



## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newsletter 14<sup>th</sup> March

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### ***Launch of “Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Equality: Moving Forward”***

On 14 March, Lynne Featherstone launched *Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward* which sets out the actions Government is taking to tackle lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) inequality across government and in partnership with individuals, voluntary groups, communities, and business.

In June 2010, we published *Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality* in which we set out the challenges we face in tackling LGB&T inequality in all areas of society - in schools, at work, in sport and for families. This action plan builds on the broad commitments we made last year, setting out how we will deliver action in these areas.

Lynne Featherstone launched the action plan when she opened the Lesbian and Gay Foundation's new centre in Manchester. At the event she said:

“All of us here know that despite the extraordinary battles we've won, the journey towards full equality is far from complete.

“I am very excited to announce that today we're publishing a detailed action plan laying out clearly the action we are taking right across Government to make LGB&T equality happen.”

You can download a PDF copy of the detailed action plan from our website here:

[Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward](#)

## ***Tackling homophobia and transphobia in sport – A Charter for action***

On the same day we launched the action plan we also launched a new Charter on “Tackling homophobia and transphobia in sport”.

The Charter allows people from all parts of the sports community to join together to take the steps needed to tackle homophobia and transphobia in sport. The Chief Executives of some of the top national sporting bodies have already signed it – the Football Association, the England & Wales Cricket Board, the Lawn Tennis Association, the Rugby Football League and the Rugby Football Union. However, Government cannot do this alone. The Charter is aimed at anyone and everybody involved in sport – whether you are a national sporting body or a five-a-side sport team, if you play sport, or just watch, whether you are a ref or a coach.

You can sign up to the Charter either through [Sports Charter](#) or the GEO website at [Minister shows red card to homophobia and transphobia in sport](#)

As part of our work to tackle homophobia and transphobia in sport, Lynne Featherstone attended a Rugby League match in Sheffield to mark LGBT History Month. On Sunday 13 March the Sheffield Eagles played Widnes Vikings and the players wore shirts with the words “Homophobia: Tackle it” on the front. Lynne Featherstone praised the work of the Rugby Football League, Pride Sports and LGBT History Month to deliver this historic occasion.

Speaking about the match, Lynne Featherstone said:

“Someone once said to me that the sports fields of Britain are one of the final ramparts of overt, vicious homophobia. But yesterday I believe I witnessed those ramparts begin to crumble”

More information can be found here: [LGBT History Month](#)

## ***Civil partnerships on religious premises***

On 17 February we announced our plan to remove the ban on civil partnership registrations being held on religious premises in England and Wales by implementing section 202 of the Equality Act 2010.

As this is a permissive provision, religious organisations that do not wish to host civil partnerships will not be required to do. We will hold a public consultation on the detail of the changes to be made before implementing the new arrangements, to enable all interested parties to comment.

Having listened to a wide range of views, it is clear that there is a desire among many of those representing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and some faith communities to move toward equal civil marriage and partnerships. We will consult further on how legislation can develop, working with you and all those who have an interest in this area.

Further information about the announcement can be found here:

[civil partnerships on religious premises](#)

### ***Trans Media Watch***

Trans Media Watch (TMW) helps journalists, writers, editors, producers and directors to improve the portrayal of transgender people and their representation in the media.

TMW have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for media organisations and Lynne Featherstone is visiting Channel 4 on Monday 14 March to see them sign up to the MOU.

The MOU focuses on four key areas:-

- Eliminating transphobia in the media.
- Ending the provision of misinformation about transgender issues in the media.
- Increasing positive, well-informed representations of transgender people in the media.
- Ensuring that transgender people working in or with the media are treated with the same respect as non-transgender people in equivalent positions.

More information can be found here:

[Trans Media Watch](#)

### ***Transgender e-bulletin***

In [Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality](#) released in June 2010 we committed to publish the first ever cross Government transgender equality action plan by the end of this year.

This will highlight where distinct action is needed in addition to the measures outlined in our action plan [Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward](#) published on 14 March 2011.

We want to hear your views on how you can shape our action to progress this agenda. As part of our engagement with the transgender community, we will be sending regular e-bulletins so that you can tell us about key commitments you would like us to take forward and we can keep you updated with progress. The first e-

bulletin will be issued shortly. If you wish to be added to our mailing list for this e-bulletin, please email: [debbie.leigh@geo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.leigh@geo.gsi.gov.uk)

### ***Stonewall Workplace Conference – 18 March 2011***

The Home Secretary, Theresa May, will be giving the keynote speech at Stonewall's Workplace Conference 2011. This annual event, at the QEII Conference centre in London, is attended by anyone involved in delivering LGB equality and diversity in the workplace. This year the Home Office has been recognised by Stonewall as its top employer on the Workplace Equality Index 2011.

More information can be found at:

[Stonewall Workplace Conference 2011](#)

### ***Civil society: update***

One of our commitments is to support LGB&T people to participate visibly in civil society, and to support those who are unsure how to get involved.

In December 2010, we published research which looked at the barriers faced by LGB&T people who participate in civil society. The findings of the research can be found here: [Civil Society](#)

You may also be interested in a number of cross-Government initiatives which may help you to get involved in civil society, or help those who already are.

Why not nominate someone for a Big Society Award? [Big Society Awards](#)

You can find out about volunteering opportunities here: [Take Part](#)

You can find also out about other opportunities and Government funding for civil society here: [Big Society](#)

### ***Further information***

Please feel free to distribute this newsletter to others who may be interested.

You can find out more about the Government Equalities Office by visiting our website [Government Equalities Office](#)