



Claiming our Past Celebrating our Present Creating our Future

LGBT History Month bulletin 84

Welcome to the 84th LGBT History Month Bulletin.



Government Launches LGBT Sports Charter

On Sunday March 13th, after the historic match in which Sheffield Eagles Rugby League team played in shirts emblazoned with the slogan "Homophobia – Tackle it!" Minister for equalities Lynne Featherstone announced the launch of a sports charter to support LGB and T people in sport.

The Football Association, the Lawn Tennis Association, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Rugby Football League and the Rugby Football Union joined the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) in becoming the first signatories of the Charter for Action, which aims to make sport a welcoming environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB and T) people.

The Charter has four points:

- We believe that everyone should be able to participate in and enjoy sport – whoever they are and whatever their background.
- We believe that sport is about fairness and equality, respect and dignity. Sport teaches individuals how to strive and succeed, how to cope with success and disappointment, and brings people together with a common goal.
- We are committed to making these values a reality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We will work together, and individually, to rid sport of homophobia and transphobia.
- We will make sport a welcome place for everyone – for those participating in sport, those attending sporting events and for those working or volunteering in sports at any level. We will work with all these groups to ensure they have a voice, and to challenge unacceptable behaviour.

Equalities Minister Lynne Featherstone said:

"Sport should be about what you can do, not who you are. But too many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people feel that the sports field is not somewhere they can

be themselves, and that prejudice and discrimination will mean their sexuality is always talked about more than their ability with a ball, bat or racket.

"Homophobia and transphobia has no place in sport and I'm delighted that so many sporting bodies are backing our campaign to stamp it out at all levels, from local parks to Olympic stadiums.

"Everyone - including individual sportsmen and women and spectators – is welcome to sign up to the charter, and I want to see as many people as possible joining us in pledging to stamp out homophobia and transphobia."

LGBT History Month co-chair Sue Sanders said: "This is a groundbreaking decision and I'm delighted that the minister chose an LGBT History Month event in which to announce it."

Equality Act General Duty Kicks in

The general duty of the Equality Act became law on April 5th this year and received Royal assent on the 8th. Although it didn't exactly hit the headlines it will have a major impact on the way the public sector, including schools, implements equal opportunities.

The general duty requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations across all of the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. These include the existing characteristics of race, disability and gender as well as some new characteristics, including age, sexual orientation, and religion or belief.

So it brings all the protected characteristics together under the one duty, and requires the Public Sector to be pro-active as well as reactive in making institutions safe and discrimination free. The Duty will also give legal protection against discrimination to transgendered school pupils for the first time.

It will be monitored by OFSTED and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and this will generally be through the use of equality impact assessments (EIAs).

Consultation on Same-Sex Marriage

The Government seeks your views on how to enable civil partnership registrations on religious premises in England and Wales. The consultation document is about the implementation of section 202 of the Equality Act 2010. It outlines proposals for new arrangements and seeks views from all interested parties. Religious organisations that do not wish to host civil partnerships can opt out of doing so – and the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have already indicated that they will do just that.

