

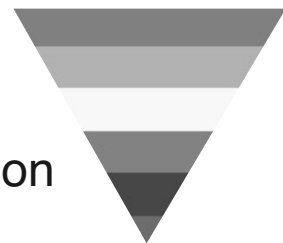


OLGA

Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Trans Association
A Community Network

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Newsletter Issue 23

March April May 2014

Spring lifts our hopes

After the Winter Storms, we all look forward now to brighter and warmer days ahead. OLGA hopes that you manage to socialise either in a Gay & Trans group or in an older person's social group. Don't forget to visit your local Age UK office and ask what is available to help overcome any loneliness and isolation.



Cherry Blossom in Spring

OLGA Activities for Members

Despite restricted funding, OLGA continues to give social support locally, and to do National campaigning. In Scarborough, we run a weekly social, where Gay & Trans people fully accept each other and people do not have to hide the 'Whole' of their identity. Our Members do not fear abuse and discrimination within the Social group, and we support each other.

Unfortunately, we still fear abuse if we "come out" in a heterosexual social group. After all, heterosexual older people, quite understandably, do chat about partners, spouses, children, grandchildren, etc. We would find it hard to take part in such conversations in a full and open and relaxed way.

We run a Befriending Service, where Members are contacted by phone or by email. If you want to be contacted, let OLGA know.

Also, Organisations consult with us about their Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policies. This

consultation work is very important, and we do find sadly, that paid officers of Organisations are producing policies that show confusion about the Equality Law, Protected Characteristics, etc. Two of the weakest areas seem to be, the Recognition of Civil Partnership (Equal in Law to Marriage), and an understanding of Gender Identity (Trans). These mistakes are worrying, as Civil Partnerships were introduced several years ago. Trans people are now protected strongly in the Equality Law. But what good is a Law if Service Providers do not understand their duty of care to ALL 9 Protected Characteristics... Age, Civil Partnership & Marriage, Disability, Faith, Gender, Gender Identity, Maternity & Pregnancy, Race and Sexual Orientation. These are the nine groups of vulnerable people recognised in the Equality Law. Public Service providers must publish their single Equality Policy where they state how they will recognise the diverse needs of these nine groups of people.

In our consultation work we find some Policies ignore some groups, and mix up Gender and Gender Identity as the same issue!

Trans issues continue to be the least understood, so, OLGA asks "what training is being given to Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Officers?" Very good to nominate a member of staff as Equality Champion. But not good, if they have not had proper training and do not understand the issues that they are supposed to champion. Not fair on them, and certainly not fair on vulnerable groups of people.

In the past OLGA has led the way Nationally in delivering Awareness Raising workshops on issues surrounding being Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans and receiving health & social care. In order to continue this awareness raising, OLGA is producing a TRAINING DVD which will be available for Organisations.

A Project run by Age UK and funded by Comic Relief



HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

**OUR RIGHTS
OUR VOICES**

OLGA, in its training, uses real life examples of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people receiving health and social care. We ask participants "how would they manage the situation and what Human Rights issues are identified?"

Case Study

Philip is admitted to a Care Home under his birth name. As Philip settles in, he starts to feel confident enough to express his needs more fully. Philip now says that he wants to live his life in a new gender, as he has always felt that he was female. She now wants to be known as Susan.

What do you think Susan's needs will be?

What could you do to help meet Susan's needs?

What Human Rights issues do you identify?

Answer

Susan is obviously considering a transitioning of gender, and so is strongly protected under the Equality Law. Care providers must ask Susan's permission to discuss this issue with all necessary staff. Divulging this information without her permission could lead to a £5,000 fine.

Susan will need support to do her official transition which involves; presenting herself 24/7 in her new gender role. She will need the support of a GP. She will need to see a Consultant in Gender Dysphoria ('girl brain, boy body'). And a Psychiatrist to assess her psychological health.

She will need support with clothing, hair style, makeup, posture, etc. Electrolysis and hormone treatment will be needed to reduce hair growth and to enhance a feminine contour.

In the Care Home she will probably enjoy some activities originally designed for females.

Human Rights issues are.....

Article 1. "Right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions," as Susan will want her female personal possessions to be accepted.

Article 10. "A Right to Freedom of Expression". Susan will be entitled to dress in her new gender without fear of abuse.

Article 14. "Right not to be discriminated against." Any verbal abuse about Susan's gender identity is a 'hate incident' under the Equality Law. It is up to Susan whether she wishes the Police to be involved. Other residents need to be told by staff that they must behave with respect towards all residents, or find another Care Home.

