

Debate Pack

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Backbench business: Pride Month

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1 Background

1.1 The origins of Pride Month

Pride Month is celebrated in June each year by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities around the world. The month of June was chosen to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of June 1969, which broke out after police raided the Stonewall Inn - a gay bar in Lower Manhattan, New York City. This prompted a series of spontaneous demonstrations by members of the LGBT community that are widely considered to have triggered the modern LGBT rights movement. The following year, to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, the first gay pride marches were held in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco.

In the UK, the first official Gay Pride Rally took place in London in 1972. Around 2,000 people attended the event.¹ The last London Pride that took place in 2019 attracted an estimated 1.5 million attendees, making it the largest yet.² Pride events take place each year all over the UK.

In June 1999, US President Bill Clinton declared June “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month”.³ President Barack Obama later extended its title to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month.⁴

1.2 Statistics on the LGBT population

Sexual orientation in the UK

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) [publishes annual statistics on sexual orientation in people aged 16 and over](#). These are drawn from the Annual Population Survey (APS), a representative survey of UK households.

The ONS focuses its analysis on people who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB). In total, an estimated **1.4 million people aged 16+ identified as LGB in 2019, or 2.7% of the 16+ year old population**. This is an increase from 2.2% in 2018.⁵

An estimated 0.8 million people aged 16+ identified as gay or lesbian (1.6% of 16+ year olds), while 0.6 million (1.1%) identified as bisexual, 0.4 million (0.7%) identified with an ‘other’ sexual orientation besides

¹ Stonewall, [Key dates for lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality](#) [Accessed: 23 June 2021]

² [This year’s Pride biggest yet, claim march organisers](#), The Guardian, 7 July 2019

³ [Proclamation No. 7203](#), 11 June 1999

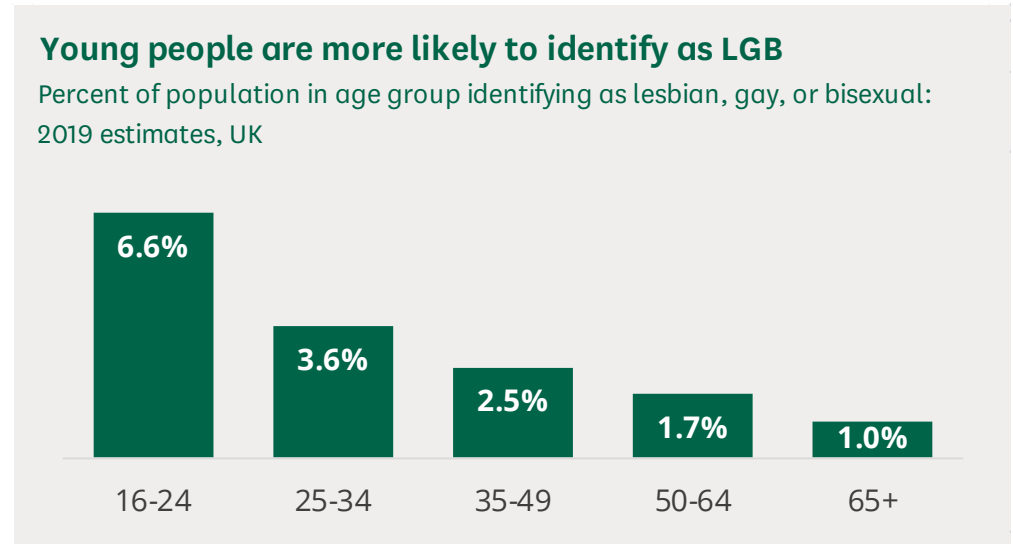
⁴ [Proclamation No. 8387](#), 1 June 2009

⁵ ONS, [Sexual orientation: UK, 2019](#). 27 May 2021

straight/heterosexual,⁶ and 1.6 million (3.0%) said they didn't know or didn't answer. Around 93.7% identified as heterosexual or straight.

Men were more likely than women to identify as LGB. Around 2.9% of men were in the LGB category in 2019, compared with 2.5% of women.

As the chart below shows, younger people were more likely to identify as LGB.



Source: ONS, [Sexual orientation, UK: 2019 dataset](#), Table 3

The ONS also looks at how the proportion of people identifying as LGB varies across the UK. London has the highest proportion of 16+ year olds identifying as LGB, at 3.8%. London is also the only region where the difference in the proportion of people identifying as LGB is statistically significant, compared to the other English regions and UK nations. The ONS suggests that this is likely to be because London has a younger population than the rest of the UK.

