



# LGB&T EBulletin June 2018



## NEWS

Don't forget to follow our facebook page to keep up to date with events in between ebulletins <https://www.facebook.com/LGBTUnisonNI/>

### **UNISON LGBT Committee**

Although it is referred to as a committee, it is open to any LGBT member to attend. The next meeting is at **6.15 – 8pm on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June** in UNISON. At this meeting we have invited a representative from Genderjam to talk about trans issues (postponed from last scheduled night). So if you don't know your non binary from your gender fluid or your transsexual from your transgender, come along. This will link into UNISON National's consultation on the proposal to extend LGBT to LGBT+ to be more inclusive. There will also be a discussion on Pride activities. If you are coming along, please let me know for catering.

### **Marriage Equality Rally**

We are still marching and campaigning for Marriage Equality. The latest rally earlier this month brought thousands onto the streets again in both Belfast and Derry and UNISON had a great presence. Thanks to all those who were able to come along it. You can support the Love Equality campaign financially by donating at <https://marriageequalityni.causevox.com/> or you can buy a Love Equality tshirt at <https://equalitee.co.uk/>

There are photos of the Belfast rally at

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1827374837285359.1073741852.138564629499730&type=1&l=3a7bc348d9>

And Derry via Kathryn Daily

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10215493672596154&set=pcb.10215493690756608&type=3&theater>

A song of solidarity has been written and recorded and you can check it out at

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=FKIbhfTZhVY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=FKIbhfTZhVY)

### **Celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the NHS in Belfast at 2.30pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June**

<https://www.ictuni.org/publications/nicictu-nhs-at-70-a3-poster>

Trade Unions are joining civic society to invite people onto the streets on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate and show your support for the NHS and to defend its future. The NHS was set up in 1948 by Labour Health Minister Aneurin Bevan and for the first time people had access to health services without having to pay. Previously many people died simply because they couldn't afford the doctor, nurse or midwife. Find out more about the history

<https://www.nhs70.nhs.uk/about/nhs-history/> The principle of free healthcare at the point of delivery is constantly undermined by government with increased privatisation and under funding. This is an opportunity to say thank you for the services you and your family have received, show that people are prepared to fight for it. It will have a celebratory and family focus with face painting, music and theatrics, so come along.

Regional LGBT Groups

#### **Regional LGBT Groups**

An echoing refrain over the years has been that everything for LGBT people is always in Belfast or Derry. Well the Rainbow Project has set up regular LGBT groups in Armagh City, Ballymoney, Banbridge, Coleraine, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Omagh & Strabane. To find out where and when they meet and more about them, contact Mardi on [mardi@rainbow-project.org](mailto:mardi@rainbow-project.org)

#### **OUT North West Launch**

In partnership with Cara-Friend and The Rainbow Project OUT North West officially launched in June with over 50 people, including community organisations and Mayor John Boyle, in attendance. OUT North West has a great future ahead as a support service for LGBTQ+ young people, families and professionals right across the North West, and has a primary focus of also being a youth led service. The project is funded by Big Lottery Fund NI. Follow them on facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OUTNORTHWEST>

#### **Backlash against Stonewall/Primark Pride Merchandise**

Criticism has come from the UK Pride Organisers Network, who question Stonewall's alliance with Primark which will sell Pride merchandise and receive a donation from the sale. Questions have been raised about the fact that the products are made in countries

where LGBT people face imprisonment as well as taking away from local Pride fundraisers. UNISON recommends that you check out The Rainbow Project's social enterprise Equalitee and where you can buy tshirts, badges, rainbow laces. Fabulous to treat yourself or others <https://equalitee.co.uk/collections/pride>

**Makers.com LGBT series** – A US initiative with short interviews profiling women changemakers – includes Ellen, Amy Wambach, Billie Jean King <https://www.makers.com/playlists/5b104ac7597f3100013d3768>

### **LGBT People – Losing My Religion (cue REM)**

Over the past number of weeks the media and social media have been full of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's decision to ban same sex couples from being full members of the Church or having their children baptised. Please find below a variety of articles and interviews. See events section for a number of LGBT inclusive faith talks.

