

Encouraging, empowering & enabling diversity in teaching

OUTteachers is the NUT's new self organised group for LGBT members, first and foremost to enable them to be more involved with the union.

It is a vehicle for member engagement in a safe, non judgmental environment, but also aims to help them go back into their own associations and become active locally. This group is run entirely by LGBT activists within the union and is open to all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members in the NUT.



ANNETTE PRYCE
LGBT EXECUTIVE MEMBER

We will be having meetings throughout the country, and we would hope that your associations would offer financial support to members who wanted to attend, and we will eventually be seeking affiliation from divisions and associations this year in order to enable self funding. **Please see the back page for our aims and objectives.**



These newsletters will be in addition to more lengthy articles on our blog : <http://outeachers.blogspot.co.uk/> or scan the qr code (left)

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DATES TO NOTE:

- 20th-21st June LGBT TC
- 25th-26th June TUC LGBT Conference
- 27th June London Pride

Our meetings are there to discuss union policies, to organise campaigns, share ideas, network and develop the group. Please come along if you can. Your association should help you with transport costs if it is too far away, if you provide them a short report.

OUTteachers Summer Meeting

London: Saturday 13th June

The Camden Centre, London

12- 3pm

Refreshments provided

Lunch and drinks in local pub afterwards. (not provided)

See our Blog for more details (above)

BOOK CLUB CORNER

Roz Morton: Sefton NUT

Creating inclusive spaces need not be an onerous task! One easy way to increase the inclusivity of your school is to consciously order in, (and visibly promote), books to the library/English Department. Annual events such as LGBT History Month (February) can then be supported with a ready-to-assemble display of books, reviews and recommendations.

For inspiration, follow us on Twitter @Outeachers_NUT and have a look at:

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/may/12/best-lgbt-books-children-teenagers-yas>

<http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/ya-lgbt>

And to get you started, here's a student review of *Adaptation* by Melinda Yo: First in a new series by Lo, this speculative fiction does not present LGBT identity as an 'issue' to overcome or for a character begin to accept themselves as a plot device, but rather *Adaptation* uses sexuality in the way it should be used. Reese is our main character, and she's dealing with some pretty awful stuff. But her sexuality? It's a side note. Shocking, compelling and engaging, *Adaptation* was nothing like I expected it to be. Focus: Bisexuality. Age: Teen upwards. Reviewer: Beth Stewart. Please also share your own (and your students') recommendations with us @Outeachers_NUT



BOOK CLUB CORNER

Debs Gwynn : Halton NUT

Equality in the Secondary School: Promoting Good Practice Across the Curriculum

Edited by Peter Cole

Equality in the Primary School: Promoting Good Practice Across the Curriculum

Edited by Dave Hill, Leena Helavaara Robertson



Although these books were written when New Labour were in Government, they are probably even more relevant today as the Coalition Government tries to restrict our curriculum. Both books offer practical tips and advice for classroom teachers who want to ensure their lessons include and celebrate diversity. All equality strands are covered, not just LGBT, and both books are designed to be "dipped into", rather than read cover to cover. They are quite expensive, but it would be worth asking your school to buy them from the CPD budget, as they could be used to support equalities training.

Juno Roche - LGBT Safe Spaces & Trans Fact 1

Privilege?

It shocks me that the idea of a safe school space for LGBT pupils, who are already experiencing an awful time at school because of homophobic or transphobic bullying, is being shouted down from many areas of our community almost with righteous glee; opinions from the very grownups who should know better about the difficulties some of our young people face daily.

At present the idea of an LGBT educational space is only being researched by LGBT NW and has been driven by existing issues that are reported i.e. bullying figures and non-attendance and also the Harvey Milk School model in NY.

But it is only at the stage of looking at options and need.

We are constantly looking to improve our schools, to make them safe, inclusive spaces, look at the work of Schools Out, Educate and Celebrate and Gendered Intelligence to name a few, but still there are vast parts of the country and many schools for whom homophobia and transphobia are foreign words.

