

Staff Pride Network Newsletter – Issue 5

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Welcome to the February 2018 edition of the Staff Pride Network Newsletter!

Happy LGBT+ History Month! As part of a diverse calendar of events (see the events section below for details), on Thursday 8 February we will launch our new official University of Edinburgh Student LGBT+ Network. Following from Communications & Marketing, we've decided on two designs for LGBT+ and Ally staff members, with such an obvious symbol, we can show to new staff, students, alumni and visitors that our workplace is inclusive, and our campus can become a welcoming rainbow! You can choose between the 'University of Edinburgh' or 'University of Edinburgh LGBT+ Ally' designs. Pick yours up at an event, or email us and we will send it to you in internet mail. To reach out to the 13,000 staff across the University, we have additions to enhance SPN reps on every school or business, and we're pleased to launch this site Rep project. Please read his introduction in this newsletter and email him if interested. On a corporate level, we've worked with Procurement to improve policy wording and they have now included a new 'LGBT+ community benefits' on their supplier contracts. As well as the regular Central & NB Luncheon and evening socials and just staff/student network monthly lunch, we've organised a program event in November Transgender Day of Remembrance and in November Alumni organized collection boxes in the building and a World AIDS Day discussion on HIV stigma. Finally I'd like to express my thanks to all the SPN volunteers for their time and dedication, resulting in the University rising 132 places in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index in the last year. At their March conference in November we were delighted to feature as a best practice example of a network starting up. We look forward to continuing our efforts to make the University an even more inclusive place to work and study.

John Allan
Co-Chair, Staff Pride Network

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Socials - Date change and call for venue suggestions

Our monthly socials now occur on the first Friday of every month. This is just to make things a bit more consistent, and keep us all on the same page! We hope you like the new venue at Onkapitoo on Brattle Place, again fully accessible. Catch us there from 5.30 till late.

World AIDS Day Fundraising



Hope congratulations to Remus Kishan who through his efforts managed to raise £24.85 for WorldAids Care and £28.07 for the National AIDS Trust. Well done!

SPN Book Group



The SPN Book Group has been meeting since October and we have a small group of passionate book readers choosing an eclectic set of books. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6pm in the 5th floor Reading Company on Pentecost. (Formerly The Betting Shop). Read more.

Take part in research on LGBT+ employees and business leaders

Do you want to contribute to the measurement of LGBT+ people at work and in business? If so, how do you choose to take part in an exciting project that aims to do just that. Also you will have opportunity of national & SPN conference research events as soon as University are conducting an online survey to better understand the psychological experiences of LGBT+ people within the workplace, either as employees or as senior managers of a business/local enterprise. The survey takes around 10 to 20 minutes to complete and yourself as well as your employer/organisation will remain anonymous. The study is being funded by the British Academy and will be used to inform policies and practices surrounding LGBT+ inclusivity within workplaces as well as enabling the growth of LGBT+ entrepreneurs within the UK economy. For more details and to receive an online link to the survey, please email: emma@spn.ed.ac.uk

LGBT+ Football 5-a-side

Edinburgh's LGBT+ football team, Scotland FC are having a 5-a-side competition in February for LGBT+ History Month. It is being held at the Cairn Exchange in Edinburgh, on Saturday 17th February 2018, 10am-6pm. There will be complimentary soup and sandwiches afterwards at the venue. The fee for competition is £5 per player, and each team can have up to a maximum of 8 players. Go to www.scotlandfc.ed.ac.uk to sign up to participate.

Pride Saltire launch



The launch of Pride Saltire is only two weeks away! There will be much to do, with entertainment, a licensed social, engagement bar, and socials in with the community and business fair, all held at the beautiful Colinton House in East Lothian. Keep an eye on the Pride Saltire Facebook and Twitter pages for more announcements to come.

