



LGB&T EBulletin – November 2017

NEWS

Job Opportunity with Stonewall & The Rainbow Project

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/jobs/client-account-manager-northern-ireland>

Diversity Champions Client Account Manager for Northern Ireland – Full time position £23,427 - £25,677. Deadline for applications 13th November.

First Housing Launch LGBT Safe Space

Congratulations to UNISON LGBT Chair Martin McConnellogue who as a result of his trip to the US with Boston College returned with the idea of replicating a safe housing initiative with his own employer. He met with the Council for the Homeless as well as senior managers in First Housing Aid and Support Services (FHASS) and local LGBT organisations to develop a local model. The First Housing Aid & Support Services LGBT Safe Housing Scheme was launched in September. This included protocols for staff and a visible window sticker indicating that this is a safe space for LGBT people. A training programme for staff to assure that they are skilled to deal with LGBT issues and signpost has been developed and is currently being rolled out.

Queer Activist Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1036919823116531/>

In September over 30 LGBT+ people attended the first meeting of a newly formed Queer Activist Group which was hosted by UNISON. The focus is to re-engage with grassroots activism across a range of issues such as visibility, the experience of young people in schools, mental health and the homophobic/transphobic political narrative which exists in

Northern Ireland. We will continue to support this group through promotion and facilitating a venue and refreshments.

EVENTS

OUTBURST Queer Arts Festival 9th – 18th November in Belfast <http://outburststarts.com>

This is the 11th annual Outburst Festival with an array of events across the city. This year's festival is dedicated to Patrick Sanders, illustrator, artist, activist, clown doctor, Quire member who died by suicide earlier this year. A few highlights include

David Hoyle returns with **Diamond** (Fri 10th) which explores LGBT history in the UK over the past 60 years.

Simon the Mole (sat 11th & Sun 12th) – a joyful hymn to freedom and a theatrical delight for both children and adults that encourages understanding and acceptance of difference.

An Cabaret Queerailte (Sat 11th) – a Gaelic cabaret in Culturlann hosted by Madonna Kebab

There's a Bishop in My Bedroom (Mon 13th & Tues 14th)– Richard O'Leary turns his writing into performance in this one man show about his early years as a would be priest in Cork through coming out as a gay man and falling in love with a Protestant Minister.

A Cock & Bull Story (Wed 15th & Thurs 16th) – set in the confines of a boxing club changing room which challenges notions of masculinity

The Butch Monologues (Fri 17th) – a powerful and humorous collection of secret stories exploring sexuality, vulnerability and desire.

Triple Treat (Sat 18th) – a sell out at the Edinburgh Fringe, this boundary smashing queer performance that takes on celebrity culture, religion and Christina Aguilera in a glorious transgressive tonic for the times we live in.

How to Unexplode (Thurs 9th – 25th Nov) in Artcetera Gallery – an exhibition of Patrick Sander's work from political magazine illustration to queer comic strips

Trans Comedy Workshop & Show (Sun 12th) – UNISON is delighted to support local trans activists articulate their voices and opinions through the medium of stand up comedy

Queer Sex? Now? (Fri 10th & Sat 11th) – Outburst in partnership with QUB Drama Studies brings together world class performances and speakers including Holly Hughes, Amber Hawk Swanson, Glyn Davis, Gemma Commane, Ed Madden and Lazlo Pearlman

Outburst Films in the QFT include

A Fantastic Woman (Mon 13th); Signature Move (Mon 13th); Chavela (Tues 14th); Beach Rats (Tues 14th); The Wound (Wed 15th); After Louis (Wed 15th)

Our Witness: The Unheard Stories of LGBT+ Christians Book Launch with Brandan Robertson at 7.30pm in Grosvenor Hall, Glengall St. Belfast on Tuesday 7th November
<https://www.facebook.com/events/120103348664520/>

Join author and activist Brandan Robertson as well as a distinguished panel of authors whose stories are featured in the new book for the official book launch event of "Our Witness: The Unheard Stories of LGBT+ Christians" from DLT Books. This event is organised by Accepting Sexuality.

PSNI Recruitment Event in Newry Rainbow Centre at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7th & Belfast LGBT Centre on Wednesday 8th November

The PSNI is holding information evenings in Rainbow House, Newry and Belfast LGBT Centre. At this event, you'll be able to find out more information on the recruitment process and hear about the experiences of serving LGBTI+ Police officers in the Police Service. A panel of serving officers and PSNI Human resources staff will be there to answer your questions relating to the recruitment process and about the exciting career possibilities in the Police Service.

Protecting Your Mental Health Workshop in Newry Rainbow Centre at 7pm on Tuesday 14th November

This is a free workshop which will be run by Action Mental Health and open to all LGBT people and allies.

Pride in Our Identities – A Community Conversation in Belfast LGBT Centre at 6.30pm on Wed 15th Nov <https://www.facebook.com/events/290698804777060/>

Community Dialogue and The Rainbow Project invite you to continue the conversations started during Belfast and Foyle Prides when we considered how our diverse and multiple identities might be celebrated in a society that struggles to move out of conflict. The next conversations will focus on the following emerging themes.

- How far have we come on the journey towards gender equality?
How do emerging Transgender identities impact on our notions of what it is to be a man or a woman?
Do women have a distinct role to play from their male counterparts in continuing to contribute to peace and reconciliation in NI?