It remains the case that sadly, trans issues are not understood, or ignored by many service providers. Therefore trans people in this country still are not guaranteed good medical and social care. OLGA continues to campaign about this neglect.

Care quality commission & human rights for gay & trans people

Who is CQC?
What do they do?

Many people still do not know the vital role of CQC. They oversee and monitor standards of health and social care, eg. dental surgeries, GPs, hospitals, care homes, etc.

Of course Gay and Trans people will access these services. But we fear 'coming out' to the service providers for fear of abuse and discrimination. This fear is linked to adverse reactions from GPs, and other health professionals. OLGA says that the organisation should 'come out' as being Gay & Trans friendly. In OLGA's work with

organisations, we recommend the use of the following important paragraph,

"This organisation aims to provide as personalised a service as possible. In order to do this please let us have as much details about yourself as possible.

This may include details of age, civil partnership & marriage, disability, faith, gender, gender identity, pregnancy & maternity, race, and sexual orientation.

This information will be treated

in confidence."

OLGA continues to work with organisations including CQC, to ensure their inspectors will always ask a service provider "What systems have you got in place to ensure good provision for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people". CQC inspectors need and deserve the best training to raise their awareness and ability to improve standards of care for Gay & Trans people. It is not acceptable to have inspectors who lack confidence in these important areas of their work.

Concerns About Care?

Want to tell the Care Quality Commission about a particular care service?

If you have experienced poor care, or know that poor care is being provided somewhere, you can report it to the Care Quality Commission, anonymously if you wish. You can also tell the Care Quality Commission when you feel you have received good care.

**Speak Up on: tel: 03000 616161, enquiries@cqc.org.uk,
or CQC website: www.cqc.org.uk/public/sharing-your-experience**

OLGA 'training DVD'

Over the last few years OLGA has been busy delivering awareness raising workshops in Care Homes. The lack of knowledge and confidence of staff has been staggering, but at the end of our workshops, we have received excellent evaluations.

Now, to spread the word more quickly, we are developing a 'Training DVD', which a staff training facilitator should be able to present.

More news about the DVD in the next issue.

theguardian Tuesday 24 December 2013

Enigma codebreaker Alan Turing receives royal pardon

**Mathematician lost his job
and was given experimental
'chemical castration' after
being convicted for
homosexual activity in 1952**



Alan Turing, right, with colleagues
working on the Ferranti Mark I computer.
Photograph: Science & Society Picture
Library/Getty Images

Alan Turing, the second world war codebreaker who took his own life after undergoing chemical castration following a conviction for homosexual activity, has been granted a posthumous royal pardon 59 years after his death.

The brilliant mathematician, who played a major role in breaking the Enigma code – which arguably shortened the war by at least two years – has been granted a pardon under the Royal Prerogative of Mercy by the Queen, following a request from the justice secretary, Chris Grayling.

Turing was considered to be the father of modern computer science and was most famous for his work in helping to create the "bombe" that cracked messages enciphered with the German Enigma machines. He was convicted of gross indecency in 1952 after admitting a sexual relationship with a man.

He was given experimental chemical castration as a "treatment". His criminal record resulted in the loss of his security clearance and meant he was no longer able to work for Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), where he had been employed following service at Bletchley Park during the war. He died of cyanide poisoning in 1954, aged 41.

Announcing the pardon, Grayling said: "Dr Alan Turing was an exceptional man with a brilliant mind. His brilliance was put into practice at Bletchley Park during the second world war, where he was pivotal to breaking the Enigma code, helping to end the war and save thousands of lives.

"His later life was overshadowed by his conviction for homosexual activity, a sentence we would now consider unjust and discriminatory and which has now been

repealed.

"Dr Turing deserves to be remembered and recognised for his fantastic contribution to the war effort and his legacy to science. A pardon from the Queen is a fitting tribute to an exceptional man."

David Cameron described Turing as a "remarkable man". The prime minister added: "His actions saved countless lives. He also left a remarkable national legacy through his substantial scientific achievements, often being referred to as the father of modern computing."

OLGA's comment is, this pardon is to be celebrated, but we all must be on guard as World Wide, Countries like Russia, India, Nigeria and many more are showing an increasing threat to our safety and our Human Rights.

The International Association of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex people for Latin America and the Caribbean



The International Association of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex people for Latin America and the Caribbean (ILGALAC) expresses its repudiation of the recent promulgation of a law that criminalizes the LGBTI community in Nigeria, as well as its activities and organizations.