There are still many teachers who cannot come out in our schools and many young LGBT pupils detesting and fearing their school experience. Look at the self-harm and suicide-attempt rates for young LGBT people and take some time to look at the truly saddening figures for young trans people.

But apparently rather than provide a safe space for pupils who have already fallen out of the system because of bullying, the informed would rather not 'segregate' and rather redouble efforts to make every space inclusive and enlightened.

A truly worthy intent and one that smacks of privilege. See until inclusion sweeps over the country and becomes embedded in policy, structures, curriculums and mind sets I for one would like the ones who may be suffering to continue with their education in a safe space.

As an educator I only want pupils to get an education, a broad and balanced education where they laugh, smile, fret and achieve. If some, a tiny percentage need to do this in a safe space then surely this isn't segregation it is merely a different model.

It strikes me that if having a single LGBT school is so wrong then why have any segregated LGBT spaces, why have clubs, books, streets, areas, holiday destinations, surely these were created to give safe space where we as LGBT adults can express ourselves without fear of harm. Maybe up here on our lofty privileged perch we are blinded by our mantras; inclusion, diversity, safety are all just words until they become the very things that underpin structures.

Trans Facts: NUMBER ONE

People do not change their gender they merely realign some societal signifiers so that you can see their true essence, their true identity.

So headlines like: "Miss is now Sir" or "she used to be a man ", are deeply misleading and offensive.

If I had ever felt even vaguely male then it would have been far easier to remain that way. No I only ever felt female, and no this isn't the space to debate gender as social or biological, 'that' feminist debate can also become offensive.

It has a place for sure, but not as a means to deny trans folk their right to a lived authenticity. So please do not ask a trans person, 'So when did you first feel like a man/woman?' because chances are they always did; just like you!



LGBT TEACHERS CONFERENCE

SAT & SUN 20th- 21st June 2015

Sign up by downloading an application form at:
<http://www.teachers.org.uk/conferences/LGBT-teachers> or email equality@nut.org.uk

At our founding meeting on 5th July 2014, 13 activists from London, Eastern, North West, South West, and Yorkshire-Midlands regions took time out from their weekend to put together a set of aims and objectives.

MAIN AIMS:

- Empower, encourage, enable, advise and nurture NUT LGBT members in order that they can become more involved in the union.
- Reach more NUT LGBT members.
- Increase activity in under represented demographic areas in the union, to include geographical as well as BME/Disabled and to be inclusive of the whole LGBT umbrella (e.g. Bisexual and Trans members)

MAIN OBJECTIVES *(to achieve these aims)*

- Promote good practice within the union.
- Ensure we link with the National Union.
- Provide the national union a steer on training needs (via the official structures).
- Provide a training speaker/leader for division training events.
- Be a pressure group within the union.
- Be a campaigning group within the union.
- Link with other support networks.
- Link with equality officers.
- Engage in equality campaigns.
- Provide a network for members to reach out to.
- Provide a bulletin for divisions (and members) .
- Increase our online presence, and get linked from the NUT Web site.

LGBT TEACHERS CONFERENCE REPORT

2014 saw the 21st year of the NUT LGBT Teachers conference. We saw a tribute to the past present and future of union activity, a video with clips from past conferences, a panel of activists including Sue Sanders and Steve Boyce who talked about how difficult it was to get the working party set up initially and the history of LGBT activism in the union.

There was a range of workshops, from trans issues, to bisexuality and other educational workshops on stereotyping and LGBT history month, and we finished with a roundtable session on how to organise LGBT members. The conference unanimously passed a motion on a manifesto for LGBT education which will go to the Easter conference. The advisory committee have reviewed the evaluation in preparation for this year's conference in June. (see page 3)

“A really useful and interesting event, a good opportunity to network with like-minded people and not feel so alone about experiences within school.”

“A great place to make new friends, to learn what the NUT has helped to achieve for LGBT people and become more involved”