Network Social

Following our survey’s results, we have changed the day of our socials from Tuesday to Thursday. September’s Rainbow Network social will be taking place on Thursday **6th September** at 5:30pm in Bratby Bar. 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
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