



## DEBATE PACK

CDP 2018-0122 | 15 May 2018

# International Day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia

## Main Chamber

## Thursday 17 May 2018

## Debate nominated by the Backbench Business Committee

The proceedings of this debate can be viewed on [Parliamentlive.tv](http://Parliamentlive.tv)

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# 1. Background

## 1.1 International

Earlier this month, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, an international non-governmental organisation that monitors violations of LGBTI rights and supports campaigning to strengthen their protection around the world, [published](#) its 2017 annual report. In its preface, it set out this overview of the current international situation:

[...] we know all too well that our communities' struggle to be recognised and accepted has never come without challenges. As if we needed more proof, 2017 served us constant, sobering reminders of the hurdles that we yet have to overcome. For every hard-won battle, we had to experience the bitter fruits of a rising politics of hate, with the fingers of ruthless scaremongers pointed at our bodies and/or identities in an irresponsible hope to gain social and political consensus.

And yet, resilient as our communities are, we refused to give in to hatred and intolerance. We continued to push for change and demand our rights be recognised and respected. We stood together. We rejoiced whenever the advances that we had long fought for became a reality. And we hearteningly saw millions of other people joining us in defending the rights of all targeted groups in the face of a scary, populist wave of hate.

Women marched all around the world to demand equal rights. People called out the most egregious persecutions against our communities – such as the ones happening in Chechnya, Azerbaijan, and Egypt, just to name a few. Indifference was not the only response we saw to injustices perpetrated against LGBTI human rights defenders, LBQ women, trans people, intersex people, migrants, people of colour, ethnic communities, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and more minorities: slowly, yet irreversibly, people are refusing to be silent.

ILGA goes on to say: “Hopelessness is something that we cannot afford”. Indeed, victories are sometimes won in what many people might view as highly ‘unlikely places’. For example, a week or so ago, Al-jazeera [reported](#) this news from Pakistan:

Members of parliament voted to pass the wide-ranging [Transgender Persons \(Protection of Rights\) Act](#) in the capital, Islamabad [...]

The law accords citizens the right to self-identify as male, female or a blend of both genders, and to have that identity registered on all official documents, including

National Identification Cards, passports, driver's licenses and education certificates.

The law guarantees citizens the right to express their gender as they wish, and to a gender identity that is defined as "a person's innermost and individual sense of self as male, female or a blend of both, or neither; that can correspond or not to the sex assigned at birth".

## 1.2 Sex and relationships education

Local authority maintained schools in England are obliged to teach sex and relationships education (SRE) from age 11 upwards, and must have regard to the Government's [SRE guidance](#). Academies and free schools, the majority in secondary education in England, do not have to follow the National Curriculum and so are not under this obligation. If they do decide to teach SRE, they also must have regard to the guidance.

The guidance states:

1.30 It is up to schools to make sure that the needs of all pupils are met in their programmes. Young people, whatever their developing sexuality, need to feel that sex and relationship education is relevant to them and sensitive to their needs. Sex and Relationship Education Guidance. The Secretary of State for Education and Employment is clear that teachers should be able to deal honestly and sensitively with sexual orientation, answer appropriate questions and offer support. There should be no direct promotion of sexual orientation. (pg 12-13)

This position is currently in the process of being reformed. Section 34 of the [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) provides for renamed relationships and sex education to be taught in **all** schools in England, under revised guidance. Teaching is intended to begin in September 2019. The changes involve:

- All primary schools in England teaching 'Relationships Education'
- All secondary schools teaching 'Relationships and Sex Education'
- Reformed statutory guidance, following consultation
- Retaining the parental right of withdrawal from sex education
- Flexibility for schools in their approach, including for faith schools to teach within the tenets of their faith

On 19 December 2017, the Department for Education published a preliminary [call for evidence on changes to teaching of sex and relationship education, and PSHE](#), which ran until 12 February 2018. A further consultation on new guidance is expected later this year.

The Library briefing [Sex and Relationship Education in Schools \(England\)](#), SN 06103, provides more general information.

### PSHE

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is a non-statutory subject, but the Government expects all schools to make provision for it. In September 2013, following an internal review, the Department for

Education issued new [guidance on PSHE](#), which makes clear that it is largely up to schools to determine what is taught.

The Government provides funding to various bodies, principally the PSHE Association, to support the teaching of PSHE. The PSHE Association have produced a range of guidance materials for schools, including a [Programme of Study](#) covering Key Stages 1-5 (ages 5-18). Issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity are included in the programme at key stages 2-4.

The *Children and Social Work Act 2017* provides for PSHE to be made statutory at all schools in England through regulations. The Government have not announced whether they intend to proceed with this, or if so when. A [call for evidence](#) on PSHE teaching ran from December 2017 - February 2018.

The Library briefing [Personal, social, health and economic education in schools \(England\)](#), CBP 7303, provides broader information.

## Scotland

Scotland's [Curriculum for Excellence](#) includes relationships, sexual health and parenthood education as part of its health and wellbeing strand. Relationships, sexual health and parenthood education (RSHP) is a part of this strand.

The Scottish Government's [Guide for Parents and carers](#) provides an *example* of a sex education programme which includes several aspects relevant to LGBT issues:

- Understanding of own developing sexuality, developing an awareness of gender identity, dealing with sexual feelings (upper primary level)
- Gender stereotypes, equal opportunities and discrimination (early secondary)
- Awareness of sexual orientation (middle to upper secondary)

Revised guidance on the [Conduct of Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood Education in Schools](#) was published by the Scottish Government in December 2014. The guidance states:

36. It is also important that RSHP education addresses diversity and, for example, reflects issues relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) young people or children with LGBTI parents, such as same sex marriage and hate-crime reporting. A survey has shown that LGBT young people experience high levels of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. Another useful resource for schools and teachers is the 'Dealing with Homophobia and Homophobic Bullying in Scottish Schools, a Toolkit for Teachers'. As indicated above, all bullying is wrong. (pg 8)

## Wales

All maintained secondary schools are required to include sex education for all registered pupils as part of the basic curriculum of the school.