According to communications from official sources in that country, the text of the new law establishes that "any person who directs or participates in a gay club, society or organization for homosexuals or who exhibits an amorous homosexual relationship, commits a crime that will carry a penalty of ten years in jail." Further, "marriage or civil union between persons of the same sex cannot be formalized in any place of religion, whether it be a church, mosque or any other site in Nigeria." As a consequence, the new law establishes prison sentences for homosexual couples that marry, those that publicly display their relationship and all those who promote or defend the rights of homosexuals.

ILGALAC is saddened by this serious step backward by the Nigerian government that targets the

human rights of LGBTI citizens and that adds to other equally homophobic legislation that recently has brought back this type of criminalization and promotion of hate, like in Uganda, India or Russia, to cite those cases with greatest significance.

Pedro Paradiso Sottile, Gay Regional Secretary of ILGALAC, declared that "we will continue to fight for and work together as a network against all discrimination and undermining of rights because of sexual orientation, gender identity and their expression. We call on all organizations and governmental and international bodies, as on all of society, to repudiate energetically this legislation that shames our humanity, as well as take action to put an end to the homo/lesbo/transphobia that is killing us, persecutes us or locks us out of any region of the world."

In particular, ILGALAC subscribes to the statements made by Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights for the UN, who considers the law approved in Nigeria "draconian." "Very few times have I seen a law that in so few paragraphs directly violates so

many fundamental and universal human rights," Pillay said. "The rights to intimacy and non-discrimination, the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly, the right to freedom from arrest and arbitrary detention: this law undermines all of them."

Sadly, homophobia of the state is not letting up in these mentioned countries, but is extending its lethal geographic arms across the planet. As stated in the last Report on State Homophobia of ILGA, 76 member states of the United Nations still criminalize consensual sexual acts between adult persons of the same sex, as opposed to 114 who don't.

In particular, the situation of African nations, like Nigeria, is of utmost seriousness. The Report of ILGA Africa indicates that "in 36 African countries laws exist that penalize homosexuality, in some cases with the death sentence and in many more cases with severe prison sentences. It is in large degree the continent that has the worst laws with reference to homosexuality and other sexual minorities."

Stonewall launches campaign to eradicate workplace homophobia 'once and for all'

Call to tackle homophobia featured on buses and tubes across country
650 bus and 4,000 tube adverts running throughout January
2.4m people have witnessed verbal homophobic bullying at work

Stonewall today launches a national campaign to tackle endemic levels of homophobia in Britain's workplaces. Featuring two people at work, the campaign states clearly that: 'One is gay. If that bothers people, our work continues'.

The campaign comes in response to YouGov polling which shows that in the last five years 2.4m people of working age have witnessed verbal homophobic bullying at work. A further 800,000 people of working age have witnessed physical homophobic

bullying at work. Further polling shows that over a quarter of lesbian, gay and bisexual people are not at all open to colleagues about their sexual orientation.

The posters will appear on nearly 650 buses in London, Cardiff and Edinburgh as well as on 4,000 adverts on the London Underground. The campaign features workers from across various careers and professions – including construction workers, footballers, priests, police officers and firefighters. Campaign posters will be made available to

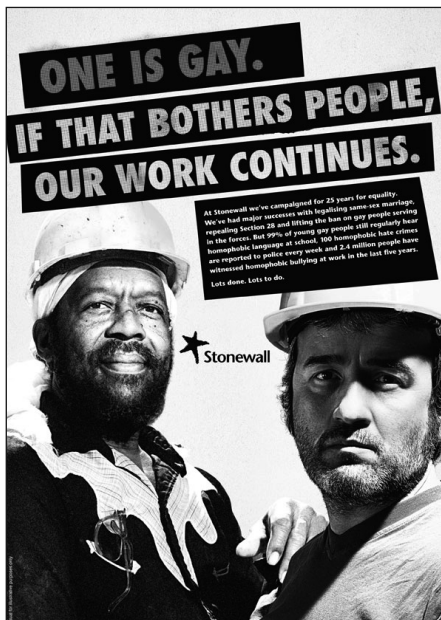
Stonewall Diversity Champion members, with Stonewall calling on organizations to tailor with their logos and reproduce in their workplaces and offices.

Stonewall Deputy Chief Executive Laura Doughty: 'After securing equal marriage in England and Wales people mustn't forget the huge amount of work still to be done. No one should be under any illusion that it's 'Mission Accomplished'. In workplaces right across the country, gay people still don't feel able to be themselves. It's time to change that once and for all.'

Posters will run throughout January and will also be sent to Stonewall Diversity Champions – who together employ more than 6 million people in Britain.