Same-sex policy won't be changed, insists former Presbyterian moderator <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/samesex-policy-wont-be-changed-insists-former-presbyterian-moderator-37003765.html>

Same sex couples welcome in Church but cannot be full members <https://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/same-sex-couples-welcome-in-presbyterian-church-but-cannot-be-full-members-1-8527843>

Couple resign from Presbyterian Church in solidarity with their lesbian daughter <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/couple-resign-from-presbyterian-church-as-samesex-ruling-row-escalates-36996069.html>

Alf McCreary: Presbyterian traditionalists appear long on preaching and short on love <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/alf-mccreary-presbyterian-traditionalists-appear-long-on-preaching-and-short-on-love-36990982.html>

Lord Alderdice resigns from Presbyterian Church following same-sex relationship decision <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/lord-alderdice-resigns-from-presbyterian-church-following-ban-on-samesex-relationships-37011414.html>

Church feeling heat from political critics after Alderdice quits <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/church-feeling-heat-from-political-critics-after-alderdice-quits-37016284.html>

William Crawley BBC Talkback Interview with Naomi Long, David Ford and Mike Nesbitt on the Presbyterians Church's decision to ban LGB people from full membership (10min – 50min approx.) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b5t61g>

BBC's Stephen Walker's report for The View <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06b5r8t>

And for the Catholics

Pope tells gay man – God made you <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-god-made-gay-homosexuality-vatican-catholic-church-sex-abuse-chile-juan-carlos-cruz-a8360421.html>

We are Church launches petition asking Pope to rescind doctrine language which describes LGB people as 'objectively disordered'

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/presbyterian-church-says-same-sex-couples-can-no-longer-be-full-members-1.3524162>

Father James Martin to speak on welcoming L.G.B.T. Catholics at World Meeting of Families in Dublin

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2018/06/11/father-james-martin-speak-welcoming-lgbt-catholics-world-meeting-families>

During LGBT Awareness Week in May, LGBT inclusive services were held in St Catherine's Dominican Church in Newry and in St George's Church of Ireland in High St Belfast. All Souls Non Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Elmwood Ave, Belfast will host the annual Belfast Pride service on Sunday Aug 5<sup>th</sup>

On the back of recent events Christians at Pride are particularly encouraging LGBT Christians, friends, family and allies to walk with them at Belfast Pride this year to send a positive message for those LGBT people and their families who are still involved in Churches. They have tshirts and you can get more information at

<https://www.facebook.com/capbelfast/>

## **EVENTS**

Upcoming Pride Parades & Festival (generally the week running up to the parade)

Dublin Sat June 30<sup>th</sup> [www.dublinpride.ie](http://www.dublinpride.ie)

Belfast Sat Aug 4<sup>th</sup> [www.belfastpride.com](http://www.belfastpride.com)

Foyle Sat Aug 25<sup>th</sup> <http://foylepridefestival.com/>

Newry Sat Sept 1<sup>st</sup> <http://prideinnewry.com/>

A full list of all UK Prides is at <http://www.ukpon.lgbt/pridedates/>

UNISON will be walking in the Belfast, Foyle and Newry and we welcome all participants. We will also be taking part in LGBT awareness stalls in local hospitals in the run up to each Pride in partnership with the HSC LGBT Staff Forum. Dates will be circulated in advance and volunteers welcome.

**Spectrum LGBT+ Christian Group – monthly meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June in Agape Centre, Lisburn Rd, Belfast.** <https://www.facebook.com/events/229288771170723/>

This month Gemma Dunning is along to launch her new book "4 Views on Pastoring LGBTQ Teenagers". This book will be a vital resource to those in all forms of church leadership, especially those involved in youth work. Everyone is welcome to this special event to hear Gemma's advice and experience of caring pastorally for LGBTQ teenagers cream. Spectrum is open to LGBT+ people, friends, families and allies.

**Anthony Venn-Brown: Creating a space for respectful dialogue at 7.30pm on Friday 22 June in Grosvenor House, Glengall St, Belfast & 12.30pm on Sat 23 in 147 Trust, Duncairn Centre, Antrim Rd Belfast**

[www.facebook.com/events/260415984506354](http://www.facebook.com/events/260415984506354)

Accepting Sexuality are running two events with Anthony Venn-Brown. On Friday evening Anthony will speak at Grosvenor House on - How do we create a safe place for churches, religious organisations and leaders to engage and learn more about LGBT people? How do we help people move from adversarial positions into a place of genuine dialogue? Anthony Venn-Brown has studied the shifts in attitude of people of faith as they become more informed about LGBT people, their lives and stories. He also brings his own experience as a former Assemblies of God leader and high profile preacher in Australia's mega-churches. Anthony will continue the conversation on the Saturday for a smaller and more intimate lunchtime discussion at the Duncairn Centre. Drinks and tray bakes provided. These events are open to LGBT people, friends, family and clergy. Anthony's motto of "No conversation about us without us", and his presentation, will have a special resonance given recent events in the Presbyterian Church.