The Welsh Government has published [guidance for sex and relationships education](#) (SRE) in schools. It sets out the following in relation to matters of sexual orientation:

2.18 SRE programmes should be relevant to learners and sensitive to their needs. Equally it is important that young people recognise diversity and show respect for others regardless of their sexual orientation. Hence teachers should:

- deal with matters of sexual identity or sexual orientation honestly, sensitively and in a non-discriminatory way
- answer appropriate questions and provide factual information (pg 10)

The Welsh Government's website includes other [sources of information and support for schools](#) in formulating their SRE policy.

## Northern Ireland

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland requires all grant-aided schools to develop their own policy on how they will address [Relationships and Sexuality Education](#) (RSE) within the curriculum.

Guidance has been published by the DoE on [primary](#) and [post-primary](#) education, both of which deal with issues of sexual orientation and gender identity.

The post-primary guidance notes:

A young person's sexual orientation and/or gender identity is a central and significant part of who they are and how they see themselves in relation to others. The results of a study carried out in Northern Ireland in 2013 reveal that, across lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) groups, the average age at which young LGB people became aware of their minority sexual orientation is 14.1 years; for males the average age is 13.8 years, and 15.5 years for females. Recent research reveals that transgender young people become self-aware that their assigned birth sex is different from their gender identity between the ages of 3–5 years old. However, it is between the ages of 6–16 years old that transgender young people began to understand their feelings and could begin to talk about them.<sup>1</sup> (pg 14)

## 1.3 Transphobia in Higher Education

A report by Stonewall published in January 2018, [LGBT in Britain: Trans Report](#) 2018 stated that "Trans students experience harassment and discrimination at university". The report contained the following findings :

More than a **third** of trans university students (36 per cent) have experienced negative comments or conduct from staff in the last year.

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<sup>1</sup> This section of the guidance includes references to the relevant research, which is linked at the end of the document.

**One in seven** trans university students (14 per cent) have considered dropping out or have dropped out of a higher education course because of experiencing harassment or discrimination from students and staff in the last year. (p12)

The report made the following recommendations for universities:

UNIVERSITIES SHOULD:

Communicate a clear commitment to trans inclusion to current and prospective students and staff, through promotional materials and clear anti-discrimination policies

Have clear and widely promoted policies, which communicate a zero-tolerance approach to discrimination, bullying and harassment based on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation

RECOMMENDATIONS

Consult with LGBT student societies to understand the needs of trans students and to ensure that policies, university facilities, accommodation and public spaces are inclusive of trans and non-binary students

Provide signposting and information for trans students through student services

Join more than 100 British universities on Stonewall's Diversity Champions programme.

In March 2018 the [University of Bristol's s students' union](#) passed a motion to "no-platform" so-called trans-exclusionary radical feminists (Terfs). Other universities have also tried to ban feminists including Germaine Greer from speaking at universities for holding views which could be considered as transphobic.

A Stonewall Report in 2018 [LGBT in Britain: University Report](#) contains further information on issues LGBT students in higher education.

## 1.4 Discrimination in employment

Discrimination in the workplace is unlawful under the Equality Act 2010. [Section 39](#) of the Act prohibits direct and indirect discrimination at work, as well as harassment and victimisation. However, a large number of LGBT people experience discrimination at work. For their 2018 report [LGBT in Britain – Work Report](#) Stonewall conducted a survey of 3,213 LGBT people employed in England, Scotland and Wales. The report found:

Almost one in five LGBT staff (18 per cent) have been the target of negative comments or conduct from work colleagues in the last year because they're LGBT.

One in eight trans people (12 per cent) have been physically attacked by customers or colleagues in the last year because of being trans.

One in ten black, Asian and minority ethnic LGBT staff (10 per cent) have similarly been physically attacked because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, compared to three per cent of white LGBT staff.

Almost one in five LGBT people (18 per cent) who were looking for work said they were discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity while trying to get a job in the last year.

One in eight black, Asian and minority ethnic LGBT employees (12 per cent) have lost a job in the last year because of being LGBT, compared to four per cent of white LGBT staff.

Almost two in five bi people (38 per cent) aren't out to anyone at work about their sexual orientation.

More than a third of LGBT staff (35 per cent) have hidden or disguised that they are LGBT at work in the last year because they were afraid of discrimination.

One in eight lesbian, gay and bi people (12 per cent) wouldn't feel confident reporting any homophobic or biphobic bullying to their employer. One in five trans people (21 per cent) wouldn't report transphobic bullying in the workplace.

Almost a third of non-binary people (31 per cent) and one in five trans people (18 per cent) don't feel able to wear work attire representing their gender expression.<sup>2</sup>

Stonewall recommended that employers should develop zero-tolerance workplace policies to prevent such discrimination, as well as:

- Implement diversity and inclusion training
- Run awareness sessions on trans inclusion
- Recruit and promote more diverse candidates
- Monitor staff diversity
- Support visible LGBT role models
- Consider involvement with Stonewall's diversity programmes.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Stonewall, [LGBT in Britain – Work Report](#), 2018, p6

