

National Ambulance
LGBT Network



Supporting Lesbian, Gay,
Bisexual, Trans staff,
patients and communities

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Celebrating IDAHOBIT Day



IDAHOBIT Day is celebrated
on 17 May each year. Why
is this important?

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Introduction



International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)

is celebrated on **17 May** each year.

It aims to co-ordinate international events that **raise awareness of LGBT rights violations** and improve the lives of LGBT people around the world.

In 2016, commemorations took place in **132 countries** across the globe.



Look out for future 15 Minute Reads. The next one, due to be released on

15 June 2019, will look at why staff networks are important.



Why 17 May?



The founders of the International Day Against **Homophobia**, as it was originally known, established the IDAHO Committee and a decision was made to centre activities around a single day. The **17 May** was chosen as it commemorates the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1990.

The first IDAHO Day was held in 2005 and organised by LGBT supporting organisations from around the world. This included the

UK based International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA).

In 2009, **transphobia** was added to the name of the campaign, and activities that year focused on this. A new petition was launched in cooperation with LGBT organizations in 2009, and it was supported by more than 300 non-governmental organisations from 75 countries.

Biphobia was added to the name of the campaign in 2015 to recognise the increased inequalities linked to bisexual people.



Definitions



homophobia

[ˌhɒməˈfəʊbiə, ˌhəʊməˈfəʊbiə]

Noun

Dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people.



biphobia

[bɪˈfəʊbiə]

Noun

Dislike of or prejudice against bisexual people.



transphobia

[ˈtranzˈfəʊbiə, ˈtransˈfəʊbiə]

Noun

Dislike of or prejudice against transsexual or transgender people.





‘Dislike of or prejudice...’

Around the world there are many ways that ‘dislike and prejudice’ are expressed. This ranges from challenging attitudes to physical violence and even killings. In some parts of the world violence is legitimated by religious perspectives and laws.

In a number of countries prison sentences, and even the death penalty, exist to punish people convicted of same sex sexual acts.

They are being punished for being gay, bisexual or transgender.

In the United Kingdom LGBT people now enjoy the same legal rights as everyone else and ‘hate crime’ is illegal. This is not the same in many other countries and many LGBT suffer as a result.



Tough Laws and Death



Two young men were publicly hanged in Iran in 2005 after being accused of raping another boy.