Transgender Remembrance Service at 3pm on Sunday 19th November in All Souls Church, Belfast <https://www.facebook.com/events/120703458615823/>

This annual service remembers all those trans people across the world who have been murdered because of prejudice towards their gender identity. This is a service open to all.

CS Lewis Festival Socratic Debate at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21st November in Crescent Arts Centre <https://www.eastsidearts.net/event/socratic-debate> (£8/£5)

This year's CS Lewis Festival (18th – 22nd Nov) offers a variety of walks, talks, tours and performance. Included is a debate of the motion "This house believes the Church should support same-sex marriage'. During his career at Oxford University, CS Lewis regularly took part in Socratic Debates, engaging with some of the most pressing theological and cultural issues of his day. In the spirit of Socratic Debates, Padraig O Tuama (The Corrymela Community) and Fidelma Carolan (Trade Union & LGBT Activist) will propose the motion with David Smyth (Evangelical Alliance) and Tracey Harkin (Iona Institute) opposing. The event will be chaired by the BBC's William Crawley.

Courage – An Evening with Jeremy Marks in the Agape Centre Belfast at 8pm on Friday 24th November <https://www.facebook.com/events/1419038621526322>

In 1988 Jeremy Marks founded Courage - originally an ex-gay ministry, but one which went through a complete metamorphosis at the turn of the Millennium to become a fully

affirming ministry for LGBT Christians. With Courage forced to resign from the Evangelical Alliance as a result, Jeremy went on, with other evangelical leaders, publicly to apologise for the damage done by the ex-gay movement. To-day, Jeremy works to provide pastoral support for LGBT Christians. He has written extensively (including his book "Exchanging the Truth of God for a Lie. This event is organised by Accepting Sexuality, an LGBT Christian group within the Methodist tradition.

Festive Craft Fair in Belfast LGBT Centre 12 – 4pm on Sat 25th November

<https://www.facebook.com/events/479723912391487/>

Come along and pick up some early Christmas presents from a selection of exhibitors selling soaps, glassware, art, knitted items, tshirts and much more. This is a fundraiser for The Rainbow Project

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Research Request - Queen's University Belfast & University of Bristol would like to invite you to take part in a research study to understand the knowledge and attitudes of young (16-24 years) men-who-have-sex-with-men towards a new vaccination to protect against a type of virus. The survey takes approximately 15 mins

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ayaMSM>

Research Request – Ulster University is carrying out research to understand the experience of non-Christian people living in Northern Ireland. They are particularly keen to include LGBT people. People who are eligible are those brought up in a family or household that identified with a religion other than Christianity or that did not identify with any religion. Participants also have to be over 18 years of age and live in Northern Ireland. If you take part in this research you will be asked to talk in a small group about your experience. If you would like to take part or find out more contact Ali Graham Graham-A19@ulster.ac.uk

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

However You Identify We Must All Be Trans Allies

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/ruth-hunt/trans-allies-identity_b_18456706.html

Google celebrates lesbian activist Jackie Forster

<http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/jackie-forster-google-doodle-lesbian-activist-gay-rights-lgbt-news-reporter-actress-a8039576.html>

Dad shoots 14-year-old son: 'He would rather have a dead son than a gay son'

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2017/11/05/dad-shoots-14-year-old-son-he-would-rather-have-a-dead-son-than-a-gay-son>

Harry Styles just made a stunning speech about gay and transgender people

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2017/11/06/harry-styles-just-made-a-stunning-speech-about-gay-and-transgender-people/>

Obituary: Gay rights pioneer Roger Lockyer <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-41851871>

This is why gender should be redefined <https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/watch-gender-redefined>

Should Kevin Spacey have come out earlier? <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-41802060>

Glasgow priest announces support for teaching of LGBT issues in schools_

<http://www.glasgowlive.co.uk/news/glasgow-news/glasgow-priest-announces-support-teaching-13812819>

Disney Channel makes history with first gay storyline

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-41761512>

PSNI to hold recruitment events for LGBT community <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-41741176>

Campaigners' tell Tory MP that trans women prisoners shouldn't go in women's prisons

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2017/11/05/campaigners-tell-tory-mp-that-trans-women-prisoners-shouldnt-go-in-womens-prisons>

Discrimination is bad for kids, not same-sex parents

<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/medical-journal-of-australia/#gs.fqwbox>

Candace Towns is the 25th transgender person murdered in the United States this year

<https://www.gaystarnews.com/article/candace-towns-25th-transgender-person-murdered-united-states-year/#gs.b9XqeQM>

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.

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.

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.

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

Takes place on the 1st & 3rd 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

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

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

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

The Rainbow Centre in Newry run regular events in the Centre and hold a monthly club night in Bellinis 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

Armagh

The Rainbow Project is facilitating a new social and peer support LGBT group in Armagh. Contact Nuala@rainbow-project.org for info

Trans Specific General Info at 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

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

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

AffirmNI is a Northern Ireland charity working for all Transgender people irrespective of stage of transition or identity 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

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 Paul on 028 9031 9030 or email: paul@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 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@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/?fref=ts>

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 lgbtishprebyterian@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

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 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 . To go onto the LGB&T mailing list, just send details to lgbtni@unison.co.uk