The data also suggests that the proportion in Northern Ireland (1.3%) is lower than the other nations and regions, but the sample size involved is small so this is subject to some uncertainty.

The transgender population

There aren't currently any reliable statistics on gender identity or transgender status for the UK population. The 2021 Census, carried out in the spring of 2021, was the first to collect data on sexual orientation and gender identity. Results are expected to be published in 2022.

⁶ The ONS states that "no assumptions can be made about the sexual orientation or gender identity of those responding 'other'", because the APS doesn't give people the option to specify further. Some people identifying as 'other' may identify with a different sexual orientation, while others may not have understood the terminology.

The Government Equalities Office has previously said that there could be between 200,000 and 500,000 transgender people in the UK – but they have stressed that this is a tentative estimate, made in the absence of robust data.⁷

1.3 The LGBT Action Plan

In July 2018 the Government, under Theresa May, published the [LGBT Action Plan](#).⁸ The plan represented the Government's response to the findings of the [National LGBT Survey](#), which ran from July to October 2017 and asked LGBT people about their experiences of being LGBT in the UK.⁹ The survey received over 108,000 responses covering issues including safety, health and education.

In a [written statement to the House](#) on 3 July 2018, the then Minister for Women and Equalities, Penny Mordaunt, explained the Government's aim to deliver the plan before the end of the Parliament:

The LGBT Action Plan contains more than 70 actions that the Government will take in order to address the survey findings. These include the appointment of a National LGBT Health Advisor within the NHS to tackle the health inequalities that LGBT people face, the extension of the existing anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying programme and a commitment to end the practice of conversion therapy in the UK. This plan will be supported by the provision of £4.5 million from within existing Government Equalities Office budgets in 2018-19 and 2019-20. I want this plan to be delivered by the end of this Parliament and funding beyond 2019-20 will be agreed through the Spending Review process.¹⁰

There has been some uncertainty as to whether the LGBT Action Plan is still government policy. The current Minister for Women and Equalities, Liz Truss, was asked about this on 25 May 2021, in [oral evidence](#) to the Women and Equalities Committee:

Alex Davies-Jones: ... do this Government intend to honour the commitments made in the LGBT action plan in 2018?

Elizabeth Truss: We have set out our plan for LGBT advancement of rights. I talked earlier about the LGBT international conference, and that will be the first one that the United Kingdom has ever held. It will be on

⁷ Government Equalities Office, [Trans people in the UK](#), 2018

⁸ LGBT Action Plan: Improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, Cm 9651, July 2018

⁹ National LGBT survey, Gov.uk [accessed 30 June 2021]

¹⁰ LGBT Equality Government Publication, Statement made on 3 July 2018, [UJN HCWS822](#)

the theme of “safe to be me” and will show our global leadership on the issue. We also announced in the Queen’s Speech that we will legislate to ban conversion therapy in this country. We are also working with business to make sure there is good support for LGBT people in business, particularly small business. Those are the priorities as I have set them out. I will be appointing an LGBT panel in due course to support those priorities.

Alex Davies-Jones: The LGBT action plan, as you will know, commits that the GEO provides yearly updates to this Committee on its implementation. This Committee has not had an update since July 2018. Why is that?

Elizabeth Truss: It is probably because there is a new Government in place under the leadership of Boris Johnson.

Alex Davies-Jones: So we should scrap the previous LGBT action plan.

Elizabeth Truss: What I am saying is that that was set out by the previous Administration. I have laid out what our priorities are. The Prime Minister made clear in the Queen’s Speech that we are moving forward on banning conversion therapy and the LGBT conference. Those are our priorities.¹¹

On 14 June 2021 the Minister for Equalities, Kemi Badenoch, reiterated this position [in response to a PQ](#) asking which of the Plan’s recommendations her department intended to implement:

The 2018 LGBT Action Plan was introduced by the previous administration. We have set out our plan for LGBT advancement for this Government and our priorities are banning Conversion Therapy and hosting the Global LGBT Conference. The objective was, and continues to be, to defend, extend and promote the rights and freedoms of LGBT people here and abroad.