LGBT+ British Muslims study

The Network has received a request from a PhD student examining psychological wellbeing, multiculturalism and identity amongst British Muslims of Pakistani heritage who have same-sex attraction. Read the full request: www.spn.ed.ac.uk

Call for site rep volunteers



We need an active student and a 13th-15th year student looking for volunteers from across the University to be Site Reps for next year. The main purpose of the role is to help to promote the SPN and upcoming events, but also act as a point of reference for feedback on and ideas. Based at the Western General campus, I am a post-doctoral researcher working on therapeutic gene editing and in my spare time I love to hike, and obviously I'm also a beer drinker. I'm really excited to take on this lead role and hope that through recruiting Site Reps for all areas of the university, we can reach all LGBT+ colleagues and allies. I'm passionate about ensuring that the great work we do benefits all LGBT+ colleagues and work on the site benefits all LGBT+ colleagues and allies, no matter where in the university they may be based. That's why we need you. Contact me if you're interested, we want to work for you! If you wish to take part, please get in touch with me at Peter.Townsend@ed.ac.uk

Stonewall conference feedback

Carol Day attended the Stonewall Conference alongside our co-chair Jonathan, and she had some notes to feed back on the sessions she attended. Read more.

Take part in a survey about homophobia in sport

We have been contacted by an undergraduate Sports and Exercise Science student from Napier University whose history project looks into the role of LGBT+ athletes, and homophobia in sport. He is currently recruiting people to every take part in his survey. To this end, she is seeking respondents to a short, anonymous questionnaire about their experiences in or around sport. If you wish to take part, you can take the survey here.

Transgender Remembrance Day 2017

Transgender Remembrance Day 2017 was held on 30 November 2017. The event was organised by our Trans Rep Cole Mays, and more than forty people attended the event, staff and students, LGBT+ and Allies. You can read more about the event on Cole's website.

TransEDU launch - report

TransEDU is a website and resource that provides data on and for transgender students and staff in further and higher education. Funded by Strathclyde University as well as the Leadership Council and the Scottish Grant Council, our Trans Representative Cole Mays went along to the launch at Strathclyde University on 14 December 2017. Read more.

Events

SPN and Pridefest Lunch

Date: Wednesday 7 February 2018
Time: 12:00 - 14:00
Location: Kings Building Centre
Facebook event

Poetry and Place: Queer Space

Date: Wednesday 7 February 2018
Time: 16:00 - 17:00
Location: 5th Floor, Geography Building
Event page on LGBT History Month site

Pink - SPN Film screening and panel

Date: Thursday 8 February 2018
Time: 18:00 - 21:00
Location: L1.01, 5th George Square
Facebook event

Queer AF Cabaret

Date: Saturday 10 February 2018
Time: 19:00 - 21:00
Location: Colinton Bar, Pentance
Facebook event

SPN Coffee Social - Central area

Date: Wednesday 14 February 2018
Time: 12:00-14:00
Location: Royal Committee Room
Facebook event!

SPN Coffee Social - King's Buildings

Date: Wednesday 14 February 2018
Time: 12:00-14:00
Location: Victoria Cafe, South Building
Facebook event!

SPN LGBT+ Book Group

Date: Thursday 15 February 2018
Time: 17:00 - 18:30
Location: The Porting Shed
SPN calendar

Pride Saltire Launch

Date: 17 February 2018
Time: 12:00-15:00
Location: Colinton House, East Lothian
Facebook event

Panel event: Past, Present and Future of Procurement

Date: Thursday 22 February 2018
Time: 16:00 - 18:30
Location: L1.06, 5th
SPN calendar

SPN Queer Showcase: Performance Lecture "The Five Ages"

Date: Friday 23 February 2018
Time: 17:30 - 19:30
Location: L1.01, 5th George Square
Event page

SPN Queer Showcase: Queer Film Studies

Date: Friday 24 February 2018
Time: 17:30 - 19:30
Location: Practice Suite, L11 DB
Event page

SPN closing event: Let's Talk About Detransitionality

Date: Wednesday 28 February 2018
Time: 18:00 - 19:30
Location: Business School Auditorium
Event page

Full events calendar

Book of Introduction
Contacts and Committee
Help, support and advice
StaffPride@ed.ac.uk