For further information you can visit www.stonewall.org.uk/LotsToDo or join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook by using #LotsToDo

Enquiries: Richard Lane, Media Manager, on 020 7593 3469 or 07525 359960



- Campaign created by The Gate London: www.thegateworldwide.com
- In the last five years six per cent of people – 2.4m people of working age – have witnessed verbal homophobic bullying at work and two per cent – 800,000 people of working age – have witnessed physical homophobic bullying at work.
- http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/living_together_2012.pdf
- One in five (19 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual employees have experienced verbal bullying from colleagues, customers or service users because of their sexual orientation in the last five years.
- One in eight (13 per cent) lesbian, gay and bisexual employees would not feel confident reporting homophobic bullying in their workplace.
- A quarter (26 per cent) of lesbian, gay and bisexual workers are not at all open to colleagues about their sexual orientation.
http://www.stonewall.org.uk/documents/gay_in_britain.pdf
- For information about Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme visit: www.stonewall.org.uk/diversitychampions



Notes



Future Events

March 2014

Monday 3rd
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 10th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 17th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 24th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 31st
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

April 2014

Monday 7th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 14th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 21st
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 28th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

May 2014

Monday 5th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 12th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 19th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm
Monday 26th
OLGA Social – 1pm to 4pm

OLGA WEEKLY SOCIALS

All Mondays 1pm to 4pm (see dates above)
Recent activities at the Socials have been
quizzes and raffles

MEET AND EAT SOCIALS

Usually, arranged at
the Monday Socials

Useful contact information

SEXUALITY

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044

Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk www.olga.uk.com

From January 2014 OLGA no longer has a PO Box address

MESMAC Yorkshire. Tel: 01904 620 400

PO Box 549, York. YO30 7GX

MENTAL HEALTH

Crisis Call Tel: 0800 501 254 (telephone support) 01723 384644 (crisis response, resolution and home treatment) (Free from landlines. Mobiles - cost for initial message and Crisis Call will call you back, which is free)

Samaritans Tel: 01723 368 888

Samaritan House, 40 Trafalgar Street West, Scarborough YO12 7AS

Survivors Mental Health Resource Centre

Tel: 01723 501 049

9 Alma Square, Scarborough YO11 1JR

Mind Tel: 01723 588008

Drop in Centre at Queen Street Methodist Church, Fridays 12.30 to 3.30pm.

HOUSING

Housing Support Tel: 0845 872 7374

North Yorkshire County Council

www.northyorks.gov.uk

Stonham Homestay – Scarborough & Ryedale

Homelessness Prevention Service

Tel: 01723 366566

Email: scarborough@homegroup.org.uk

Post: Unit 18, The Street, 12 Lower Clark Street, Scarborough YO12 7PW

Yorkshire Coast Homes Tel: 0845 065 5656

Gladstone Road, Scarborough YO12 7BH

SOCIAL CARE

Social Services

North Yorkshire County Council Tel: 08450349410

SOCIAL

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044

Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk

www.olga.uk.com

Bacchus Night Club Tel: 01723 373 689

7a Ramshill Road, Scarborough YO11

York Lesbian Social Group 18+ Tel: 07963 414434

Email: yorklsg@talktalk.net

GENERAL ADVICE

Customer First Tel: 01723 232 323

Scarborough Borough Council (General Enquiries)

St. Nicholas Street, Scarborough YO11 2HG

OLGA Tel: 07929 465 044

Email: olga@mypostoffice.co.uk

www.olga.uk.com

Age UK Scarborough Tel: 01723379058

39 Aberdeen Walk, Scarborough YO11 BD

Advocacy Alliance Tel: 01723 363 910

Allatt House, 5 West Parade Road, Scarborough YO12 5ED

Citizens Advice Bureau

Tel: 01723368710

Elders Street, Scarborough, YO11 1DZ

Police

Tel: 999 (Emergency/Crime Being Carried out)

Tel: 101 (Non-Emergency)

Tel: 0845 606 0247 (Police attendance is required)

Tel: 0800 555 111 (Crime Stoppers/To pass on Information related to any Crime)

Tel: 01723 384 444 (Anti-Social Behaviour)

If you move or change any of your contact details – please tell us, so we can keep you informed.

www.olga.uk.com

The website will be used as a way of keeping in touch with what OLGA is up to on your behalf.

We will also use it as a way to share with you local national and international news that we feel you may be interested in. You must let us know if we are getting this right, or not. Or, if you have seen something you would like to share; please let me know:

Tel: 07929 465044

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