

# National Ambulance LGBT Network



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

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# International Women's Day

# #EachForEqual

Ella Rotherham-Brown  
8 March 2020



# Introduction



International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March, and focusses on unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action.

This years theme is Each for Equal, with everyone taking responsibility to challenge prejudice and bias, and to celebrate women's achievements.

The day isn't specific to a particular country, group or organisation but belongs to all people and all groups collectively. As Gloria Steinem said *'the story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organisation but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.'*

International Women's Day began in 1908 with civil debate and unrest resulted in 15,000 women marching through New York City, demanding better working hours, pay and voting rights.

Whilst there has certainly been a significant shift in women's rights since 1908, women are still not paid equally to their male counterparts, and they are not present in equal numbers in politics and business. Globally, women's education, health and violence towards them is worse than that of men.

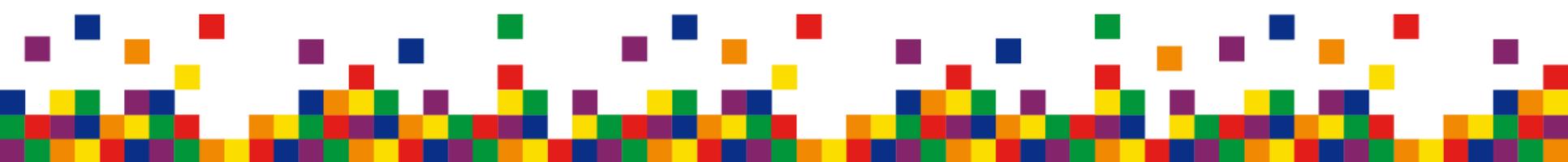
International Women's Day is an opportunity to recognise and appreciate the women around us, and to work to ensure women and girls grow up in a world of equality and opportunity.



International  
Women's Day

This pack looks specifically at women within the LGBT community, the discrimination women face, as well as exploring their incredible achievements.

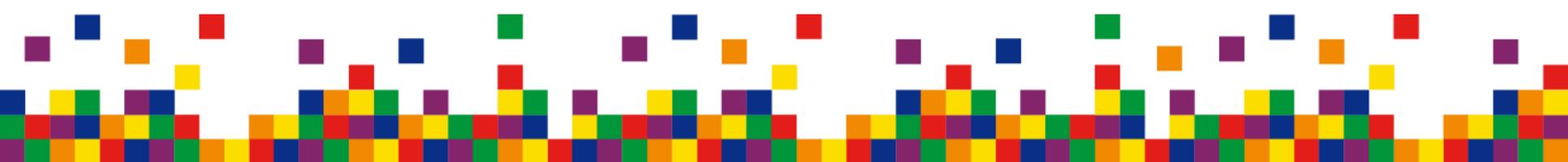
**Ella Rotherham-Brown**





## Gender inequality permeates every aspect of a woman's lives, and every section of society:

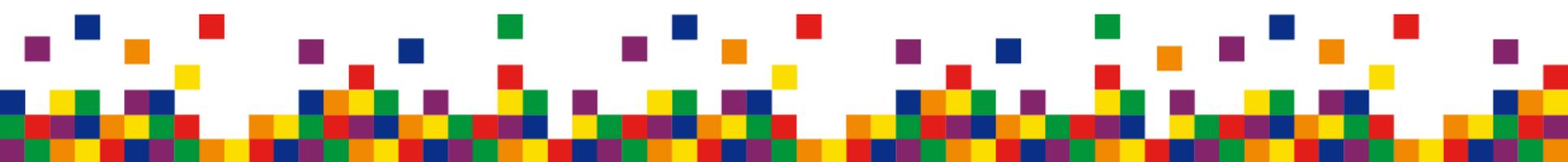
- 60% of chronically hungry people are women and girls.
- More than 65% of the world's illiterate people are women.
- 33,000 women become child brides every day.
- Women lead only 14 of 195 countries.
- Women are paid 23% less globally.
- Worldwide, 35% of women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence.





**When considering women's inequality, we must also consider the discrimination faced by LGBT+ women in the workplace and in society, coined by Stonewall UK as the *'double-glazed glass ceiling'*.**

- 40% of lesbians don't feel comfortable holding a partner's hand in public.
- 59% of trans women say they avoid expressing their gender identity for fear of a negative reaction.
- 30% of trans-women have accessed mental health services in the last 12 months.
- 21% of lesbians have experienced a hate incident in the last year.
- 14% of bi women have experienced a hate incident in the last year.
- 16% of lesbians have experienced discrimination from a shop or store.



# Who Am I?



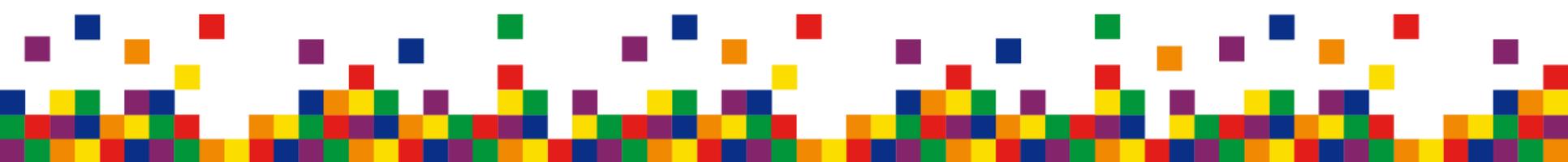
Before introducing some incredibly inspirational women, I thought I should introduce myself to help people understand why I've chosen these women to speak about.