**Coastal Walk with Deja VuVu at 12pm on Sunday 24 June** <https://www.meetup.com/Deja-vu-vu/events/251441777/>

An event for lesbian, bi and trans women – a walk along the coastal path from Helen's Bay to Bangor return – about 7 miles in total

**Discussion on LGBT Older People: Prof Pam Arnsberger - Lessons from California 2 – 4pm on Thursday 28 June in UNISON** <https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training>

We are delighted to host Prof Pam Arnsberger, formerly from University of California to talk about some of the experiences in the US around advocating for older LGBT people. This is an opportunity to learn from the US and think about what are the issues here. It is targeted at LGBT people and those who have a role in advocating or supporting older people.

In the next several decades, the number of self-identified LGBT adults age 65 and above is expected to double in western countries. As older gays and lesbians are half as likely as their heterosexual counterparts to have family to lean on for elder care, five basic unmet needs have been identified in the research:

1. Basic Health Care. Professional health care providers who might be uncomfortable LGBT elders and who are not trained to work with them. Even when these providers are supportive, fear of discrimination prevents many LGBT older people from seeking out the care they need.
2. Caregiving Issues. Because their partners and their families of choice often are not recognized under the law, LGBT people frequently are not granted family or medical leave to take care of a sick or terminally ill partner and can be excluded from decision-making on a partner's medical care.
3. Financial Insecurity. Poverty rates among elder lesbian and gay couples are much higher than among elder heterosexual couples. Due to employment discrimination and barriers in pension and retirement plans that deny same-sex couples key retirement benefits
4. Social Isolation. Older LGBT people are twice as likely to be single and to live alone, and three to four times as likely to be childless. They are also less likely to feel welcome in the places where many older people socialize
5. Access to Aging Services. LGBT older people often do not

access aging services out of fear of harassment or hostility. Few aging services providers plan for, or reach out to, the LGBT community and few are prepared to address insensitivity or discrimination aimed at LGBT elders.

Pam Arnsberger received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1991. She served as a researcher and professor at the Institute of Health and Aging at the University of California San Francisco, the University of New England and the University of Hawaii. Her research focus is in aging with an emphasis on the development of community-based methods of long term care service delivery and Alzheimer's Disease. She is a Fulbright scholar and a recipient of the Na Lima Kokua award for research and service. She is currently retired and, in addition to serving as President -elect for Capitola Aptos Rotary and serves as Vice President of the Santa Cruz County Senior's Council

**The Vagina Monologues at 8pm in the Pickled Duck Cafe, Shipquay Place, Derry**

This night is a fundraiser for Foyle Pride and put on by Sole Productions. 5, performers taking part in reciting a selection of monologues for a fun filled night followed with DJ set and dancing. BYO Adm £5

**Pink Awards Launch on Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> June 6 – 8pm in Parliament Buildings Stormont**

PinkNews invites you to the inaugural PinkNews Belfast summer reception. The event recognises the immense contribution of the LGBT+ community in Northern Ireland in advance of the 2018 PinkNews Awards later in the year. To confirm your place RSVP via <https://chloeee.wufoo.com/forms/pinknews-summer-reception-rsvp> (closing date has just passed but try quickly anyway)

**Quire Concert 8pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June & Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July in All Souls Church Hall, Belfast**

Following last year's sell out concert Quire LGBT Singers are back, this time over two evening. They will be performing songs old and new with a bit of class and a lot of camp. It's a fun evening out and you can bring your own alcoholic or non alcoholic beverages. Friday night will have an extended performance as Saturday night's performance will be followed by a disco. Tickets are £12 and you are advised to get them in advance. You can contact them via their facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/QuireBelfast/> or email [meavecush@hotmail.com](mailto:meavecush@hotmail.com) Doors open at 7.30pm)

**Books and Blether – 7.45pm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July in Ramada Encore, Belfast**

<https://www.meetup.com/Deja-vu-vu/events/251379663>

A regular book club for lesbian, bi and trans women. This month's book is Beloved by Toni Morrison

**Same Sex Family Fundraising Coffee Morning at 11am on Sat 21 July**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2074942752791355/>