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p16

## 2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

### [Schools told to let transgender pupils choose which toilets to use](#)

Wales Online  
Matt Discombe  
8 May 2018

### [The Shadow Of Section 28](#)

Huffington Post  
Tim Ramsey  
3 May 2018

### [Theresa May urges Commonwealth countries to reform 'outdated' homosexuality laws](#)

The Independent  
Lizzy Buchan  
17 April 2018

### [Are we excusing Commonwealth homophobia to improve post-Brexit trade?](#)

New Statesman  
Sian Norris  
16 April 2018

### [We won in Trinidad. Now it's time to end all homophobic laws in the Commonwealth](#)

The Guardian  
Jason Jones  
14 April 2018

### [UK rows back on plans to promote gay rights at Commonwealth summit](#)

The Guardian  
Bell Quinn  
14 April 2018

### [Tom Daley pleas for more Commonwealth countries to decriminalise homosexuality after diving gold](#)

Daily Telegraph  
Oliver Brown  
13 April 2018

### [Gender rights groups promise to battle Trump's 'transphobia masquerading as policy' in court](#)

Independent  
Alexandra Wilts  
25 March 2018

**[Bermuda repeals same-sex marriage in world first](#)**

The Independent  
Tom Embury-Dennis  
8 February 2018

**[LGBT students still face 'shocking' treatment in schools, report finds](#)**

Time Educational Supplement  
Henry Hepburn  
2 February 2018

**[LGBT hate crimes double in Russia after ban on 'gay propaganda'](#)**

Reuters  
Daria Litvinova  
21 November 2017

**[Church of England issues transphobic bullying guidance](#)**

BBC News  
13 November 2018

**[Gay and Northern Irish: 'Teachers called me sissy and compared me to a plague'](#)**

The Guardian  
Henry McDonald  
26 September 2017

**[Nick Gibb writes: 'We have seen many LGBT milestones – but there's still a long way to go'](#)**

Time Educational Supplement  
Nick Gibb  
1 August 2017

**[Rise in trans children puts British schools to the test](#)**

The Guardian  
Sally Weale  
12 July 2017

**["We repealed, then forgot": the long shadow of Section 28 homophobia](#)**

New Statesman  
Jen Stout  
27 June 2017

**[Transgender teaching 'confuses pupils and wastes taxpayers' money'](#)**

The Times (Subscription required)  
Rosemary Bennett  
23 June 2017

**[Single sex schools 'failing in their legal duties to accommodate transgender pupils'](#)**

The Independent  
Miles Dilworth  
9 April 2017

### 3. International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)

#### [ILGA launches State-sponsored homophobia report 2017](#) 5 May 2017

Since its first edition in 2006, State-Sponsored Homophobia has offered a comprehensive compilation of useful and credible data on laws affecting people worldwide on the basis of their sexual orientation. This release comes just ahead of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia to be celebrated on May 17, and it is a fundamental resource in the hands of human rights defenders, researchers, civil society organisations, governmental and UN agencies, allies and media striving for a more just and inclusive society.

“As of May 2017, 72 States continue to criminalise same-sex consensual activity, and in 45 of these States the law is applied to women as well as men,” Carroll notes.

“Although law that criminalises same-sex sexual practice is slowly annually decreasing - with Belize and Seychelles being the most recent to repeal such laws in 2016 – persecution and deep stigmatisation persist in many States. On the other hand, enactment of specific legislation that protects us from discrimination and violence has significantly expanded in recent years, and the real test facing States is meaningful implementation of those laws. Although laws that recognise our relationships and families are also on the increase, less than 25% of the world’s States recognise or protect us – that is a sobering thought.”

It is an unavoidable truth that full equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual persons is unfortunately still very far from reach.

“A simple look at the maps and charts included in the report – illustrating where criminalisation, protection and recognition laws exist – starkly indicates the absence of positive provisions in most parts of the world. These maps and overview charts are available in English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French and Russian on ILGA’s website. We hope that making these materials available in all 6 United Nations’ official languages will help deliver this information to a wider readership,” observes co-author Mendos. “They offer food for thought on how States are faring when it comes to denying or upholding our rights, to scapegoating our communities, or situating us on ideological battlefields in national and international political spaces.”

There are currently 8 UN member States (or parts thereof) where death penalty occurs as a punishment for same-sex consensual sexual acts, and a further 5 States where although the death penalty is technically possible, it is never implemented. In 14 other countries the maximum penalty can vary from 14 years to a life sentence in jail.

This edition of State-Sponsored Homophobia includes a category looking at sexual orientation-related NGOs: in 25 States there are active barriers to the formation, establishment or registration of such

organisations, and 22 States have ‘morality’ or ‘promotion’ laws that actively target public promotion or expression of same-sex and trans realities.

“With the ongoing rise in the use of digital devices, deployment of these laws becomes all the more sinister,” comments Renato Sabbadini, Executive Director at ILGA. “The ongoing case of Chechnya offers us the most recent, horrific example of such abuses, as survivors have expressed fears that the social media accounts of men perceived to be gay or bisexual are being hacked and used to identify and contact others who have not yet been arrested.”

Only 9 countries explicitly mention sexual orientation as a protected ground from discrimination in their Constitution. On the other hand, 72 States contain legal provisions that protect against discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation, and 63 States have enacted various non-discrimination laws, both comprehensive and specific. This year we also look at those States that explicitly ban so-called ‘conversion therapies’: only 3 of them have taken nationwide action on the issue, but the list is expected to expand in future years.

When it comes to protecting and recognising our relationships and families, ILGA notes that marriage equality is now a reality in 22 States, while other 28 guarantee some civil partnership recognition. Some 86 States have National Human Rights Institutions that include sexual orientation in the scope of their work – appeal to such bodies can be preliminary steps to law and policy change.

By analysing laws and their impact on people according to their sexual orientation and gender identity and gauging attitudes towards LGBTI communities throughout the world, ILGA raises awareness on both advances and setbacks in the fight for equality.

“In the last twelve months only, we released as well as eight new publications, forming an important and reliable corpus of information in the hands of individual activists, NGOs and allies,” claim Ruth Baldacchino and Helen Kennedy, co-Secretaries General at ILGA.

“Knowledge is itself power: it is the power to challenge norms and practices that continue to oppress LGBTIQ people and communities. It is the power of information, and the courage to use it that will indeed make this world a better place for everyone.”

### **Key figures (as per May 2017)**

- There are 124 States (122 UN member States as well as Taiwan and Kosovo) where same-sex sexual acts between consenting adults are legal.
- 108 countries have a law on equal age of consent, 16 are unequal.
- 72 States still criminalise same-sex sexual acts between consenting adults: in 45 of these States the law is applied to women as well. ILGA knows of recent arrests under these laws in 45 States.