We have achieved a great deal for LGBT people since 2018, including appointing the UK’s first National LGBT Health Adviser, more than doubling the number of places available on the PrEP Impact Trial, running a world-leading anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying programme in schools and working with the Home Office to update the Hate Crime Action Plan.¹²

More recently, [during an evidence session](#) of the Women and Equalities Committee on 16 June 2021, a member of the Committee (Elliot Colburn) said the Committee had been unclear as to whether the Government Equalities Office “still views [the LGBT Action Plan] as Government policy”. In response,

¹¹ Oral evidence: The role of the GEO: embedding equalities across Government, HC 133, Q63-65

¹² [UIN 13171](#), tabled on 9 June 2021

Jo Churchill, Parliamentary Under Secretary, Department of Health and Social Care, said:

I would argue that it is. It showed us where we needed to improve. I would also say that, like any action plan, you need to constantly ask yourself the difficult questions like, “Are we doing well enough? Are we delivering well enough?”¹³

¹³ [Oral evidence: Reform of the Gender Recognition Act](#), HC 129, Q284

2 Press articles

2.1 Press releases

[Prime Minister appoints new Special Envoy on LGBT rights: 16 May 2021](#)

Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, 16 May 2021

[UK to host its first global LGBT conference](#)

Government Equalities Office, 16 May 2021

[UK human rights organisations speak out for trans equality amidst growing threats to trans rights](#)

Amnesty International, 17 May 2020

[UK: Conversion therapy ban must include harmful religious practices](#)

Amnesty International, 13 May 2021

[Stonewall statement on the Diversity Champions programme](#)

Stonewall, 24 May 2021

[Stonewall statement on conversion therapy consultation](#)

Stonewall, 11 May 2021

2.2 Articles and blogs

[How Can We Make Room for Disabled People at Pride?, EachOther, 24 June 2021](#)

[The cynical attack on Stonewall is a reminder of the need to stand up for trans rights](#)

Guardian, 17 June 2021

[Stonewall is at centre of a toxic debate on trans rights and gender identity](#)

Guardian, 5 June 2021

[LGBT groups including Mermaids and Stonewall appeal against decision to make LGB Alliance a charity in transgender row](#)

Sky News, 2 June 2021

[Are LGBTQ+ people under siege in the UK?](#)

Gay Times, 1 June 2021

[How Stonewall sacrificed gay rights](#)

UnHerd, 25 May 2021

[Liz Truss suggests government's LGBT+ action plan has been scrapped](#)

Pink News, 25 May 2021

[Stonewall should stay out of trans rights war](#)

Times, comment, 22 May 2021

[Stonewall UK media director steps back amid 'tsunami of transphobia'](#)

OpenDemocracy, 21 May 2021

[Can we trust Boris on 'conversion therapy'?](#)

Christian Concern, 15 April 2021

[Letter of response from the Prime Minister regarding our calls to end conversion therapy](#)

Evangelical Society, 12 April 2021

[Conversion therapy ban 'would criminalise Christian parents stopping children seeking transgender treatment'](#)

Daily Telegraph, 10 April 2021

[The challenges around conversion therapy](#)

Evangelical Alliance

16 March 2021

[Proposals to end conversion therapy risk criminalising everyday church activities](#)

Evangelical Alliance

15 March 2021

[Parties' LGBT wings join forces in condemnation of Government's 'unsympathetic' stance on conversion therapy](#)

Inews, 15 March 2021

['Gay 'conversion' therapy is fraudulent and abusive - it's time to ban it for good'](#)

Attitude, 16 July 2020

[Why banning anti-LGBT 'conversion therapy' isn't enough](#)

Open Democracy, 15 May 2020

Matson Lawrence and Yvette Taylor, [The UK Government LGBT Action Plan: Discourses of progress, enduring stasis, and LGBTQI+ lives 'getting better'](#)
Critical Social Policy, 03 October 2019

[15 rights LGBT people in the UK still don't have](#)

Pink News, 13 June 2019

[Fifty years after Stonewall riots: Pride, protest and a hunger for equality](#)

Amnesty International, 25 May 2019

3 Parliamentary material

3.1 Debates

[LGBT Conversion Therapy](#) : HC Deb 8 March 2021 cc cc24-48WH

[LGBT Community and Acceptance Teaching](#) : HC Deb 4 September 2019 cc102-125WH

[Self-identification of Gender](#) : HC Deb 21 November 2018 cc323-343WH

[LGBT Action Plan: Gender Recognition](#) : HL Deb 12 July 2018 cc1012-1026

3.2 Parliamentary questions

[Government Departments: LGBT People](#)

Asked by: Lord Black of Brentwood

To ask Her Majesty's Government which government departments are participating in Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme; how much they are spending on the Programme; whether any government departments are making payments to Stonewall for other initiatives; and if so, how much is each department spending.