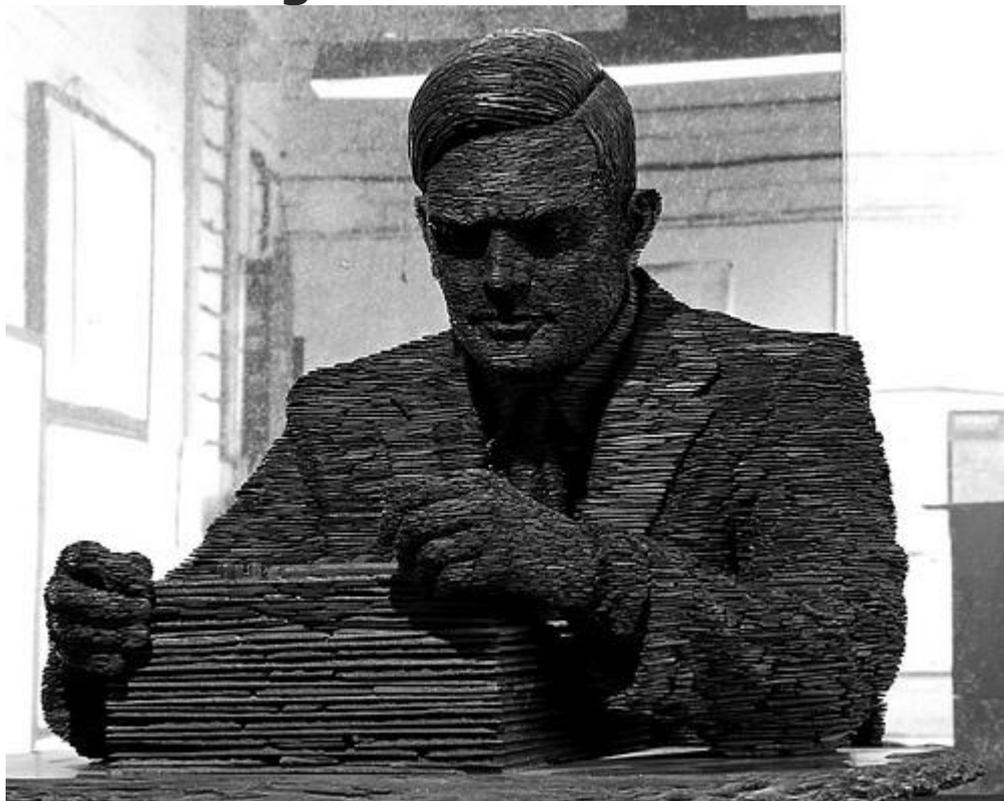
The implementation of section 202 of the Equality Act 2010 is the first part of the Government's work on the next steps for civil partnerships as set out in the document *Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality*. Having listened to stakeholders it is clear from many that there is a desire to move towards equal civil marriage and partnerships; that is, same sex marriage and opposite sex civil partnerships, as supported by Peter Tatchell and the Equal Love campaign. The Government will consult further on how legislation can develop, working with you and all those who have an interest in this area.

The Consultation document can be found on the Government Equalities Office website [here](#).

Meanwhile, according to Statistics Netherlands, same sex couples in Holland are eschewing marriage. Despite gay and lesbian weddings having been legal since 2001,

only 20% of same sex couples are opting to tie the knot, compared to 80% of opposite sex couples.

New Turing Film Commissioned



'The Genius of Alan Turing' (working title) is a new drama documentary film aimed for release next year in time for the centenary of Alan Turing's birth (23 June 2012). Click [here](#). Turing's biographer Andrew Hodges is involved in the production.

NUT/Schools OUT Fact Finding mission in Berlin



National Union of Teachers remembers & celebrates the men with the pink triangle – with our German colleagues

"This act of remembrance is simultaneously a celebration of the joyous diversity of the human condition." Said Ms Gill Goodswen on laying the wreath at the monument for

the 'homosexuals' persecuted and killed by the Nazi regime, located in beautiful Tiergarten, Park in central Berlin, opposite to the Jewish memorial site. "Germany - and Berlin in particular - was the birthplace of the modern sex equity campaign. It was the first large industrialised country in Europe to enfranchise women and in which sexual diversity was maturely discussed and promoted. We honour the memory of the men who were forced to wear the pink triangle, persecuted because of who they loved. We honour them by re-dedicating ourselves to protecting and celebrating those, especially the next generations, who are still today persecuted and stigmatised because of that love. We also pay tribute to a society that marks past injustice by promoting equality work such as we heard of and witnessed this morning in Robert-Koch-Schule (Gymnasium) in Berlin-Kreuzberg."

The English delegation then met and learned of the work of a number of government and NGOs who work in German schools to challenge homophobic bullying and hate crime.

Nina Franklin (NUT Vice President) remarked on: "the similarities of approach in both the UK and Germany to the protection of young people and adults working in schools". She expressed the hope that: "we can develop our shared priorities, in both the UK and Germany, towards challenging discrimination and the protection of young people and adults working in schools. I was especially interested by the lesson focus on the similarities between racism and homophobia. The very positive reaction by the young largely Muslim audience dramatically exposes the offensive generalisation that Islam and social tolerance are somehow incompatible – go and try and tell these young Berlin Muslims that particular lie!"

The delegation then attended, and participated in, an enthusiastic year 12 lesson with students - predominately from Turkish/Muslim backgrounds - run by AB queer & GLADT. The commentary by this group of 18/19 year olds was similar to the remarks by students taking part in LGBT lessons this February in England – to the effect of: 'Why did older people seem to have such a problem with the gender of people who loved each other?'

Sue Sanders - speaking on behalf of Schools Out/LGBT Month - said of the visit: "...I think this is truly wonderful and we are thrilled that the NUT - and in particular the present and future women presidents - are taking the lead on the issue so seriously and with a clear, professional focus.