Support the same sex family fundraiser by coming along and eating cake

**Tenx9 Pride Storytelling Night 7.30pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July in the Blackbox Belfast**

<http://www.tenx9.com>



The monthly storytelling night adopts a Pride theme for July (note it is on Thurs not Wed), featuring nine LGBT storytellers for the evening. This is a free event but you are advised to get their early as it fills up fast and people often get turned away

**The Rainbow Project's BBQ & Big Gay Quiz on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August in the Speakeasy (above Mandela Hall in QUB)** <https://www.facebook.com/events/237785716981246/>

A now famed annual event where those with high IQs and whose heads are full of useless information do equally well. BBQ from 7pm in the Speakeasy's adjacent beer garden. Teams of 6 - £3 per person.

**Pink Therapy Workshop 9.30am – 4pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August in Pinsen Masons**  
<https://www.rainbow-project.org/Event/pinktherapy>

This workshop will be delivered by Dominic Davis, founder of Pink Therapy and will be on working with the gender, sexuality and relationship diversities. Cost £50 / £30 (students)

**Deja VuVu Pride Disco from 9pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August in the Pavillion Bar, Belfast**  
<https://www.meetup.com/Deja-vu-vu/events/251441777/>

A woman's night to celebrate Pride to the sounds of the 70s, 80s & 90s. Adm £5

### **UNISON Belfast Pride Events**

A seminar on the blood donation deferral period which differs in Northern Ireland compared to GB – will include representatives from the Department of Health, Belfast Trust and the Rainbow Project Date tbc

A talk on Sapphic Suffragettes by Hilary McCollum – tales of lesbian intrigue during the campaign for the vote for women. Date tbc

## **RESEARCH/SURVEYS**

Queering The Family – BBC, QUB and UU initiative pulling together the data since 1989 from The Life & Times Survey showing how attitudes to LGBT people in Northern Ireland has changed

<https://canvas-story.bbcrewind.co.uk/sites/queeringthefamily/>

LGBT People and Work – Stonewall Research 2018 (GB only)

[https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt\\_in\\_britain\\_work\\_report.pdf](https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/lgbt_in_britain_work_report.pdf)

LGBT in Britain – Trans Report 2018 (GB only) <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/lgbt-britain-trans-report>

It's all right now? Re-thinking queer activism for the 21st century Fish, Julie ; Almack, K. ; King, Andrew 2018 <https://www.dora.dmu.ac.uk/xmlui/handle/2086/16186>

Promoting good outcomes in Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual cancer care: a qualitative study of patients' experiences in clinical oncology - 2018

Fish, Julie ; Williamson, I. ; Brown, Jayne ; Padley, Wendy ; Bell, Kathleen ; Long, J.  
<https://www.dora.dmu.ac.uk/xmlui/handle/2086/16125>

“Ghosts from the past”: The re-emergence of internalized religious stigma following diagnosis of HIV among Northern Irish gay men’ by Kerrigan & Gill  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00918369.2017.1423219>

Post-primary school experiences of 16-21 year old people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and/or Transgender (LGB&T) published by the Dept of Education  
<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/post-primary-school-experiences-16-21-year-old-people-who-are-lesbian-gay-bisexual-andor-transgender-0>

UNISON’s Resources for LGBT Members – LGBT History, work related fact sheets  
<https://www.unison.org.uk/about/what-we-do/fairness-equality/lgbt/>

Get informed about what it means to be intersex  
<http://everydayfeminism.com/2016/04/things-know-born-intersex/>

LGBT Foundation Resources for Young LGBTQ People <http://lgbt.foundation/get-support/for-young-people/resources/>

How to tackle transgender discrimination at work <http://www2.cipd.co.uk/pm/peoplemanagement/b/weblog/archive/2017/11/06/how-to-tackle-transgender-discrimination-at-work.aspx>

## **INTERESTING NEWS ARTICLES**

Diversity fan zone blocked from opening in St Petersburg  
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2018/jun/16/diversity-fan-zone-blocked-from-opening-in-st-petersburg>

World Cup 2018: I'm going to Russia to show LGBT fans it's OK to be who you are  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44371541>

Gay Christian singer gives up priesthood dreams <https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/gay-christian-rock-star-gives-up-priesthood-dreams-after-senior-bishops-told-her-to-do-this/#gs.3E5MsNs>