- The death penalty for same-sex sexual acts may be applied in 8 UN member States.  
In 4 of them (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan) it is applied State-wide; in 2 (Somalia, Nigeria) it is implemented only in specific provinces; in other 2 countries (Iraq, Daesh-held territories in northern Iraq and northern Syria) it is implemented by local courts, vigilantes or non-State actors.
- There are another 5 States (Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Mauritania) where interpretation of Shari'a, or where black letter law, permits the death penalty technically, but where it is not invoked to our knowledge.
- 22 States have 'promotion' or 'morality' laws targeting public expression of same-sex and trans realities.
- 25 States pose barriers to the formation, establishment or registration of sexual orientation-related NGOs.
- 72 UN States have laws protecting from discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation.
- 9 States contain Constitutional provisions that specify sexual orientation in their discrimination protections.
- 43 States enacted legislation combating hate crime; 39 countries have laws addressing incitement to hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation.
- There are currently 22 States in the world that recognise same-sex marriage, while 28 countries provide for some civil partnership recognition.
- 26 States have joint adoption laws: Austria, Finland and parts of Australia were the latest to pass such laws in the last 12 months, while 27 UN States allow for same-sex second parent adoption.

## 4. Foreign and Commonwealth Office

[Human Rights and Democracy: the 2016 Foreign and Commonwealth Office report, 20 July 2017 \[Extract\]](#)

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGB&T) Rights

The authorities in many countries actively persecute LGB&T people. Consensual same-sex relations remain criminalised in 75 jurisdictions, including the majority of Commonwealth countries. Even in countries where consensual same-sex relations are legal, many people still face violence and discrimination because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This results from a number of factors, including: state-sanctioned homophobia, biphobia or transphobia; a lack of adequate legal protection; poor enforcement of existing protections which can lead to impunity for those committing acts of violence or discrimination; harmful social norms; stigmatisation of LGB&T people. In many countries, LGB&T people are subject to hate crime.

The UK is committed to protecting and promoting the rights of LGB&T people and to supporting the legal, cultural and social change required to make equality a reality for LGB&T people the world over.

In 2016, both the **Seychelles** and **Nauru** decriminalised consensual same-sex relations, partly in response to international pressure. A successful legal challenge led to decriminalisation in **Belize**. We continue to urge all countries to decriminalise consensual same-sex relations and put in place legislation that protects LGB&T people from discrimination - including in the workplace and in the provision of goods and services.

Through our Embassies and High Commissions we monitor and raise human rights concerns around the world. LGB&T equality remains a sensitive subject for many countries and much of this diplomatic lobbying is carried out behind closed doors and is not reported on.

In 2016, we continued to support the work of the UN Free and Equal Campaign which raises awareness of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic discrimination and violence, and promotes tolerance, equality and greater respect for the rights of LGB&T people everywhere. The FCO also worked to create space at the international level for LGB&T equality to be discussed, debated and celebrated. In June, FCO staff in **Moscow**, **Ekaterinburg** and **St Petersburg** set up a number of media interviews during Sir Ian McKellen's visit to Russia as a 'Shakespeare in Film' Ambassador. He was able to share his personal story and set out his strong advocacy of LGB&T equality.

In November, the Embassy in Bangkok hosted an event on tackling violence and discrimination to tie in with the International Lesbian and Gay Association conference, drawing attention to the UK's efforts to promote and protect LGB&T rights, and supporting the role of Human Rights Defenders. Participation in Pride celebrations provided the

opportunity for a large number of British diplomats to signal strong solidarity with LGB&T communities worldwide.

In 2016, we worked with partner countries and through international organisations, including the UN, EU, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the Commonwealth, to promote inclusion and to celebrate diversity. In June, the UK strongly supported the establishment by the UN Human Rights Council of the first ever UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. We subsequently used our global diplomatic network and influence to help achieve the necessary support to defend his mandate when it came under attack at the UN General Assembly. We remain committed to supporting Mr Vitit Muntarbhorn in his important work.

The UK is a founder member of the new Equal Rights Coalition, which brings together more than 30 countries which are committed to working together to promote LGB&T equality globally. The Coalition was launched at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference in Montevideo in July 2016.

The UK Government continues to offer a consular marriage service to same-sex couples (one of whom must be a British national) in 26 countries. By offering these services we have drawn attention to the lack of local legislation for same-sex marriages and prompted wider discussion of LGB&T issues. Between 2016 and 2018 the FCO's Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy will provide over £1.5 million funding to projects promoting and protecting the rights of LGB&T people in projects working in over 15 countries.

The UK Government is committed to working with Governments of **Overseas Territories** to tackle all forms of discrimination and strengthen compliance with our shared international obligations. Generally, respect for LGB&T rights in the Overseas Territories continued to lag behind the UK mainland. Nevertheless there were some examples of progress in 2016. Same-sex marriage was legalised in **Ascension Island**, the **British Indian Ocean Territory** and **Gibraltar**. In respect of the **Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) of Akrotiri and Dhekelia**, which have a sizeable UK Armed Forces population, the authorities notified the UK Government that there was no objection to marriages and conversions of civil partnerships being conducted within its territory under UK Armed Forces laws. The first same-sex marriage in the SBAs took place in September.

## 5. PQs

### [Commonwealth: LGBT People](#)

02 May 2018 | 136399

**Asked by: Sarah Champion**

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what the timetable is for the publication of the guidance on international best practice on sexual orientation and gender identity; and what steps his Department is taking to help ensure this guidance is rolled out throughout commonwealth countries.

**Answering member: Victoria Atkins | Women and Equalities**

The International Best Practice Guide to Equality on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, developed by OutRight Action International and commissioned by the Government Equalities Office, was published on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

The Department has taken a number of steps to ensure the guide is distributed throughout Commonwealth countries. It was distributed at the Commonwealth Summit, which was attended by parliamentarians, diplomats, business leaders, civil society and activists from across the Commonwealth. Events will be held in different regions of the world in order to distribute the guide and facilitate opportunities for discussion and the sharing of best practice. A copy of the guide has also been sent to the House of Commons Library.

### [Commonwealth: LGBT People](#)

01 May 2018 | HL6918

**Asked by: Lord Jones of Cheltenham**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have any plans to press members of the Commonwealth to abolish laws which discriminate against the LGBT community.

