

HOT TOPICS – MAY 2023

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia is observed on May 17th

What is May 17th: “The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia was created in 2004 to draw attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics.

The date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization’s decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder” [Source: [What is May 17? ~ May17.org](#)]



Let’s briefly explore what each of the terms mean:

“**Homophobia** is the fear or dislike of someone, based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about lesbian, gay or bi people. This can also include denying somebody’s lesbian, gay or bi identity or refusing to accept it. Homophobia may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, lesbian, gay or bi.

Biphobia is the fear or dislike of someone who identifies as bi based on prejudice or negative attitudes, beliefs or views about bi people. This can also include denying somebody’s bi identity or refusing to accept it. Biphobia may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, bi.

Transphobia is the fear or dislike of someone based on the fact they are trans, including denying their gender identity or refusing to accept it. Transphobia may be targeted at people who are, or who are perceived to be, trans.”

[Source: [What is homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying? \(stonewall.org.uk\)](#)]

A list of LGBTQ+ terms can be found [here](#)

The BBC provide a timeline of LGBTQ+ discrimination and explores this through the decades (LGBTQ stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transexual. The ‘Q’ relates to ‘queer’ or ‘questioning’, which is the process of exploring your own sexual orientation and/or sexual identity). You can access the BBC timeline [here](#). Below are just three of the key milestones:

1969 - Demonstrations took place in New York, known as the Stonewall riots, after police raided the Stonewall Inn, a bar popular with gay people. It is regarded as the start of the movement of people fighting for gay rights in the USA and was a significant event that had great impact across the world.

1972 - The first Pride festival, which celebrates the gay community and supports equal rights, took place in London on 1 July, with 2,000 people taking part. Now, more than one million people celebrate it in the UK’s capital, and Pride events take place all over the world.

1988 – Section 28, Local Government Act 1988 stated “A local authority shall not, (a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality, (b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”. Sec 28 was abolished in 2003 - read more about it [here](#)

DISCUSSION POINT

Consider this statement – “Over the past 25 years, Britain has taken huge strides on the journey to equality for lesbian, gay, bi and trans (LGBT) people. Changes in the law mean that more schools, employers and public services are tackling anti-LGBT discrimination and bullying. Equal marriage is now a reality for many, and Section 28 has been consigned to history. But for many LGBT people, these legal changes have not translated into true equality, and for trans people in particular, there is still much progress to be made before they are fully protected and equal under the law” [Source: [lgbt_in_britain_hate_crime.pdf \(stonewall.org.uk\)](#)]. How can **you** promote equality and stand up to homophobia, biphobia and transphobia? How can you support victims of hate crimes and challenge workplace discrimination?

If you have been affected by anything you have read or experienced in this Hot Topic, you can click the link [here](#) for information and support. You can also speak to your PDC or discuss your concerns with your HEI staff or your line manager.