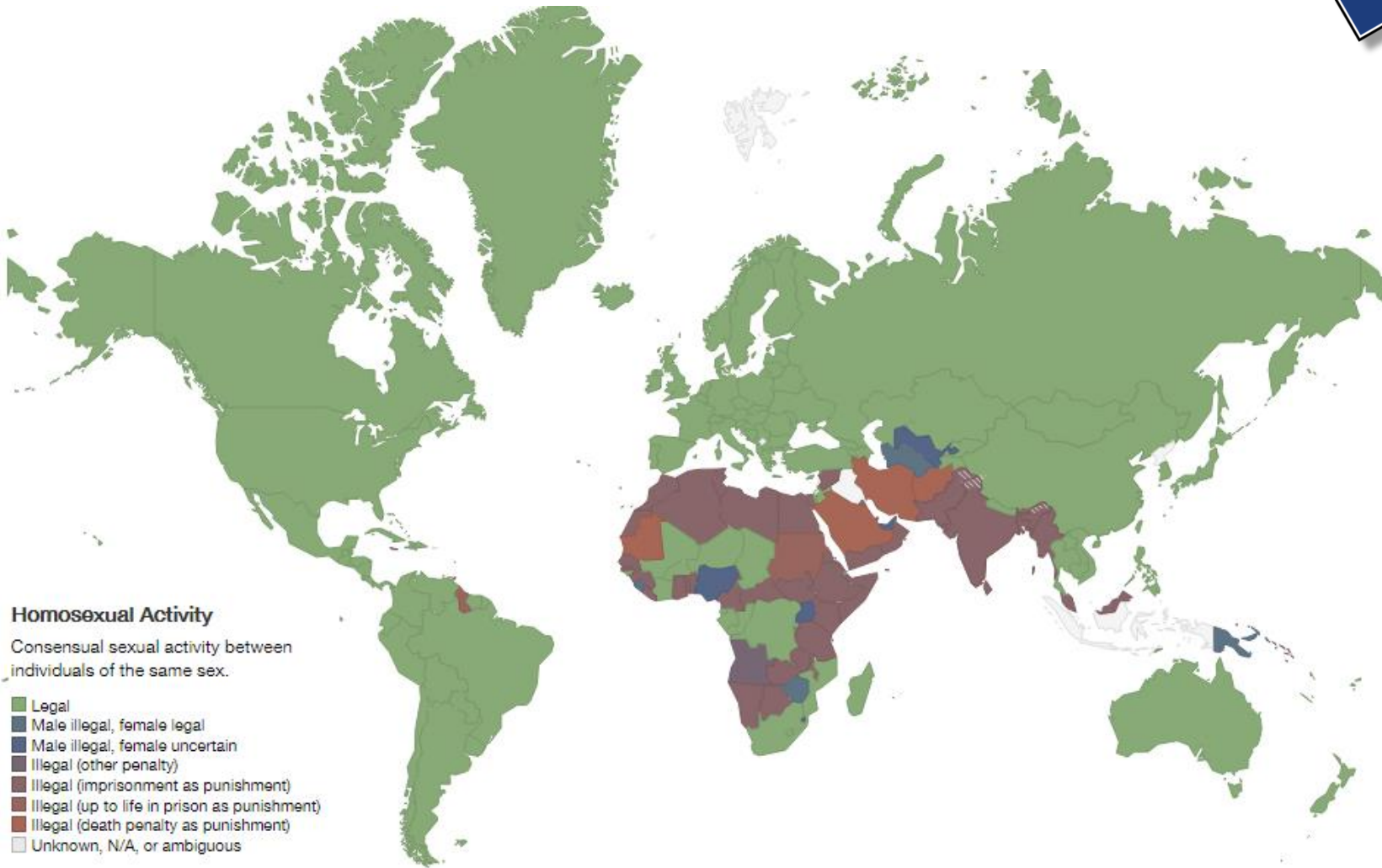


Mahmoud Asgari (16) and Ayaz Marhoni (18) claimed the sexual acts were consensual but, under the tough Sharia laws, both were executed anyway. The act attracted condemnation from many countries and highlighted the fact dozens of people in the country were meeting a similar fate.

It is feared many gay people in Chechnya have been tortured and killed over the last two years. Similarly in ISIS held regions it is claimed 57 gay men have been put to death by throwing them off tall buildings under claims that tough Islamic laws are being applied.



Legal Status of Homosexual Acts



The Sultan of Brunei



Earlier April 2019 the Sultan of Brunei (right) caused outrage by introducing legislation ordering the death by stoning of men convicted of homosexual acts and those committing adultery. His reforms were claimed to be a tightening of Sharia laws but many countries claimed the reforms had gone too far and introduced boycotts and sanctions on Brunei held businesses.



In light of the moves against him, the Sultan reconsidered his actions and put a moratorium in place on the

application of the death penalty whilst further consideration is given. His claim that the no executions have been carried out since 1957 brought little consolation to many people who saw the new legislation as a retrograde step and violation of the human rights of gay people.

It remains to be seen what the outcome of this will be, but it does demonstrate that international condemnation and co-ordinated action can have an impact and change things for the better.



It Starts With Us!



In 2018 the National Ambulance LGBT Network conducted a survey of the experiences of LGBT staff. Of the 443 people who responded the number of people that reported experiencing 'negative behaviours' was startling.

46%

of staff taking part in the survey said they had experienced 'negative behaviours' because of their sexual orientation / trans history



38%

of staff taking part in the survey said they had witnessed 'negative behaviours' directed at other members of the Ambulance Service



Making a Difference



Every single person in the Ambulance Service can make a difference and help to get rid of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic attitudes. Remember that every time we walk past and ignore negative behaviours, we are effectively giving permission for it to happen.

Here are some things you can do:

- Challenge negative behaviours whenever you encounter them. You don't have to be nasty to remind people their comments and actions are unacceptable and

have no place in our service. That applies to colleagues and members of the public.

- Show your support to LGBT colleagues and be open to discussions on people's lives and events. Break the ice by talking about IDAHOBIT Day on 17 May.
- Wear the rainbow and trans star of life pin badges to let people know you are supportive person and believe in making our services truly LGBT friendly.

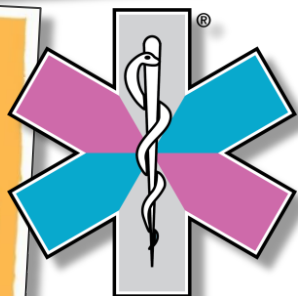


National Ambulance LGBT Network



The National Ambulance LGBT Network is working hard to make our services safe and accessible for all LGBT people and safe places for LGBT staff to work.

The rainbow star of life badges are being worn by thousands of ambulance staff across the United Kingdom who want to show they understand and support LGBT patients and colleagues.



In 2018 the trans star of life was launched to recognise the complex needs and additional health inequalities faced by transgender people. Both badges are available from your service's LGBT Network.



Introducing...



#InformedCare

Every single member of the Ambulance Service can make a difference by being informed and knowing how to respond to the needs of individual groups of people.

Use the hashtag to share your learning and experiences that have made a difference.

It's all about providing great care!



Understanding Health Inequalities



- | The lives of many lesbian and gay people in history are **invisible.**
- | Just over fifty years ago homosexual acts were **illegal.**
- | The lives of trans people in the past have been **misunderstood.**
- | Today bisexual people face increased levels of **discrimination.**
- | Young LGBT people are still more at risk of **suicide and harm.**
- | Older LGBT people experience higher levels of **social isolation.**

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Positive Action for Change



- | **Visible:** Increasing visibility of LGBT issues.
- | **Positive:** Positive role models and stories.
- | **Connect:** Reminders that LGBT people are part of our services.
- | **Celebrate:** Celebrating key events on the LGBT calendar.
- | **Openness:** Being open about mental health issues for LGBT people.
- | **Opportunity:** Promote inclusivity whenever we can.

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**Make a
difference this
IDAHOBIT Day.**

**#InformedCare
is great care.**