These amazing gay fostering dads represent everything Father’s Day is about  
<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/06/14/these-amazing-gay-fostering-dads-represent-everything-fathers-day-is-about/>

How gay cinema is calling on the past to point at a radical future  
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2018/jun/15/gay-cinema-radical-future>



Parkrun Registration To Be Made More 'Inclusive' After Criticism Over 'Binary Gender Choice' [https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/parkrun-registration\\_uk\\_5b22363ce4b0adfb82712b2d](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/parkrun-registration_uk_5b22363ce4b0adfb82712b2d)

The majority of LGBT people are bisexual or queer, US poll reveals <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/06/16/the-majority-of-lgbt-people-are-bisexual-or-queer-poll-reveals>

Warsaw gets 'unbreakable' LGBT monument for Pride after vandalism <https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2018/06/10/poland-warsaw-lgbt-rights-pride-rainbow-water/>

First member of the royal family to come out announces engagement <https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/first-member-royal-family-come-out-engagement/#gs.aOTT068>

Gay couple that's been waiting 13 years to get married in Guernsey and just did <http://www.itv.com/news/channel/2017-03-02/same-sex-couple-vow-to-be-first-to-marry-in-alderney/>

Watch these trans celebs share their stories of being represented in media <https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/watch-these-trans-actors-share-their-stories-of-seeing-trans-people-in-media/#gs.g9WZpGI>

Royal Mail unveils rainbow truck in NI to support LGBT community – (well done to the Communication Workers Union who were instrumental in this)

<https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/royal-mail-unveils-rainbow-truck-in-support-of-lgbt-community-in-northern-ireland-37005082.html>

LGBT rights will suffer post Brexit <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/brexit-bill-lgbt-rights-vote-eu-charter-theresa-may-a8394631.html>

LGBT couples from Northern Ireland forced to get married in GB or Ireland <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-44334556>

I did not miss my brother – what it is like to have a trans sister <https://www.refinery29.uk/trans-family-member>

## **GROUPS AND SUPPORT**

**Some dates or days may have changed for groups, so please contact the relevant organisation to get the most up to date information on meeting/event times.**

**LGBT NI Switchboard Telephone – 0808 8000 390 – Free from landlines and most mobiles:**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday – 6pm – 9pm or click the live chat icon at the bottom right of the screen during these hours for online chat support with a volunteer  
<http://www.cara-friend.org.uk/projects/lgbt-switchboard-ni>

**LGBT Northern Ireland – general website with links to a variety of groups**

<http://lgbtni.org/>

**HSC LGBT Staff Forum – a forum for staff working in Health & Social Care in Northern Ireland** <http://www.lgbtstaff.hscni.net> @HSC\_StaffForum

**Belfast Trans Resource Centre 98 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HE**

This offers regular drop ins, social events, information and advice. It is home to a number of trans groups but is not open all the time. Check out <https://genderjam.org.uk/> for info

**Belfast LGBT Centre 23-31 Waring St, Belfast BT1 2DX** – home to Rainbow Project, HEReNI, Carafriend and Queerspace. <https://www.facebook.com/BelfastLGBTCentre/>

**Foyle LGBT Centre, Orlan House 20 Strand Rd, L'derry BT48 7AB** – home to Rainbow Project and local trans groups.

## **Belfast**

### ***Deja VuVu***

This is a meet up group for lesbian and bi women where group members suggest outings, activities and issue an open invitation. It is quite active with regular meet ups – walks, cinema, plays, darts, come dine with me type events. You need to join the online group to get information <http://www.meetup.com/Deja-vu-vu> Mainly in Belfast but not exclusively.

***The Rainbow Project*** in Belfast & Derry provides a range of services including sexual health screening, counselling, support, information and training <http://www.rainbow-project.org/>

### ***HERe NI Family Group***

The HERe NI Family group is our longest running group being established in 2009. In response to the baby boom that's happened in the lesbian community over the past number of years, we have also held a baby and toddler group meeting and a range of family support. It has a story corner where you can come in with your children and access books with same sex themes. There are also a range of social activities each month and a drop in from 3 – 5pm the last Saturday of the month open to all lesbian and bi women and a weekly Rhymetime - storytelling & music session For more info contact [www.hereni.org](http://www.hereni.org).

### ***HERe NI Wow Group***

Meet on the first Wednesday of the month. All over 30's ladies are welcome to attend the range of social activities and workshops which run throughout the year. For more info contact [cara.mccann@hereni.org](mailto:cara.mccann@hereni.org).