Answered by: Lord True | **Department:** Cabinet Office

The information requested is not held centrally. The Government supports inclusive workplaces and, as has been the case for many years, departments work with a variety of external schemes.

23 June 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL710

[Abuse and Discrimination: LGBT People](#)

Asked by: Clark, Feryal

To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to tackle abuse and discrimination experienced by LGBTIQ+ people in the last three years.

Answered by : Victoria Atkins | **Department:** Home Office

All forms of abuse and hatred are unacceptable.

The UK has a robust legislative framework to respond to hate crimes, which target race, religion, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity. The Government published the hate crime action plan (Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime) in 2016 and refreshed this Plan in October 2018.

The Government has commissioned a Law Commission review of the adequacy of current hate crime legislation. The review will report this year and we will respond to it when it is complete.

Also, the Home Office has funded multiple projects aimed at tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime including:

- Kick It Out, who produced resources to raise awareness of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse in football stadia;
- Barnardo's, who worked with schools in East Ridings of Yorkshire to promote understanding of LGBT lives and prevent homophobic, biphobic and transphobic hate crime;
- Galop, who produced and distributed a series of factsheets and research to understand tackle online homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse; and
- The Proud Trust who worked with the British Transport Police and rail companies to make public transport safer for LGBT people and encourage the reporting of hate crime.

Government action to tackle broader discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people includes:

- A commitment to holding an international conference on LGBT rights; the "Safe To Be Me" conference will be held in 2022.
- Announced a further £3.2 million of UK-funded projects in September 2020 to help Commonwealth Governments and civil society groups reform outdated laws and end the legacy of discrimination and violence.
- The DfE announced £750k of funding in June 2020, including a project for victims of hate-related bullying.

- We will bring forward legislation to ban conversion therapy as soon as parliamentary time allows and we will make new funds available to ensure that victims have better access to the support they need.

The Government will continue to work with the police, stakeholders including Galop and Stonewall and others to understand the concerns of LGBTQ+ communities and what should be done to address those concerns.

18 June 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 13241

[LGBT People](#)

Asked by: Russell-Moyle, Lloyd

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to the National LGBT Action Plan 2018, which of the recommendations she has instructed her Department to implement.

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch | **Department:** Women and Equalities

The 2018 LGBT Action Plan was introduced by the previous administration. We have set out our plan for LGBT advancement for this Government and our priorities are banning Conversion Therapy and hosting the Global LGBT Conference. The objective was, and continues to be, to defend, extend and promote the rights and freedoms of LGBT people here and abroad.

We have achieved a great deal for LGBT people since 2018, including appointing the UK's first National LGBT Health Adviser, more than doubling the number of places available on the PrEP Impact Trial, running a world-leading anti-homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying programme in schools and working with the Home Office to update the Hate Crime Action Plan.

14 June 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 10296

[Topical Questions](#)

Asked by: Crispin Blunt (Reigate) (Con) [V]

Yesterday my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State said to the Select Committee that she ended the role of her LGBT advisory panel because there were basic disagreements over the rights of trans people to self-ID. Argentina, our co-chair of the Equal Rights Coalition, whose conference we host next June, has legally accommodated self-ID for trans people since 2012 without a problem, and now more members of the coalition are following Argentina's example without a problem. How is she going to find a new panel that both has authority and agrees with her in the continuing refusal to

accept the right of trans people to self-ID? Can she explain how Britain can host a conference entitled “Safe To Be Me” without supporting the right to be “me”?

Answered by: The Minister for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch) | **Department:** Women and Equalities

The former LGBT advisory panel’s tenure ended on 31 March 2021. I am grateful to its members for the important insights that they have provided on important policy areas such as ending conversion therapy and the impact of covid on LGBT people. The Prime Minister has appointed Lord Herbert as special envoy for LGBT rights. That role will have an international and domestic focus, and I am confident that we will be able to work with our international partners on this issue. We believe that the current provisions in the Gender Recognition Act 2004 Act allow for those who wish legally to change their genders to do so, so that it is safe to be them and they have the right to be themselves. We have therefore decided, as we have said before to my hon. Friend, that the Act will not be changed.

26 May 2021 | Topical questions - 1st Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 696 cc363-4

[Gender Recognition: Schools](#)

Asked by: Antoniazzi, Tonia

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to her Department's LGBT Action Plan: Annual progress report 2018 to 2019, published in July 2019, when the Equality and Human Rights Commission plans to issue guidance for schools on supporting trans pupils.