**Answering member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

In her speech to the Commonwealth Forums on 17 April the Prime Minister set out the UK's readiness to support any member state wanting to reform outdated legislation that makes discrimination on the grounds of gender identity or sexual orientation possible. The Prime Minister was clear that while we must respect one another's cultures and traditions, we must do so in a manner consistent with our common value of equality, a value that is clearly stated in the Commonwealth Charter. The Foreign Secretary and other FCO Ministers discussed LGBT rights with a range of Foreign Ministers during the week of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

During the same week, we announced a £5.6 million programme working with civil society groups to support countries wishing to work towards legislative reform, and published an International Best Practice Guide to Equality on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity which highlights promising steps taken by countries in all regions of the world to protect and support LGBT people, including positive policy and

practice that often set the groundwork for decriminalisation and amending legislation.

**Sex and Relationship Education**

**27 Apr 2018 | 136446**

**Asked by: Derek Thomas**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department has plans to introduce LGBT teaching for primary school age children.

**Answering member: Nick Gibb | Department for Education**

The Government's ambition is to ensure all pupils have the knowledge they need to stay safe and prepare them for life in modern Britain.

The Department has recently consulted a wide range of expert stakeholders to support the introduction of compulsory Relationships Education in primary schools, including a call for evidence to seek public views on what should be included in these subjects. The findings from this process are helping the Department to reach evidence-based decisions on subject content.

From this, the Government will develop the regulations and accompanying statutory guidance for these subjects and both will be subject to public consultation followed by a debate on the regulations in Parliament. The Department expects both subjects to be inclusive and to meet the needs of all young people, in an age-appropriate way.

**Immigrants: Detainees**

**24 Apr 2018 | HL7014**

**Asked by: Lord Scriven**

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 16 April (HL6835), whether they will consider implementing a maximum length of time for which vulnerable people, including LGBT asylum seekers, can be detained for immigration purposes.

**Answering member: Baroness Williams of Trafford | Home Office**

The Government currently has no plans to introduce a maximum time limit on immigration detention, either generally or for particular groups, such as those who identify as LGBT.

A time limit would only encourage individuals, including foreign national offenders who present a risk to the public, to frustrate immigration and asylum procedures until they reach a point at which they would have to be released. This would impact significantly on the Government's ability to enforce immigration controls and maintain public safety.

**Cayman Islands: Politics and Government**

**20 Apr 2018 | 134955**

**Asked by: Chris Bryant**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the Cayman

Islands' ban on (a) civil unions, (b) civil partnerships and (c) same-sex marriage with the (i) Cayman Islands Constitution and (ii) UK's international treaty obligations.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are pleased that the British Antarctic Territory, the British Indian Ocean Territory, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, the Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension, Tristan da Cunha, and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands have all taken steps to recognise and enable same-sex marriage. The Domestic Partnership Act passed in Bermuda in February 2018, removed the right to marry but replaced it with a provision for domestic partnerships with the same benefits as married couples.

The Foreign Secretary has raised with the Premier of Bermuda his hope that the Domestic Partnership Act will be a stepping stone to putting same sex marriage on a statutory footing in the future.

The European Court of Human Rights has not, so far, interpreted the Convention to include a right to marry for same sex couples and has stopped short of finding a positive obligation generally to introduce protection equivalent to marriage. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Montserrat and the Cayman Islands do not yet have in place legislation that provides for the recognition of same sex relationships whether by civil unions, civil partnerships or marriage. The new Governor of the Cayman Islands has publicly supported the introduction of civil unions and has urged the Premier and Leader of the Opposition to consider legislative change. There is a provision in the Cayman Islands' Constitution that provides that any person may apply to the Grand Court to determine compatibility with the Bill of Rights.

The European Convention on Human Rights applies to all the Overseas Territories. Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon raised the need to ensure that human rights obligations are upheld, in his meeting with the Premier of the Cayman Islands in October 2017, and with the Governments of all the Caribbean Overseas Territories at the Joint Ministerial Council in November 2017. He will continue to raise the issue of LGBT equality with Territory Governments.

**[Chechnya: Homophobia](#)**

**03 Apr 2018 | 134226**

**Asked by: Nick Herbert**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the progress Russia has made in its inquiry into homophobic persecution in Chechnya.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK remains deeply concerned by the ongoing persecution of members of the LGBT community in Chechnya. We and our partners will continue to urge Russia to follow through with their commitment to investigate these abuses and hold those responsible to account. We also call on Russia to uphold its international commitments and protect all its citizens from persecution.

**[Balkans: LGBT People](#)**

**29 Mar 2018 | 133738**

**Asked by: Nick Herbert**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will include LGBT rights on the agenda of the forthcoming Western Balkans summit in London.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Government is working closely with our European partners and with civil society on a Summit agenda for London that will help foster regional security, economic and political cooperation. The Summit Team have met LGBT activists from the region (organised by Stonewall) as part of our engagement with civil society on the Summit.

**[Indonesia: Politics and Government](#)**

**19 Mar 2018 | 132679**

**Asked by: Emily Thornberry**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent representations he has made to his counterpart in Indonesia on the potential criminalisation of LGBT acts and extramarital relations by that country's Parliament.

**Answering member: Boris Johnson | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

We are concerned about a number of proposed amendments to the Indonesian penal code, including on potential criminalisation of homosexual and extramarital relations.

The Minister for the Commonwealth and the UN, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, raised our concerns around the revision of the penal code with the Indonesian Ambassador on 22 January. The UK Ambassador to Indonesia also raised our concerns with Minister Laoly, Minister for Law and Human Rights, on 31 January; with individual parliamentarians involved in the drafting on 13 February; and with President Joko Widodo's Chief of Staff on 12 March.

**[LGBT Awareness](#)**

**19 Mar 2018 | 638 cc12-13**

**Asked by: Ged Killen**

What steps his Department is taking to ensure that all schools teach awareness of LGBT issues in an age-appropriate manner.

**Answered by: Nick Gibb | Department: Education**

Schools can currently teach about LGBT issues and must comply with the Equality Act 2010. We have established a £3 million programme on homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying. We are also engaging with stakeholders to develop age-appropriate and inclusive relationships education, and relationships and sex education. The response to the call for evidence will be published shortly.

**Asked by: Ged Killen**

I thank the Minister for that answer. Following media reports of a school in London censoring textbooks that make reference to homosexuality, it is clear that more work is still needed. Will he agree to look at the recommendations of the Time for Inclusive Education campaign in Scotland to ensure that all young people receive an education that is fully LGBT-inclusive?