***Queer Space Inspace Drop In*** <http://www.queerspace.org.uk/>

Takes place on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of every month from 3.30 – 6pm in Belfast LGB&T Centre. An informal drop in open to LGB&T people for a coffee and chat.

***Cara Friend Youth Group*** <http://www.cara-friend.org.uk/projects/glyni>

A range of drop in and group activities for young people from 16 – 25 years in Belfast, Ballymena & Cookstown

### ***YouthAction Out and About Young Women's Group***

Targeted at young women from 16-25, the group meets in Belfast regularly with a new group now in Enniskillen.

<http://www.youthaction.org/dynamic/programmemain.aspx?Author=GE&prog=109&ParCat=22&pid=5> or contact [Gail@YouthAction.org](mailto:Gail@YouthAction.org)

### **Derry**

***Live & Let Live*** meeting every Tuesday in Foyle Rainbow Centre at 8.30pm for LGB&T people who have a desire to recover from alcohol or narcotic additions. [www.rainbow-project.org](http://www.rainbow-project.org)

***The Rainbow Project*** facilitates a mixed *youth group* for young LGB&T people. The group meets on a Tuesday and Wednesday evening from 5-7pm in a well-managed safe environment at our Foyle Centre, as well as organising and participating in other projects both locally and regionally, including residential events with other youth groups from across Northern Ireland and further afield. For more information, contact Susan on 028 71283030 or email [susan@rainbow-project.org](mailto:susan@rainbow-project.org)

***Trans Derry*** meets every Thursday in Foyle LGBT Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Transderry/>

### **Newry**

***A LGB&T women's group*** meets every Thursday evening in the Rainbow Centre Newry and For more information please contact Nuala Devenny either by phone:028 90319030 or email: [nuala@rainbow-project.org](mailto:nuala@rainbow-project.org)

***The Rainbow Centre in Newry*** run regular events in the Centre and hold a monthly club night in Bellinis [www.gaynewry.com](http://www.gaynewry.com)

### **Omagh**

A LGB&T peer group in Omagh meets the last Wednesday of every month. For more information please contact Nuala Devenny either by phone: 028 90319030 or email: [nuala@rainbow-project.org](mailto:nuala@rainbow-project.org)

### **Armagh**

***The Rainbow Project*** is facilitating a new social and peer support LGBT group in Armagh. Contact [Nuala@rainbow-project.org](mailto:Nuala@rainbow-project.org) for info

**Trans Specific** General Info at [www.transgenderni.com](http://www.transgenderni.com)

### ***Belfast Trans Resource Centre 98 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HE***

This offers regular drop ins, social events, information and advice. It is home to a number of trans groups but is not open all the time. Check out <https://genderjam.org.uk/> for info

**Focus : The identity Trust** offers support to individuals diagnosed with gender dysphoria  
[www.thefocustrust.com](http://www.thefocustrust.com)

T- @thefocustrust.com FB- [facebook@thefocustrust.com](https://www.facebook.com/thefocustrust.com)

**Trans Derry** meets every Thursday in Foyle LGBT Centre

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Transderry/>

**Trans Belfast** meets in the LGBT Centre at Waring St every week

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/transbelfast>

**Gender Essence** offers support and a drop in at LGBT Centre in Waring St

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/25049822043>

**SAIL** offers support to families of trans people and can be contacted via

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/SAILNI> [sail@transgenderni.com](mailto:sail@transgenderni.com)

**GenderJam NI** is a social support & advocacy group for young (16-25yrs) transgender, gender-variant, questioning and intersex people in Northern Ireland

<https://www.facebook.com/GenderJamNI> @GenderJamNI

[www.genderjam.org.uk](http://www.genderjam.org.uk)

**AffirmNI** is a Northern Ireland charity working for all Transgender people irrespective of stage of transition or identity [www.facebook.com/AffirmNI](https://www.facebook.com/AffirmNI) <http://www.affirmni.co.uk/>

**Anchor Trans NI** is a social support group for transmen, trans\* masculine, gender variant, non binary & questioning people, who were assigned female at birth (AFAB) aged 25+. Email

[hello@anchortransni.org](mailto:hello@anchortransni.org)

**Non Binary NI** is a social support group for those who identify as non binary

<https://www.facebook.com/nonbinaryNI/>

### **LGBT Families**

***Are you a Gay or Bi-Sexual Dad? Or a Gay or Bi-Sexual male with caring responsibilities for a child or young person in your family?***

You could be an Uncle, Cousin, Brother etc that supports your family by looking after a child at the weekend, or baby sitting or taking them on days out. If you are, Rainbow is here to support you with your caring responsibilities. Contact: [familysupport@rainbow-project.org](mailto:familysupport@rainbow-project.org)

### ***Thinking of starting a family?***

HereNI offers support and information to anyone considering becoming parents. If you are thinking through the options we might be able to help, answer questions and provide you with more information.

