



# LGBT Humanist

News from the LGBT Section of the British Humanist Association

Issue 39

August 2016



## London Pride 2016

LGBT Humanists took to the streets with thousands of LGBT people to celebrate Pride in London.

Crowds packed the streets as LGBT Humanists joined the parade, marching down from Portland Place to Trafalgar Square.

A much needed chance to come together as a community this year, we hope you enjoy Pride wherever you find it in the UK or abroad!



---

# Orlando Shooting & Jo Cox

---

In June, we had intended to hold a debate on the EU referendum. However, in the days leading up to this, two terrible events occurred: the murder of 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida and the murder of the Labour Member of Parliament for Batley and Spen, Jo Cox. With that in mind, we cancelled the EU debate and instead held a Solidarity Gathering to allow LGBT Humanists to discuss, reflect and comfort each other.

We were joined by Crispin Blunt MP, Chair of the Foreign Affairs select committee. He paid tribute to Jo's work, telling us of his own experience of her as a new MP, who was passionately devoted to her work and her constituents.

Chris Ward led tributes to the victims of the Orlando massacre. He wanted to highlight that each was an individual with their own lives, so proceeded to read out each of their 49 names.

---

## PrEP School

---

LGBT Humanists invited the speakers, Greg Owen ([@GregOwen](#)) and Dr Will Nutland ([@DrWillN](#)), to give us the full facts on PrEP.

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) dramatically reduces the risk of HIV infection. However, currently, PrEP is not available on the NHS and people are forced to purchase generic PrEP online.

As NHS England continues to drag its heels, the fight for PrEP in the UK continues on!

You can watch the event [here](#) on our Youtube channel.



For more information about PrEP, check out:

Prepster

[I Want PrEP Now](#)

[prepster.info](#)

[iwantprepnw.co.uk](#)

[@teamprepster](#)

[@iwantPrEPnow](#)

---

## AGM

---

Just before the PrEP School event, we held our 2016 Annual General Meeting, where we looked back on what the LGBT Humanists have done in the past year and elected our new committee for 2016. We thanked outgoing committee members, Adam Knowles (Secretary), Mike Kitto (Finance Officer), and Steve Emmett for their dedication over the years. Richard Unwin was re-elected as Chair and Chris Ward was elected to the role of Secretary. Josh Gladwin and Adrian Houghton were elected as general committee members.

# Election Hustings

This May, there were elections held across the UK. In order to give people a chance to grill those vying to be their elected representatives, LGBT Humanists held an election hustings for the London elections. Hosted by our own Chris Ward, we welcomed five candidates from across the political spectrum hoping to be elected to the London Assembly.

The candidates faced questions from the audience on a wide range of topics, including religious motivated hate crime and LGBT youth provisions.



## Iran's Sex Change Solution



Ali Hamedani (left) with our Chair, Richard Unwin

Homosexuality is illegal in Iran and is punishable with the death penalty. Iran forces many lesbian and gay Iranians to undergo sex reassignment surgery as a 'cure' for their homosexuality.

Subject to such persecution and prejudice in Iran, many gay and lesbian Iranians flee to Turkey. However, Turkey is far from a welcoming society towards LGBT people. Ali Hamedani's documentary, which we screened in April, follows the lives of Iranians exiled in Turkey for fear of being forced to undergo the sex reassignment surgery.

## The Adventures of a Happy Homosexual

During LGBT History month, we welcomed veteran gay rights campaigner Terry Sanderson to talk about his life and experiences from his memoirs.

Interviewed by our former chair and GALHA stalwart Derek Lennard, Terry talked about his life growing up in South Yorkshire and his work as a gay rights activist, counsellor and 'agony aunt' columnist. Now more than ever it is important to be aware of our past struggles for LGBT rights.



Terry Sanderson (left) with Derek Lennard (right)

---

# Editorial

---

Let's be frank—it's been a terrible few months.

The ideals of freedom, democracy, and equality that we as both LGBT people and Humanists hold so dear seem to be constantly under attack more than ever.

Like many of you, I seem to be spending more and more time stood shaken and numb in vigils, mourning one horrible tragedy after another. But it is in these gatherings that I see hope. Rather than being terrified and divided, we are being united.

Never has it been more important to stand up and nail your colours to the mast as an LGBT

person and a humanist. Whether the threat comes from extremists like ISIS and Donald Trump or from more insidious threats like the 'lovely' Pope or Brexit, we must come together to defend the values of the enlightened liberalism and rational thought.

It's not going to be easy by any stretch of the imagination, but we cannot let those who oppose us win without a fight.

Josh Gladwin—Editor

## Events

### **FILM SCREENING: ORIENTED**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**7:30 PM—Conway Hall (Bar Opens 7:00pm)**

*Oriented* is a feature documentary that follows the lives of three gay Palestinian friends confronting their national and sexual identity in Tel Aviv.

### **TRANS\*FIGURATIONS 3**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**7:30 PM—Conway Hall (Bar Opens 7:00pm)**

The third in our series of annual Trans\* focussed events - we invite members of the diverse trans\* community to express themselves in a variety of ways. Previous guests have included: academic Natacha Kennedy, poet AJ McKenna, performer Mzz Kimberly, and musician CN Lester. (This year's line-up TBA...)

### **PETER TATCHELL -**

### **LGBT/MUSLIM SOLIDARITY - FIGHT ALL HATE!**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**7:30 PM—Conway Hall (Bar Opens 7:00pm)**

The veteran campaigner and human rights activist speaks about the need for a shared unity between all oppressed groups.

Do you have any ideas for events you'd like us to hold?

Are there any speakers that you'd like to see at one of our events?

Then get in touch and we'll see what we can do!  
[chair@galha.org](mailto:chair@galha.org)

## **SOCIALS**

In July we held a very successful social event in the King's Head in Soho, London. It was great to see so many people there, both new and old. Following on from this, we're planning on holding a lot more social gatherings! Keep an eye out on Meetup and Facebook for details!

Click here or  
search for LGBT  
Humanists online



Contact: [editor@galha.org](mailto:editor@galha.org)