I'm Ella Rotherham-Brown and I'm a Project Support Officer for the Yorkshire Ambulance Service. I love working for the NHS, as an accepting and supportive employer of the LGBT Community. I feel very proud to work for the Ambulance Service, who are working everyday to provide care to anyone, regardless of race, religion, sexuality, ability or anything else which may make someone feel different. The service isn't perfect, I've been told multiple times that I '*don't look like someone who would have a girlfriend*', but I am working hard for the LGBT Network to ensure people like me are heard, and represented in the Ambulance Service.

It is so important to show people that the NHS and the Ambulance Service doesn't **just** accept people

like me, but **appreciates** them too. When my girlfriend and I experienced a hate crime for holding hands on the street – I was able to speak to people at work who accept me and supported me through this experience. I know that the NHS and the Ambulance Service will employ, treat and support people like me.

The women I am going to introduce have paved the way for women like me, who are leaders in their field and to live their lives unapologetically. On this International Women's Day, and every other day of the year, **we can know these women, be these women and raise these women.**



# Inspirational LGBT Women



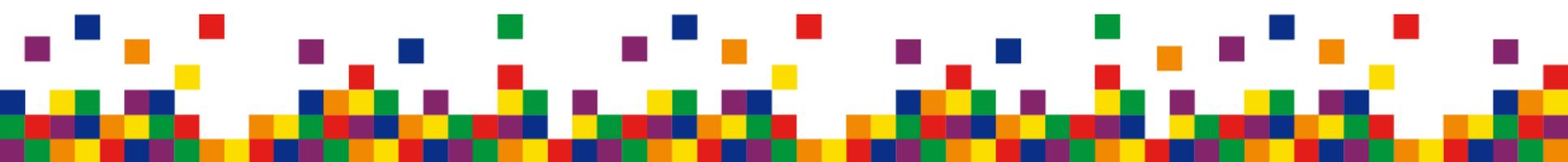
## Carly Telford

Born and raised in Jesmond, Carly Telford has played for Leeds, Notts County, Perth Glory and Chelsea, she made her England debut in 2007. She represented England in the World Cup in 2019. Telford openly identifies as a gay woman, and is in a public relationship with England International cricketer Georgia Elwiss.



## Cynthia Nixon

Actress turned politician, Cynthia Nixon initially became famous for her role in *Sex in the City*. Nixon began dating her wife in 2004, having had two children from a previous relationship, one of which is transgender. Nixon does not think coming out has changed her, saying 'I'm just a woman in love with another woman'. Nixon stood for New York Governor in 2018, becoming one of the first openly LGBT Jewish female politicians.



# Inspirational LGBT Women



## Tove Jansson

Born in Finland in 1914, Jansson was a highly successful author of the Moomin book series. Jansson's characters are often depictions of people in her life, helping to voice her sexuality which at the time was illegal in Finland. Whilst Jansson never officially came out, she identified as a lesbian with the coded expression of 'crossing to the spook side'. Whilst Jansson died in 2001, her relatable Moomin characters remain highly successful across the world, appealing to both adults and children.



## Laverne Cox

Laverne Cox was born in Alabama, USA and raised by her single mother. She became suicidal at age 11 after being bullied at school for years for 'not acting the way someone assigned male at birth was supposed to act'. She starred in the TV series *TRANSform Me*, winning GLAAD awards and making her the first African-American transgender person to produce and star in their own TV show. Cox has been nominated for a Primetime Emmy, has featured in music videos and was the first openly transgender woman to appear on the cover of *British Vogue*.



# Inspirational LGBT Women



## Melesha O'Garro (Lady Leshurr)

Born in Solihull, UK in 1989, Melesha O'Garro works under the name Lady Leshurr, with her music quickly went viral and won her the title of Best Rap UK Female in 2011 & 2012. Originally outed by an ex-girlfriend on social media, and advised by an ex-manager not to come out – O'Garro became the first pansexual female cover star for the Gay Times magazine. O'Garro speaks of the experience of coming out, which showed her 'who was meant to be around me, and who didn't deserve my time and energy'.



## Billie Jean King

Growing up in California, USA, King married at 20, and with the support of her husband went on to win a total of 12 Grand Slam singles titles. A trailblazer for gender equality, she won the 'Battle of the Sexes' match in 1973. Billie Jean King was outed in 1981 by her secretary whom she had an affair with. She concealed her sexuality from a young age, due to homophobic parents and the potential impact on women's tennis. She divorced her husband and began dating her doubles partner Illana Kloss in 1987, and lives with Kloss in New York today, remaining on good terms with her ex-husband.





If you would like to find out more information about International Women's Day, which takes place on 8 March every year, visit the website at:

[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

We are very grateful to the administrators at International Women's Day for giving us permission to use the official logo on our presentation and website.

Please don't forget to get involved on International Women's Day (8 March) by using [#EachForEqual](https://twitter.com/EachForEqual) and tagging [@NatAmbLGBTUK](https://twitter.com/NatAmbLGBTUK) and [@WomensDay](https://twitter.com/WomensDay) on Twitter.

Statistics for this presentation was accessed through Stonewall UK and the Government Equalities Office.



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