"We are thrilled by their support, as Schools OUT will be providing a repeat trip to Berlin this August. Furthermore, it complements the work that both Schools OUT and LGBT History Month are doing in Europe."

Details of the August fact finding tour of Berlin are posted on the Schools OUT websites and can be found [here](#).

INTERNATIONAL

British Embassy in Estonia Celebrates LGBT identity



Estonians and visitors to in Tallin this month will be treated to an exhibition of photos from Pride celebrations around central and eastern Europe. The title of the exhibition is 'Proud of Our Identity' and it chronicles Clare Dimyon's tireless tours of C and E European Pride celebrations over the years. Clare, founder of Pride Solidarity and a passionate advocate of eastern European LGBT people and their rights, is on her travels over the next six weeks and is keeping us informed of her adventures via a Blackberry supplied by LGBT History Month. Her travelling expenses are being stumped up by the Foreign Office. If you want to follow Clare's progress, click [here](#).

LGBT Birthdays: April

Transgender

April Ashley

(25 April 1935 –)

English model and restaurant hostess. Ashley is known as the first British citizen to have undergone sex reassignment surgery. She was revealed to be transgendered by newspaper *Sunday People* in 1961.

Lesbians and bisexual women

Billie Holiday

(7 April 1915 – 17 July 1959)

American jazz singer and songwriter, nicknamed "Lady Day". Many of Holiday's songs have become jazz standards. She is famous for songs such as 'Strange Fruit' and 'Lady Sings the Blues'.

Cynthia Nixon

(9 April 1966 –)

Emmy, Tony and Grammy Award-winning American actress. Nixon is best known for her role as Miranda Hobbes in the HBO series *Sex and the City* and its feature film sequels.

Deborah A Batts

(13 April 1947 –)

US federal judge who currently serves on the US District Court for the Southern District of New York. When Batts was sworn in as a federal district judge for Manhattan, in 1994, she became the first African-American and openly LGBT member of the US federal judiciary.

Samantha Fox

(15 April 1966 –)

English pop singer, actress and former glamour model. Fox rose to fame as a topless model for page three of *The Sun* newspaper. Her debut single, 'Touch Me (I Want Your Body)', went to number one in five countries. Since then she has appeared in a number of films and reality TV shows, including *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!*.

Dusty Springfield

(16 April 1939 – 1 March 1999)

Popular English singer who achieved 18 singles in the Billboard Hot 100 between 1964 and 1970. Springfield's hits included 'I Only Want to Be With You', 'I Just Don't Know What to Do with Myself' and 'Son of a Preacher Man' (1968). She enjoyed a career resurgence in the 1990s through her collaboration with the Pet Shop Boys on 'What Have I Done to Deserve This?' and 'Nothing Has Been Proved'.

Gay and bisexual men

Paul Gambaccini

(2 April 1949 –)

New York-born radio and television presenter who became a British citizen in 2005. Gambaccini started broadcasting on BBC Radio 1 in 1973 before moving on to independent radio. Since then he has been a founding presenter of Classic FM, worked on Radio 3 and contributed to shows such as Radio 4's long-running arts programme *Kaleidoscope*. In 2010 he donated his winnings from a celebrity episode of *Mastermind* to Stonewall.

Graham Norton

(4 April 1963 –)

Irish television presenter, comedian and actor. Norton hosts chat show *The Graham Norton Show* and commentates on the Eurovision Song Contest for the BBC.

Duncan James

(7 April 1978 –)

English singer. James is a member of the British boy band Blue. He is also a television presenter and has acted on stage and screen. He came out as bisexual in 2009. Blue will be performing in the Eurovision Song Contest this year with *I Can*

Sir John Gielgud

(14 April 1904 – 21 May 2000)

English actor, director and producer. Gielgud achieved early acclaim for his performance as Hamlet and went on to take the lead in numerous plays as well as on television and film. High points of his career included voicing every character in *Prospero's Books*, Peter Greenaway's unconventional adaption of *The Tempest*, and stealing the screen in the BBC's adaption of *Brideshead Revisited*.

Guy Burgess

(16 April 1911 – 30 August 1963)

British-born intelligence officer and double agent. He was a member of the 'Cambridge Five' spy ring that gave away Western secrets to the Soviet Union during the cold War.

Jean-Paul Gaultier

(24 April 1952 –)

French fashion designer and creator of a popular perfume line. During the 1990s he also hosted the television series *Eurotrash*.