**Answered by: Nick Gibb | Department for Education**

Yes, I would be very happy to look at that report. We are consulting on the content of relationships and sex education, and we will be publishing new guidance and regulations on that. We will consult on that. We have also introduced regulations to require schools to teach fundamental British values.

**[Bermuda: LGBT People](#)**

**16 Mar 2018 | 131572**

**Asked by: Alex Sobel**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to promote education on LGBT+ rights in Bermuda.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The UK is committed to promoting and protecting the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people and is working closely with all the Overseas Territories on these issues. The Foreign Secretary spoke to the Premier of Bermuda on 28 February 2018 and reiterated his belief that the strongest, safest and most prosperous societies are those that are the most open and inclusive, and where the rights of all citizens are respected.

**[Developing Countries: HIV Infection](#)**

**12 Mar 2018 | 131095**

**Asked by: Stephen Doughty**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what proportion of her Department's bilateral aid spending on HIV and AIDS is specified for work with (a) women and girls, (b) the LGBT+ community, (c) men who have sex with men and (d) intravenous drug users.

**Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development**

The UK's global HIV response prioritises those left behind by the huge progress made in recent years, including these four groups. For example, we are proud to be a founding supporter of the Robert Carr Civil Society Networks Fund, which supports the grassroots response led by those groups themselves. DFID reports bilateral aid expenditure annually against specific sector codes, including HIV and AIDS, to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. These are publically available on the Statistics for International Development website: GPEX tables. Granular data on proportion of spend targeting specific groups affected by HIV and AIDS are not compiled.

**[LGBT People](#)**

**28 Feb 2018 | 636 cc807-9**

**Asked by: Peter Heaton-Jones**

What steps she is taking to support LGBT people in developing countries.

**Answered by: Penny Mordaunt | International Development**

The UK Government directly challenge other Governments that criminalise homosexuality. We support LGBT people through tackling exclusion and violence against them and through increasing their access to services. LGBT inclusion is one of the eight priority areas in DFID's new UK Aid Connect programme.

**Asked by: Peter Heaton-Jones**

I am grateful to the Secretary of State for that answer. Does she agree, given that the Government have led on LGBT rights in the UK, that our international aid programme now has a significant part to play in taking leadership on this issue on the international stage?

I absolutely agree with my hon. Friend. People having the freedom to be who they are and to reach their full potential is vital if nations are to reach their full potential.

**Asked by: Dr Paul Williams**

Thirty-six of the 53 Commonwealth countries continue to criminalise homosexuality. What conversations has the Secretary of State had with her Cabinet colleagues about using the UK's role as host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting to champion LGBT rights?

**Answered by: Penny Mordaunt | International Development**

We will take that opportunity, and others, to raise all those issues in the sessions with civil society and in the bilateral conversations that will take place throughout that week and in the run-up to it. We have set a standard, and we can encourage people to follow. Through DFID's work, and through the incentives that we can provide, we can also provide other reasons for countries to do the right thing.

**Asked By: Michael Fabricant**

My right hon. Friend is right to identify those countries that criminalise people who are gay, but what about those countries that tolerate prejudice against gay people? What can we do in those cases?

**Answered by: Penny Mordaunt | International Development**

There are several things that we can do to address those issues, one of which is to strengthen the voice of those organisations that highlight abuse and discrimination. The UK Aid Connect programme will do that. It will provide funding to civil society groups to help us to understand what is happening in particular locations and what is needed to address the issues.

**Asked by: David Linden**

During the February recess, I spent some time in Uganda, which has an appalling record on the treatment of LGBT people. What is the Secretary of State's Department doing to address that issue in Uganda?

**Answered by: Penny Mordaunt | International Development**

The Minister for Africa, my hon. Friend the Member for West Worcestershire (Harriett Baldwin) is looking at these issues. We have particular requirements in funding agreements when working in particular locations, and where we see abuses taking place, we will not hesitate to raise them with the Government in question.

**Asked by: Dan Carden**

Today is the final day of UK LGBT history month. One of our nation's lasting legacies has been the exporting of anti-gay laws around the world, and 36 of the 53 Commonwealth countries still criminalise homosexuality. The upcoming Commonwealth summit in April, hosted by the UK, is a golden opportunity for us to champion LGBT rights.

However, reports in the Canadian press last week suggest that the Heads of Government communiqué is unlikely to mention LGBT rights.

Will the Secretary of State consider what extra development assistance and funding she can now provide to LGBT activists and civil society across the Commonwealth, to ensure that we do not give up on change in the Commonwealth?

**Answered by: Penny Mordaunt | International Development**

Do not be disheartened: we will still raise the issue. It is a strand of work that is going on. In addition to the UK Aid Connect programme that I have just outlined, I relaunched the DFID LGBT network at the start of the history week. Strengthening the support that our staff have to raise these issues—including staff who are LGBT themselves and who are required to work in-country—is vital to furthering this agenda.

**Mr Speaker**

I should advise the House that parliamentarians from, if memory serves, at least 28 Commonwealth countries are present in Westminster today, and possibly tomorrow, for a conference. That would be a heaven-sent opportunity for Members to seek to lobby those colleagues.

**[Bermuda: Marriage](#)**

**23 Feb 2018 | 127775**

**Asked by: Catherine West**

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions he has had with his Bermudian counterpart on same-sex marriage legislation.

**Answering member: Sir Alan Duncan | Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

The Domestic Partnership Act will withdraw the entitlement for same sex couples to marry and replace it with a provision for domestic partnerships for all couples, regardless of gender. Same sex couples entering into a 'domestic partnership' will be entitled to the same

benefits as married couples. Those who have been legally married in Bermuda since the Supreme Court decision in May 2017, will retain their married status and have the same legal rights as those in domestic partnerships. The Supreme Court ruling permitted same sex couples in Bermuda to marry, but it did not address the entitlement of same sex couples to the same benefits as opposite sex married couples. The Act now put those rights on a clear statutory footing. Less than a year ago, same sex couples had no legal recognition at all under Bermudian law.