Contact Tracey at [tracey.mcdowell@hereni.org](mailto:tracey.mcdowell@hereni.org) to arrange a chat.

### **Family Group**

The Here NI Family Group is run by mums and would-be mums. It's a group/ meeting space for lesbian and bisexual women who have kids or who are planning to have children meets and meets once a month to share ideas and resources, offer support and organise events. Children are welcome at many of our events and we're always open to new people coming along. CONTACT: Here NI Family Group – Family Support Officer Grainne Gibson Email: [grainne.gibson@hereni.org](mailto:grainne.gibson@hereni.org)

### **LGBT Faith Groups**

***Spectrum*** – a monthly gathering in the Agape Centre Belfast for LGBT+ Christians and friends (all denominations)

<https://www.facebook.com/belfast.spectrum/>

***Accepting Sexuality*** – a Methodist initiative to support the inclusion of LGBT people within their Church <https://www.facebook.com/asgroupireland>

***LGBT Presbyterians*** – a new group of LGBT Presbyterians and allies to promote inclusion of LGBT people within their Church Email [lgbtirishprebyterian@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtirishprebyterian@gmail.com) for info

### **GET ACTIVE**

#### *LGB&T Walking & Running/Jogging Evenings in Derry*

This is a great way to meet people and get some exercise in a fun relaxed way. Sunday morning strollers meet at 11am, with a further walking evening on a Wednesday at 7pm. The running/jogging group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm - beginners welcome. Both starting points are at Foyle Rd car park opposite Damien House. Info on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lgbt.andfriends.52> and via twitter @LGBTNI .

#### *Out 'n About Walking group*

A walking group for LGB&T people with walks across Northern Ireland, though predominantly in the Mourne area. Lifts available from Belfast. Meets twice a month <http://www.outnabout-ni.dreamhosters.com/>

#### *Deja VuVu Walking Group*

An ad hoc walking group for lesbian and bi women. More details at <http://www.meetup.com/Deja-vu-vu>

#### *Newry LGB&T Walking Group*

This runs on a Tuesday night and walkers can meet at the Rainbow Centre at 7.30pm

#### *Belfast Front Runners*

Belfast Front Runners is a running and walking group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGB&T), and their supporters. Runners and walkers of all levels, ethnic backgrounds and sexual identities are welcomed. They meet for fun runs on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 pm in and around the South Belfast. For information contact [belfastfronrunners@gmail.com](mailto:belfastfronrunners@gmail.com)

#### *Park Runs*

These are not LGB&T specific but have a nice friendly atmosphere. These are free 5k timed run/walks which take place every Saturday morning at 9.30am in Craigavon, Ballymena, Portrush, Lisburn, Bangor, Derry, Newtownabbey, Larne, Antrim, Comber and in Belfast parks - Waterworks, Falls, Victoria and Queens sports pitches. You need to register once online in advance to get your barcode which allows your run or walk to be timed. More info on <http://www.parkrun.org.uk>

If you do not wish to receive this ebulletin or would like to receive it to an alternative email address just let us know by contacting Fidelma at [f.carolan@unison.co.uk](mailto:f.carolan@unison.co.uk) You can also put forward suggestions on what type of information you would like. We have a facebook page, please check it out <http://www.facebook.com/pages/LGB&T-Unison-NI/138564629499730>

UNISON plays an active part in promoting issues which affect LGB&T people in workplaces as well as engaging with the LGB&T community throughout the year. Join the mailing list and in addition to our ebulletins, we post out programmes for festivals such as Pride and Outburst. If you have LGB&T friends who work in health, education (non teaching) and the community/voluntary sector, encourage them to become a member because together we can make a difference [www.unison.org.uk/join](http://www.unison.org.uk/join) . To go onto the LGB&T mailing list, just send details to [lgbtni@unison.co.uk](mailto:lgbtni@unison.co.uk)