Brian Paddick

(24 April 1958 –)

Former deputy assistant commissioner in London's Metropolitan Police Service. Before his retirement in 2007 he was the UK's most senior openly gay police officer. He stood as the Liberal Democrat candidate for the 2008 London mayoral election, coming third. In the same year, he took part in *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* More recently he hit the news again when he 'came out' as a victim of same sex domestic violence, reminding us that it can happen to anyone.

Calendar

9	Trefoil House Birmingham B1 1QL	8pm	Pink Sou'Westers Barn Dance £6/£4 Licensed bar til' 11
	St Sidwell Centre, Sidwell Street, Exeter	11.30	Exeter Pride Parade
10	Wimbledon Police Station	Noon-6	Open day with LGBT stall and tour. Chris.Worthy2@met.police.uk
	The Drill Hall Chenies Street Off Tottenham Court Road London	2&4pm	Drill Hall Darlings: Tell it Like it is. 020 7307 506
11			
12	Anywhere	6.30 – 7	LGBT radio show every Tuesday. Listen on 104.4FM (in London) or online anywhere in the world at www.resonancefm.com
	Hill-wood	2	Tuesday Craft Group: Materials for pottery and painting will

	Resource Centre, 1 Polygon Rd, NW1 1QH		be available every 2nd Tuesday of the month—come along and have a go. If you have a particular creative activity that you would like to explore with the group let Stacey know to make arrangements. Laramie www.tacchi-morris.com 01823 414141
13	Median Road Resource Centre, 25 Median Road E5 0PF Northampton The Lab, Floor B2, The Core, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG. MCC, 17 Shaws Passage, Digbeth, Birmingham B5 5JE at	6-9.30 7.30-9.30 TBC 7.30pm.	Wednesday Group: Join the Wednesday group this month for a coffee, a catch up and to plan group activities as Spring approaches. Lesbian line Social and support group in Northampton for Lesbian and Bisexual women. Email info@lesbianline.co.uk for more details. Every Wednesday <u>OUT @ THE CORE - CORBY</u> Wednesday group. Phone Paula Boulton on 07892 489163 for directions and more info. BrumQueerInk at Journey. We will be doing a creative writing exercise. Just bring paper and a pen or your laptop if you prefer. There are 2 computers available to use on site. For more information look at our website: www.queerink.webnode.com
14	Gay's The Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont Street London WC1N 1AB [Russell Square tube]	7pm	Philip Hensher launches his new novel: King of the Badgers. Free. No booking required. Complementary refreshments. 0207 278 7654 / sales@gaystheword.co.uk
15	"The Harris Centre", 51 Lanark Road, Maida Vale, W9 1DE Friends House Restaurant, 173- 177 Euston Rd, NW1 2BJ Tenpin, Sixfields Leisure, Weedon Road, Northampton, NN5 5QL.	From 11am (lunch 12.30) 12.30	Men's Friday Lunch Club: at Age Concern Westminster. Followed by the men's social space upstairs, complete with internet café, from 1pm to 4pm. The charge for lunch is £4. Call ahead and book by Thursday afternoon with the Harris Centre staff on 020 3370 3035. Lunch Club: Please look for the women's group in the restaurant and NOT the café. Spring Social Event. Ten-pin bowling. We hope that you will join us whether you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans (LGBT) or you are friends or family of LGBT people, or an affiliated member to us (local authority or voluntary sector). Prices are reasonable, and they do food and drink too!!! Please confirm your attendance by Wednesday 13th April . Tel: 07877 825235 Email: info@lgbt-open.org.uk Website: www.lgbt-open.org.uk
16	The Drill Hall Chenies Street Off Tottenham Court Road London	2.30 and 7.30	The Out Box http://www.drillhall.co.uk/pl258.html
17	The Drill Hall Chenies Street	4pm	The Out Box http://www.drillhall.co.uk/pl258.html

