

### **What is LGBT History Month UK?**

February of each year has been set aside in the UK to mark and celebrate the lives and achievements of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people.

### **Why has this happened?**

LGBT people have often hidden themselves in society for their own safety and have also frequently been ignored by others for their achievements and contributions. The month will begin to rectify that.

### **Why do we need to do this?**

Because the lives and achievements of LGBT people have been hidden, it has been easy for others to stereotype and distort the reality of their lives. From this ignorance comes the prejudice that shows itself in homophobic bullying and negative discrimination. By presenting an honest appraisal of LGBT lives we seek to replace ignorance with knowledge and understanding.

### **Where did the idea for an LGBT History Month come from?**

An LGBT History Month was first initiated in the USA in the month of October 1994. LGBT History Month UK was initiated by Schools OUT in February 2005. Both were based on the creation of the highly successful Black History Month which first occurred in the UK in October 1987 (Black History Month USA takes place in February).

### **Who are Schools OUT and why did they decide to do it?**

Schools OUT is the thirty one years old organisation – originally called the Gay Teachers' Group – that works for LGBT equality in education. It is an entirely voluntary organisation that survives entirely on affiliation, donation and subscription. For further information see [www.schools-out.org.uk](http://www.schools-out.org.uk). By working in education in its widest sense and with school curricula in particular they recognised that LGBT lives were hidden, disguised or ignored. They felt that this could only encourage the ignorance and prejudice that all their work seeks to challenge and therefore the creation of the LGBT History Month was an extension of that work.

### **Who runs LGBT History Month now?**

LGBT History Month is now run by a voluntary steering group.

### **How will LGBT History Month 2007 be run?**

We are looking to appoint a project management team and we hope to be able to offer some payment for their work.

LGBT History Months 2005 and 2006 received a small grant of £16,000 from the DfES to establish the website, to provide some guidelines, lesson and assembly suggestions for schools and colleges and create a calendar of events nationwide celebrating LGBT lives and achievements.

### **What about funding for the project?**

We are continually looking for sources of funding. Our website contains a model union motion asking branches, divisions and national unions to subscribe to this work. We are also seeking individual sponsors donating a minimum of £10.00 each.

### **How else can I help?**

Join our mailing list [here](#).

Plan your own event. The success of LGBT History month depends upon the wide-ranging events planned for that month – don't wait for someone else to do it for you! Encourage your local school, college, library, art gallery, theatre, cinema, council, union, community group, police force, workplace, church, mosque or temple to organise an event.

Pass on to LGBT History Month any books, films or websites that you consider would be appropriate for the websites resources. Accompany each with a short review (max 200 words). Give us feedback on what we are doing and how well we are doing it. LGBT History Month belongs to all our communities and to society as a whole – help us make it a success!