



Improving Your Allyship to Older LGBTQ+ People

Be Loud Be Vocal!

What is allyship?

Allyship is active.

It is something you are doing: how are you *being* an ally?

It has to be adaptable based on the information at hand.

Being led by the community affected by the issue.

Allyship is centring: how do you create real, tangible change that makes the world a better place for older LGBTQ+ people?

Intersectionality:

“Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects. It’s not simply that there’s a race problem here, a gender problem here, and a class or LGBTQ problem there. Many times that framework erases what happens to people who are subject to all of these things.”

Kimberlé Crenshaw

[Kimberlé Crenshaw on Intersectionality, More than Two Decades Later](#)

What are the issues in the UK and what is life like now?

LGBT documentary: Gay, Old and Out: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbIX_WXhHr4

The UK cancels its first-ever international LGBTQ+ conference, ‘Safe to Be Me’, after a boycott by more than 100 organisations. Scheduled to take place in June 2022, a statement from Stonewall can be found here: <https://www.stonewall.org.uk/safe-to-be-me>

Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic hate crime is on the rise. 1 in 5 LGBTQ+ people had experienced it in the 12 months before 2017. Trans related hate crime has risen 81% since 2018.

The law recognises five types of hate crime on the basis of:

- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity

The impact of this definition is that there is no record of crime motivated by discrimination against age so there is a lack of data around hate crime aimed at someone LGBTQ+ *and* older.

Conversion Therapy: (or 'cure' therapy or reparative therapy) refers to any form of treatment or psychotherapy which aims to change a person's sexual orientation or to suppress a person's gender identity. It is based on an assumption that being lesbian, gay, bi or trans is a mental illness that can be 'cured'.

May 2022: The government has confirmed at the Queen's Speech that trans people will not be covered in the ban on conversion therapy, which will only apply to lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

New report from ILGA Europe: [A New Dynamic Has Appeared in LGBTI Rights Across Europe, Rainbow Map Reveals](#)

This link summarises the picture across Europe, stats specific to the UK can be found here:

<https://rainbow-europe.org/#8666/0/0>

What can you do?

- Call out homophobia, biphobia and transphobia: challenge it wherever you see it, this may be obvious slurs or more covert 'dog whistles' – what hidden/coded phrases can you identify?
- How are you showing up for LGBTQ+ people? Like marches and working groups, where are you present?
- And then think about how you bring people along with you: what are the access issues to in person events, to digital events, to how someone might even find out about your service?
- Guidance on how to make a complaint in relation to the media:

<https://www.ipso.co.uk/complain/>

- Check out the resources offered by Opening Doors:
<https://www.openingdoorslondon.org.uk/Pages/News/Category/research-and-policy>
- Sign up for Pride in Care Update!

Subscribe to the Opening Doors quarterly newsletter to discover more about training opportunities as well as the latest news, research and policy. (Plus all Update subscribers will receive a 30% discount on ODL public training courses!)

To sign up for free, email prideincare@openingdoors.lgbt

- Be Consistent. Think about your allyship across the year, not just when [pink exposure](#) is of benefit to you.