	Off Tottenham Court Road London		
18	Avonmouth House London (Elephant and Castle) SEN 6NX	10.30-3.30	Sexual Orientation, Trans and the NHS workshop healthylives@stonewall.org.uk
19			
20	Black Cap, Camden High St, NW1 7JY Median Road Resource Centre, 25 Median Road E5 0PF Northampton The Lab, Floor B2, The Core, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG.	8pm 6-9.30 7.30-9.30 TBC	3rd Wednesday Men's Pub Night at the Black Cap: We return to our usual venue for this popular men's group pub social. Meeting upstairs from 7pm. And once again thanks to Dan and all at the Black Cap for their support Wednesday Group: Join the Wednesday group this month for a coffee, a catch up and to plan group activities as Spring approaches. Social and support group in Northampton for Lesbian and Bisexual women. Email info@lesbianline.co.uk for more details. Every Wednesday <u>OUT @ THE CORE - CORBY</u> Wednesday group. Phone Paula Boulton on 07892 489163 for directions and more info.
21	Hill-wood Resource Centre, 1 Polygon Rd, NW1 1QH 8LH	6.30 (film from 7)	Film Night
22	MAC, Birmingham	7.30	Well That Explains It! Claire Summerskill on tour Box Office: 0121 446 3232
23	MAC, Birmingham Pink Punters Milton Keynes	7.30 TBC	Well That Explains It! Claire Summerskill on tour Box Office: 0121 446 3232 St George's day tour of Milton Keynes - with George and the dragon – on the Rainbow bus
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29	Royal Vauxhall Tavern SE11 5HY FOXY's, Cumberland Street,	3-9 7pm-12.30am	A Right Royal Affair. Charity fundraiser for the Equal Love Campaign Liverpool T-girl night out!

	Liverpool Gay Quarter		
30	Everywhere	All day	Sssh Same Sex Hand Holding Saturday. See www.adayinhand.com for details and how to join in
	Henderson Court Resource Centre, 102 Fitzjohn's Ave (entrance round the corner on Prince Arthur Rd) NW3 6NS. Sir John Mills Theatre Ipswich	6 (film at 7) 7.30	Henderson Court Men's Group Film Night: Well That Explains It! Claire Summerskill on tour Box Office: 01473 211498

Community



PRESS RELEASE
Friday 1 April 2011

Whether you're a new writer, established playwright or looking for some invaluable feedback on your script...The Broadway wants you and 10 pages of your script!

Script This... is a playwriting event held at the Broadway providing a platform for London's writers, giving them feedback from audiences and an opportunity to see their work developed.

How it works: 4 scripts are selected by a panel and given the professional treatment from actors and a director into a rehearsed reading in front of a live audience who have a lot to say. Then the audience vote for the script they would like to see more of and that is the winner of the night!

What happens next: the writer of the winning script will have the opportunity to come back the following Script This evening and show the development of their play in a longer piece to the always eager audience.

If you have a piece in mind please send 10 pages or the equivalent to a 10 minute extract to scriptthis@thebroadwaybarking.com

NEWS: The BBC launched the [Writersroom 10](#) scheme in December last year as a new partnership programme for writers and theatres, and Jon O'Neill (a previous Script This winner) and The Broadway are part of the 10 winners! The 10 writers will be part of a year-long development scheme and they will each receive a seed-commission, while The Broadway, Barking and BBC

writersroom will run a partnership programme of events. Keep an eye on our webpage! <http://www.thebroadwaybarking.com/blog/success-of-script-this/>

NEXT SCRIPT THIS IS..... 5 MAY!!!

PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS BY 22 APRIL FOR THIS EVENT

Please help us by spreading the word!

For further information or to organise an interview please contact Lucy

Saddington, Press and Marketing Officer on 020 8507 5600 or E:

lucy.saddington@thebroadwaybarking.com

Script This...

Date & Time: Thursday 5 May, 7.30pm

Tickets: £5 / £3 Concessions

Venue: The Broadway, Broadway, Barking IG11 7LS

Box office: 020 8507 5607

Book online: thebroadwaybarking.com

COMING OUT - Personal stories that will make you smile, laugh, shudder and cry

Anthology

Gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons are invited to contribute stories from their crucial time of coming out, to be included in an anthology that will raise awareness of this deeply personal time of admitting sexual preference. Ideally stories could be 300 - 1500 words, maximum length is 3000 words. Some people may prefer a quote, an anecdote or a full story to share their journey - send them all in. If you have not come out yet and wish to share 'why not', also send your words in. Stories will need to be edited and can be anonymous if you wish. The book length is anticipated to be about 70,000 words. The aim is for a collaboration of truth and the emotional reaction of yourself, of family and friends during this time. For more information and to submit your story please contact soniafriedrich@virginbroadband.com.au before April 30th 2011



**Friday, 22nd July 2011
9am – 5.30pm**

Central School of Speech and Drama,
Eton Avenue, London, NW3
plus:

**A SPECIAL EVENING FUNDRAISER EVENT
6.30-8.30pm
Gendered Intelligence Film Night
Programmed by members of the GI Youth Group**

Registration will be available from 4th April.
For more information go to: www.genderedintelligence.co.uk
or e mail: admin@genderedintelligence.co.uk

Homophobic/Transphobic Quotes

"Homophobia and transphobia are more and more acknowledged for what they truly are: the last crumbling pillars of a patriarchal order which belong with other dark pages of our past, like slavery and the Inquisition."