The Minister for the Commonwealth and the UN raised the issue of human rights including LGBT rights and the need to ensure that our collective human rights obligations are upheld, in his meeting with the Bermuda Premier in October 2017, and at the Overseas Territories Joint Ministerial Council in November 2017.

Officials have engaged on a regular basis with the Government of Bermuda, and with all of the Overseas Territories to encourage and promote LGBT equality.

### **Mathematics: Curriculum**

**20 Feb 2018 | 127154**

#### **Asked by: Sir Mark Hendrick**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will discuss with Stonewall its proposals for an inclusive maths curriculum.

#### **Answering member: Nick Gibb | Department for Education**

We want to provide all young people with a curriculum that ensures they are prepared for adult life in modern Britain. The national curriculum, which focuses on the key knowledge that schools should teach, should enable children to acquire a secure understanding of the key concepts and provide them with the understanding they need to participate fully in society. It is left to teachers' professional judgement to decide how to teach the national curriculum to meet the needs of their pupils.

The UK has a proud record of promoting equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and we remain committed to this.

### **Pupils: Bullying**

**15 Feb 2018 | 126714**

#### **Asked by: Paul Blomfield**

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent steps her Department has taken to tackle the bullying of LGBTQ children in schools.

#### **Answering member: Victoria Atkins | Women and Equalities**

The Government has sent a clear message to schools that bullying, for whatever reason, is unacceptable. It can have a devastating effect on individuals, blight their education and have serious consequences for their mental health.

All schools are legally required to have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying among pupils. They have the freedom to

develop their own anti-bullying strategies appropriate to their environment but are held to account via Ofsted. In September 2016, we announced a £3 million programme from 2016-2019 to prevent and address homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in a sustainable way. This programme focuses on primary and secondary schools in England that currently have no or few effective measures in place.

Six grantees have been funded as part of the programme to deliver interventions in at least 200 schools each. The grantees are Barnardo's, LGBT Consortium, Metro Charity, National Children's Bureau, Proud Trust and Stonewall.

**Oral questions: LGBT Awareness, Pupils: Bullying**  
**27 Dec 2017 | HL4144**

**Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government what actions they are taking to assist society in tackling homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools.

**Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | Department for Education**

Homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying is unacceptable and the government is committed to tackling it.

Individuals who are, or are perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, are disproportionately affected by bullying. Bullying can have a devastating effect on individuals, blighting their education and damaging their mental health.

In September 2016, we announced a £3 million programme from 2016-2019 to prevent and address homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in a sustainable way. This programme focuses on primary and secondary schools in England, which currently have no or few effective measures in place.

We have published new cyberbullying guidance, attached, and an online safety toolkit for schools is available at: <http://www.childnet.com/resources/school-pack-for-online-safety-awareness>. Funded by government and developed by the UK Safer Internet Centre, these resources will help provide advice to schools on understanding, preventing and responding to cyberbullying.

**Sex and Relationship Education**  
**27 Dec 2017 | HL4143**

**Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to ensure that the the placing of sex and relationship education on a statutory footing will be LGBT inclusive, as stated by the Prime Minister at the PinkNews awards in October; and what content they envisage will be included within the school curriculum.

**Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | Department for Education**

Schools are bound by the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), to ensure that education is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are LGBT. We are also clear that as part of schools' duty to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, all young people should be provided with a curriculum that prepares them for success in adult life.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires the government to make regulations to provide for primary schools to teach relationships education and for secondary schools to teach relationships and sex education (RSE). The Act also provides a power to make personal, social, health and economic (PHSE) education mandatory in all state-funded schools.

We have begun an engagement process with a wide range of expert stakeholders, including those representing the interests of LGBT groups, to help reach evidence-based decisions on the content of the regulations and guidance, as well as further consideration of the status of PSHE. Stakeholders include Stonewall, Terrence Higgins Trust, PSHE Association, Sex Education Forum, Barnardo's, NSPCC and representatives of faith education providers. This week, we launched a call for evidence to gather the views of teachers, parents, and young people.

Draft regulations and the guidance will be published for consultation in 2018. The regulations will then be laid alongside final draft guidance allowing for a full and considered debate in Parliament.

**[Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education](#)**

**27 Dec 2017 | HL4142**

**Asked by: Lord Hunt of Kings Heath**

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any LGBT interest groups are being consulted as part of the stakeholder engagement relating to the placing of (1) personal, social, health and economic education, and (2) sex and relationship education, on a statutory footing.

**Answering member: Lord Agnew of Oulton | Department for Education**

Schools are bound by the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), to ensure that education is accessible to all children and young people, including those who are LGBT. We are also clear that as part of schools' duty to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, all young people should be provided with a curriculum that prepares them for success in adult life.

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Draft regulations and the guidance will be published for consultation in 2018. The regulations will then be laid alongside final draft guidance allowing for a full and considered debate in Parliament.

### **Pupils: Bullying**

**06 Nov 2017 | 901617**

#### **Asked by: Catherine West**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment she has made of trends in the level of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in schools.

#### **Answering member: Nick Gibb | Department for Education**

In July we published our omnibus survey of pupils and their parents. 17% of pupils said they had seen someone being bullied, at least monthly, because "they are, or someone says they are, gay, lesbian or bisexual". 5% said the same "because they are, or someone says, they are transgender".

We are not able to assess trends as this was the first time these questions were included. We plan to repeat this annually.

### **Church of England: LGBT People**

**10 Oct 2017 | 105619**

#### **Asked by: Ben Bradshaw**

To ask the right hon. Member for Meriden, representing the Church Commissioners, what steps the Church of England has taken as a result of the Anglican Primates' statement of January 2016 on homophobic prejudice and violence and the rejection of criminal sanctions against same-sex attracted people.

#### **Answering member: Dame Caroline Spelman | Church Commissioners**

At their meeting in Canterbury in October 2017 the Anglican Primates reaffirmed their commitment to the statement made in 2016, specifically the Communion's sorrow for previous failures to support LGBTI people and its condemnation of homophobic prejudice and violence. The full statement can be read here:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/311326/communiqu%C3%A9-primates-meeting-2017.pdf>

The Primates also welcomed news that the Church of England has embarked on a major study of the cultural, scientific, scriptural and theological aspects of human sexuality.

