Queen Margaret University
LGBT+ Staff Network

I joined QMU last year, but was disappointed that there was no LGBT+ Staff Network. I learned that the previous network fizzled out several years ago, but after speaking with colleagues, we decided to revive it.

We have around 10 members, including one person who is not queer themselves, but is the parent of a queer person. We’ve only met once in person, but have been holding monthly lunchtime videocalls since March.

We’ve now got an email address- LGBTStaff@qmu.ac.uk, Twitter @QMULGBTStaff and an Instagram @QMULGBTStaff of which you are most welcome to follow/contact us through, though these are very bare-bones at the moment. We are working on getting a rainbow logo and webpage set up.

Looking forward to meeting you at some point in the future!

Kitty Flynn
STEM Equals at the University of Strathclyde

Like our sister project Evidence Base, led by the University of Edinburgh, STEM Equals at the University of Strathclyde is one of eleven EPSRC funded projects under the Inclusion Matters initiative.

STEM Equals is a four-year research and impact project focused on creating more inclusive STEM communities for women and LGBT+ people in both academia and in industry.

Through an intersectional lens, the project examines working cultures within higher education and industry to understand specific challenges and to develop new initiatives to address systemic inequalities.

The project is funded by EPSRC with matched funding from the University of Strathclyde. The project industry partner is BAM Nuttall Ltd.

Read our latest newsletter Re/Act: Updates from the STEM Equals project.

Sign up to join us for our free event on 21st October LGBT in HE: Building networks, making change (spaces limited; registration required).
Stay tuned for soon-to-be-announced details for a special LGBT+ STEM Day event on 18th November.

LGBTQ+ Resources During COVID-19

Other Support Lists

- There are lists of support available through both Stonewall
- There is also the following interactive map of services in Edinburgh: https://edinburghcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3f516cd826d04c76ad3e93d41be48341
- And this wonderful resource list for LGBTQIA+ young people https://padlet.com/ceridwen/LGBTresources

Material Support

- We know that the ongoing crisis is proving particularly difficult for members of our community. If you are having trouble getting access to food here is a list of Trussel Trust foodbanks where you can collect food (and
for those of us who are doing better, we can donate)  
https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank

- Citizens Advice Scotland  
- Mutual Aid Trans Edinburgh (MATE) is offering direct support by and for queer and trans people in Edinburgh  
  https://twitter.com/mate_edinburgh
- Pink Saltire are offering support through Dorothy Relief  
  https://twitter.com/dorothyrelief

Groups

- Edinburgh Trans Women have moved their monthly meeting for all trans women at whatever stage of their transition to Zoom. You can contact them if you would like to join at info@edinburghtranswomen.org.uk

Exercise Classes

- Dance Base have made all their classes online and free during lockdown  
  https://www.dancebase.co.uk/classes/online-classes/
- You can book into LGBTQ+ community yoga classes online from £1-£10 dependent on how much you can afford to pay at Edinburgh Community Yoga  
  http://edinburghcommunityyoga.co.uk/book-a-class/buy-wednesday-evening-lgbtq-yoga/

Helplines and Support

- SAMH Helpline  
- LGBT Helpline  
  http://www.lgbt.foundation/helpline
- Mindline  
  Transplus
LGBT+ Network of Networks in Higher Education’s Networks Got Talent Showcase: Derek’s Entry

The LGBT+ Network of Networks in Higher Education (@LGBTNoNHE) have an initiative to showcase the talents and skills of members, and to bring joy to LGBT+ communities during the current testing time. LGBT+ individuals are more likely to live alone or may not situate in an inclusive domestic environment. #NetworksGotTalent

Enjoy the talents of Staff Pride Network Meeting Secretary Derek Williams and his improvisation on piano of The Village People’s YMCA and Macho Man. Check out his own Derek Williams YouTube channel for much more. We hope this brings a smile to your face while we all do our best in isolation and socially distancing.
Staff Pride Network Event:
Lavender Menace LGBT+ Book Archive

Forty years ago, when Lavender Menace Bookshop opened, positive depictions of LGBT+ people in books were rare. One lesbian pulp novel of the 1950s was called Women in the Shadows. There were similar shadows over all queer people in print and film. And legal censorship was alive and well in the 1980s. It simply had to be more focussed than before, as with Section 28.

Today our lives can be explored straightforwardly in fiction and non-fiction – but how did the change come? It was mainly LGBT+ writers and presses, along with radical bookshops and book distributors, who took the risk and opened the door. Their success surprised everyone and gave a lead which others followed.

But now many of the original LGBT+ and feminist presses have closed and well-known books have been forgotten. Lavender Menace Returns hopes to create an archive and database of the material we knew best. They want to also include LGBT+ writing of today to form one body of work telling the story of our community – and our demand for equality and honesty.

Follow Lavender Menace Returns on:

Twitter: @menacesof2019

FaceBook: lavendermenacereturns
Staff Pride Network Event: School LGBTQ+ Diversity Since Section 28/Clause 2a

It has been 20 years since the repeal of Section 28/Clause 2a in Scotland. This event was held to provide an understanding of current equality law pertaining to schools, to discuss the experiences and challenges that our students and staff had in school before and after Section 28’s repeal, in particular young trans students’ experiences.

This event was intended as a positive experience for staff and students to share their LGBTQ+ experiences, for the audience to learn about the similarities and differences of their times.

Event Co-Chairs are Elliot Byrom, EUSA Trans & Non-Binary Liberation Officer and Sharon Cowan, Professor of Feminist and Queer Legal Studies.

Panellists were: Sarah Quinn (PrideSoc Faith rep who has done work in the background to section 28), Hazel Sanderson (PrideSoc Trans and Non-Binary Rep), Levi Mitchell (PrideSoc President) and LGBT Youth Scotland Head of National Programmes (including schools guidance), Cara Spence.

https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/staffpridenetwork/

https://pridesoc.com/

https://lgbtyouth.org.uk/