Columbia's representative at the United Nations Human Rights Council reads out a pro-gay statement signed by 85 nations in Geneva on March 22nd. This statement has been widely welcomed as a positive development for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<http://news.pinkpaper.com/NewsStory/5089/28/03/2011/85-nations-sign-un-statement-defending-lgbt-people.aspx>

"F*ck you Matthews... f*gg*t"

Just one week after the WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment) claimed a new commitment to stop homophobia and bullying in the pro wrestling organisation, commentator Michael Cole couldn't resist tweeting this insult to a fellow commentator.

<http://outsports.com/jocktalkblog/2011/03/28/wwe-commentator-michael-cole-calls-a-colleague-faggot-on-twitter/>

"David Cameron's Big Society does not seem to include those people at risk from HIV. Whilst HIV is relevant to every member of the public, it does disproportionately affect particular groups in the UK, and it is right that our attention and resources respond appropriately... To threaten and marginalise Britain's gay and bisexual communities with these savage cuts, without any kind of impact assessment, is appalling."

Shadow Health Secretary Dianne Abbott voices concerns about the regressive and negative impact that massive cuts of 43% to HIV charities' budgets will have on men who have sex with men. These cuts have been announced despite a backdrop of dramatic rises in HIV infection rates over the last ten years.

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2011/03/29/shadow-health-minister-diane-abbott-attacks-cuts-to-hiv-funding/>

"We like to show how very dull and normal we are... It is not the Sodom and Gomorrah many people apparently expect to result from the legalisation of gay marriage."

Helene Faasen, one half of the world's first lesbian couple to get married, comments on her tenth wedding anniversary. Since Holland became the first country to legalize same sex marriage in 2001, almost 15,000 gay and lesbian couples have tied the knot in the country.

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2011/03/30/first-lesbian-couple-to-marry-celebrate-10th-anniversary/>

"I want to show that it isn't such a big deal. I am a footballer – and I am gay. If I perform as a footballer, then I don't think it matters if I like boys or girls."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2011/mar/13/anton-glenn-hysen-gay-pride?INTCMP=SRCH>

"It is completely strange, isn't it? It's all f**ked up. Where the hell are all the others? No one is coming out... People tell me I'm a celebrity now, and I shouldn't be. But as long as it helps [others by speaking openly], I'll do everything I can. If there's anyone afraid of coming out they should give me a call."

After becoming the first major professional footballer to come out since Justin Fashanu, Swedish midfielder Anton Hysen offers his support to other closeted professional players.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/football/2011/mar/29/anton-hysen-afraid-coming-out?INTCMP=SRCH>

"What I would say is for all the young people in Malaysia that want those words to be played on the radio, it is your job and it is your duty as young people to have your voices heard... You must do everything that you can if you want to be liberated by your society. You must call, you must not stop, you must protest peaceably."

Lady Gaga calls for the young people of Malaysia to demonstrate against government censorship of the pro-gay lyrics in her new song Born This Way, which rejoice in diversity of sexuality: "No matter gay, straight or bi, lesbian or transgendered life I'm on the right track baby."

<http://www.pinknews.co.uk/2011/03/26/lady-gaga-urges-malaysian-people-to-protest-censorship-of-her-pro-gay-song/>



See You in April!

LGBT History Month Patrons:

John Amaechi, former international basketball player, broadcaster and psychologist, **Christine Burns**, Equality and diversity specialist, podcaster, campaigner, **Dr Harry Cocks**, social historian and writer, **Angela Eagle MP** Work and Pensions, **Professor Viv Gardner**, Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama, **Professor Martin Hall**, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Salford University, **Sir Ian McKellen**, actor, **Cyril Nri**, actor, director and writer, **Ian Rivers**, Professor of Human Development; Subject Leader for Sports Sciences, Brunel University, **Professor Sheila Rowbotham**, lecturer and campaigner, **Labi Siffre**, poet, songwriter and singer, **Professor Melanie Tebbutt**, Director, Manchester Centre for Regional History, Senior Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University, **Gareth Thomas**, rugby international, **Jeffrey Weeks**, historian, sociologist, author and LGBT activist, **Stephen Whittle OBE**, Professor of Equalities Law in the School of Law at Manchester Metropolitan University