In 2014 the Church started working closely with a variety of external organisations to develop a resource for its schools called 'Valuing all God's Children', to combat homophobic bullying. The Education Division of the Church of England is currently updating this resource to include support for Trans and Bi students. The updated version of 'Valuing All God's Children' should be published later this year. At the July General Synod a motion was passed calling for a ban on the practice of Conversion Therapy aimed at altering sexual orientation.

## 6. Other Parliamentary material

### 6.1 Bills

[Marriage \(Same Sex Couples\) \(Northern Ireland\)](#)

28 Mar 2018 | 638 cc789-793

### 6.2 Debates

[Same-sex Marriage: Bermuda](#)

29 Jan 2018 | 635 cc646-654

[Global LGBT Rights](#)

26 Oct 2017 | 630 cc514-548

### 6.3 Urgent Questions

[Same-Sex Marriage in Bermuda](#)

08 Feb 2018 | 635 cc1648-1653

### 6.4 Statements

[Bermuda: Same-sex Marriage](#)

08 Feb 2018 | 788 cc2128-2131 [HL]

### 6.5 Early Day Motions

[Stonewall's LGBT in Britain: trans report](#)

EDM 857 (session 2017-19)

24 January 2018

Angela Crawley

That this House notes the publication of Stonewall's LGBT in Britain: Trans Report and its findings on continued discrimination, violence and exclusion currently experienced by trans people in the UK; recognises the disproportionate volume of hate crimes because of gender identity, with two in five trans people, 41 per cent, and three in 10 non-binary people, 31 per cent, having experienced a hate crime or incident in the last 12 months; understands the need for greater understanding in healthcare for trans people, with two in five trans people, 41 per cent, responding that healthcare staff lacked understanding of specific trans health needs when accessing general healthcare services in the last year; is aware of the challenges in employment for trans people, with one in eight trans employees, 12 per cent, having been physically attacked by colleagues or customers in the last year; and calls on wider society, including policy makers, organisations, communities and individuals to

come together as allies to trans people to address the huge inequalities they face.

### [Marriage equality in Australia](#)

**EDM 540 (session 2017-19)**

**14 November 2018**

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle**

That this House welcomes the result of the Australian marriage equality survey which had a resounding result for the yes campaign with 61.6 per cent in favour; notes that the turnout for the survey was 79.5 per cent, higher than that of the 2017 general election or EU referendum turnout; further notes that this means an overwhelming majority of the Australian people now want their Government to make marriage equality legal in their country; calls on the UK Government to work with other nations around the world to end all forms of discrimination against LGBT+ people; and congratulates Australian marriage equality campaigners for their many hard years of work.

### [Reporting of Ukraine by the BBC](#)

**EDM 462 (session 2017-19)**

**30 October 2017**

**John Cryer**

That this House is deeply concerned by the reporting by the BBC of the Kiev-based organisation C14, a far right organisation with neo-Nazi origins; considers the reporting of C14 activities fails to uphold BBC editorial values; is further concerned that the BBC has afforded a degree of legitimacy to C14, allowing it to disguise itself as a nationalist organisation engaged in reasonable activities designed to defend Ukrainian sovereignty; believes that the BBC has failed to apply due rigour in failing to report on the known history of violence by C14, including attacks on the LGBT community, violence against ethnic minorities, journalists and trade unionists and an attack on a police officer using a grenade during Kiev Pride; expresses deep concern at reporting of C14 activities as educational conversation and petty hooliganism; and calls on the BBC to uphold the values and standards expected by licence fee payers in the reporting on Ukraine.

### [Transgender rights](#)

**EDM 355 (session 2017-19)**

**10 October 2017**

**Stephen Doughty**

That this House agrees that the recommendations of the Women and Equalities Committee report on transgender equality needs to be implemented in full; believes that gender identity includes those who do not identify as either male or female, identify as both, a third gender or are fluid in their identity; notes that long waiting times for gender identity treatment can do harm to patients who should not have to wait longer than the targets for specialist referral; recognises that verbal, physical and sexual assaults towards those with a non-cis gender identity is the highest of all minority hate-crime, with over half of transgender women reporting they have been sexually or physically assaulted; calls on the Government to update the protected

characteristic in the Equalities Act 2010 from gender reassignment to gender identity with a statutory code that includes non-binary identities; recommends that specialist GPs should be trained so that they can provide bridging hormones while patients wait to see specialist centres; and further recommends bringing LGBT hate crimes into line with hate crimes based on race and faith by making them aggravated offences.

## 7. Further reading

### 7.1 UK Government initiatives

#### England

[Schools around the country to stamp out LGBT bullying](#), HM Government, 8 September 2017

The UK Government has published [bullying guidance](#) for schools, which applies to England.

The [National LGBT survey](#) ran between July and October 2017: currently the Government is analysing the feedback.

#### Scotland

[Respect for All: The National Approach to Anti-Bullying for Scotland's Children and Young People](#), Scottish Government, 2017

#### Wales

[Respecting others: Homophobic bullying](#) (Guidance document), Welsh Government, September 2011

[Respecting others: Sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying](#) (Guidance document), Welsh Government, September 2011

#### Northern Ireland

[Pastoral Care in Schools: Promoting Positive Behaviour](#), NI Department of Education, 2001. This contains anti-bullying guidance for schools.

### 7.2 Organisations

[International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association](#) (Webpage)

[Stonewall](#) (Webpage)

[Amnesty International LGBTI rights](#) (Webpage)

[Human Rights Watch LGBT rights](#) (Webpage)

[All Party Parliamentary Group on Global LGBT Rights](#) (Webpage)

### 7.3 Publications

[ILGA Annual report 2017](#), International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), May 2018

[International Best Practice Guide to Equality on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#), OutRight Action International, April 2018

[State Sponsored Homophobia 2017: A world survey of sexual orientation laws: criminalisation, protection and recognition](#)

International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA), May 2017

[Acceptance without exception worldwide: campaigning for equality for lesbian, gay, bi and trans people across the world](#), Stonewall, June 2016

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