



Transgender e-bulletin no.1 April/May 2011

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Click on the following link to view the video message from Lynne Featherstone:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xCLDCfU3bAo>

Hello,

As many of you know I spent many years campaigning for trans equality from the backbenches. But of course back then it was always about what I would do for the transgender community if I were in Government. Now I am the Government Minister for Equalities I have this extraordinary opportunity not just to say, but to actually do. And this is an opportunity I do not take lightly.

We as a country pride ourselves on having successfully consigned the worst examples of discrimination to the past. And for the most part that is true. The days where we would see signs saying 'no blacks, no dogs, no Irish' in the windows of pubs and B&Bs have thankfully disappeared.

But I believe for transgender people we have not been so successful. For far too long too many of you had to put up with the most despicable forms of hatred and bigotry which blight not only your lives, but undermine the principles upon which this country prides itself.

I, along with my colleagues in the Coalition Government, are absolutely committed to putting a stop to this, ensuring trans people are afforded the same opportunities, freedoms and rights as any other citizen.

Earlier this month I announced the publication of our [detailed action plan on LGB&T equality](#), clearly setting out how we will, right across Government, tackle LGB&T inequality in all areas of public policy.

And we are not stopping there. We recognise transgender issues are distinct and need to be addressed separately. This is why we will also be publishing the first ever cross Government transgender equality action plan later in the year. Highlighting where distinct action is needed in addition to the measures outlined in the LGB&T action plan.

But we won't be successful without your involvement. To make sure we really deliver for the trans community, we need to know how you think we should be progressing the agenda. So I am delighted to introduce the first trans E-Bulletin, which gives you an opportunity to do just this. It includes an [ONLINE SURVEY](#) asking you to tell us the areas you would like us to concentrate on, how you would like us to communicate with you and to contribute your views and ideas. We will use the findings of this first survey to shape the Government transgender equality action plan and formulate initial Government commitments. The next E-Bulletins and surveys will focus on specific themes, depending on the results of this survey and feedback from meetings with you. We plan to issue E-Bulletins and surveys every other month.

To help us deliver on this agenda, we need your help in two areas.

*First, we would be grateful if you could take the time to respond to the first survey by **6 May 2011**. Please be assured that your personal details will be kept strictly confidential and not shared with anyone outside the Government Equalities Office.*

Secondly, to help us make sure we are reaching the widest range of people, please forward this message and bulletin to your trans friends and colleagues; post it on your blogs and discussion forums; and raise it in your community groups. Your support will make all the difference.

Together we can make this the era where we consign transphobia to the past, and build a strong, modern and fair Britain for all.

What's new?

Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward

On 14 March, Lynne formally opened the Lesbian & Gay Foundation's (LGF) Community Resource Centre in Manchester and launched [Working for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality: Moving Forward](#), which sets out the actions Government is taking to tackle LGB&T inequality, including the development of the first ever cross Government transgender equality action plan. 'Moving Forward'

builds on the commitments we made in the LGB&T [workplan](#) in June 2010, when we set out the challenges we faced in tackling LGB&T inequality in all areas of society - in schools, at work, in sport and for families. *'Moving forward'* details actions which are specific to the transgender community as well as initiatives which will benefit both the transgender and LGB communities. Click on the following link to view the full video of the Minister's visit and speech at the LGF:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vpwv-dB2-7c&feature=channel_video_title

Trans Media Watch



Lynne Featherstone speaking at the Trans Media Watch event

On 14 March Lynne visited Channel 4 to mark the launch of [Trans Media Watch's](#) Memorandum of Understanding with the broadcaster. Click on the following link for a video of the speech she delivered at the launch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2U04ek-j3A&feature=cha>

The [Memorandum of Understanding](#) sets out a series of standards of how transgender people are portrayed in the media and how media organisations should deal with transgender members of the public and their families. Channel 4 is the first broadcaster to sign up to the Memorandum of Understanding.

Civil partnerships

Visit our website to find out about Government's consultation on the next steps for civil partnerships and equal marriage and partnerships:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/news/civil_partnership.aspx

Sports pledge

On 14 March the Government launched a [Charter against homophobia and transphobia in sport](#). Please sign up to our [facebook page](#). And spread the message.

Application fees to the Gender Recognition Panel

On 7 March the Government laid secondary legislation before Parliament to increase the income thresholds for application fees to the Gender Recognition Panel. The fees will remain unchanged, but the income thresholds that determine when the fees are

payable are to be increased. Applicants whose income is less than £18,008 will be exempt from paying a fee (this threshold is currently £17,474). Applicants whose income is greater than £18,008 but less than £27,005 will be eligible for the lower fee of £30 (the upper threshold is currently £26,204). Only those who earn more than £27,005 will pay the full fee of £140. This will apply to applications made on or after 6 April. The Statutory Instrument increasing the income thresholds can be found on this website: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/628/made>

Women's engagement consultation

On 7 March the Government Equalities Office launched a [consultation](#) document which asks women how they wish to bring their views to Government. The consultation period will last for 14 weeks until 10 June and is your chance to influence our proposals about Government's new approach for engaging and listening to women in the UK. To complete the consultation questions online please click on the following link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/StrengtheningWomensVoicesConsultation>

To find out more about the new approach and to sign up to the Womens' Engagement E-Newsletter please visit our website:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/womens_engagement.aspx

Department for Education consultation

On 4 April the Department for Education launched a [consultation](#) on *Ensuring Good Behaviour in Schools - Guidance for Governing Bodies, Head teachers, School Staff and Employers* to gather views on six revised guidance and advice documents on improving good behaviour and tackling bullying in schools. The aim of these documents is to give clear and concise advice to schools on their obligations and duties, but not to dictate to schools how they should address these issues. The documents are aimed at governing bodies, head teachers and school staff. The [Preventing and Tackling Bullying](#) document refers to bullying because of prejudice against particular groups including being transgendered. The consultation ends on 20 May 2011.

For additional advice and information please visit our website:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/what_we_do/lesbian,_gay,_bisexual_and_tra/trans_gender_equality.aspx

Please forward this message and bulletin to your trans friends and colleagues; post it on your blogs and discussion forums; and raise it in your community groups. Your support will make all the difference!!

Any projects you are involved in you would like to tell us about? Any questions?

Please email us at transgender@geo.gsi.gov.uk