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch | **Department:** Women and Equalities

Our schools and teachers are committed to supporting all pupils to thrive and reach their potential in a safe and respectful environment.

The Department for Education is also rolling out new inclusive statutory Relationships Education in all primary schools and Relationships and Sex Education in all secondary schools, so that children leave school prepared for life in modern, diverse, Britain.

As the Equality and Human Rights Commission is a non-departmental public body, it is for them to comment on any guidance they plan to publish. We are not able to provide further information on this.

27 April 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 183247

[Gender Recognition: Equality](#)

Asked by: Begum, Apsana

To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what meetings she has had to discuss trans rights with organisations that have specific services supporting trans people.

Answered by: Kemi Badenoch | **Department:** Women and Equalities

We want transgender people to be free to live and to prosper in modern Britain. Myself and the Equality Hub Ministerial team on equality issues engage with a range of organisations and stakeholders who support LGBT people and have specific services supporting trans people, including most recently Stonewall, UK Black Pride and the National LGBT Health Adviser, Dr Michael Brady.

Officials in the Government Equalities Office also engage broadly with interested parties, feeding the insights gathered into policy advice. They regularly meet with LGBT organisations, for example most recently Galop and the LGBT Foundation, as well as devolved administrations and the National LGBT Health Advisor to discuss trans rights, amongst other issues.

18 March 2021 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 166578

3.3

Early Day Motions

[LGBTQ+ conversion therapy in the UK](#)

That this House recognises the need to make LGBTQ+ *conversion therapy* illegal in the United Kingdom ... on Her Majesty's Government to make running *conversion therapy* in the UK a criminal offence; further ... calls on Her Majesty's Government to make forcing people to attend *conversion therapy* a criminal offence

04 June 2020 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 565 (session 2019-21)

Primary sponsor: Moran, Layla

[Gay and transgender conversion therapies](#)

That this House condemns the continued practice of gay and transgender *conversion therapies* ... to introduce a ban on *conversion therapies* in order to protect the UK's LGBT+ Community.

18 May 2020 | Early day motions | Open | House of Commons | 491 (session 2019-21)

Primary sponsor: Jardine, Christine

3.4 Bills

[Conversion Therapy \(Prohibition\) Bill](#)

21 June 2021 | Bills | House of Commons | Bill 57 2021-22

Member: Hobhouse, Wera

3.5 Ministerial Statements

[Safe To Be Me: A Global Equality Conference on LGBT Rights](#)

17 May 2021 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS32

[Gender Recognition Act Consultation](#)

25 September 2020 | Ministerial statements | House of Lords | 805 cc2000-4

[Government Equalities Office Update](#)

22 September 2020 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS462

[LGBT Equality Government Publication](#)

03 July 2018 | Written statements | House of Commons | HCWS822

3.6 Committee material

[Reform of the Gender Recognition Act](#)

Women and Equalities Inquiry

Opened 28 October 2020

4

Organisations and further reading

[LGBT](#), blog, Government Equalities Office

[Gender Identity: an overview of our work on gender identity](#) Office for National Statistics,

[A short history of LGBT rights in the UK](#), British Library

[Annual Review of The Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, And Intersex People In United Kingdom Covering The Period Of January To December 2020: United Kingdom](#), ILGA-Europe, 2021

[2020 'Conversion Therapy' & Gender Identity Survey](#), Stonewall

Daniel King, et al, [Gender Recognition Act Analysis of consultation responses](#), Government Equalities Office, CP 294, September 2020

[It's Torture Not Therapy: a global overview of conversion therapy: practices, perpetrators, and the role of states](#), Thematic Report, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, 23 April 2020

[2018 National Faith & Sexuality Survey](#), The Ozanne Foundation, 20 February 2019

[LGBT Action Plan: Annual progress report 2018 to 2019](#), CP115, Government Equalities Office, July 2019

Michael Brady, [LGBT Action Plan and LGBT Health Team, NHS England and NHS Improvement](#), 2019

[LGBT Action Plan 2018: Improving the lives of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people](#), Government Equalities Office, 3 July 2018

[National LGBT Survey: Research report](#), Government Equalities Office, 3 July 2018

[Reform of the Gender Recognition Act – Government Consultation](#), Presented to Parliament by the Minister for Women and Equalities, July 2018

Jonathan Copper, et al, [Brexit: the LGBT Impact Assessment](#), Gay Star News

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