

Stonewall

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This resource is produced by Stonewall, a UK-based charity that stands for the freedom, equity and potential of all lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, questioning and ace (LGBTQ+) people.

At Stonewall, we imagine a world where LGBTQ+ people everywhere can live our lives to the full.

Founded in London in 1989, we now work in each nation of the UK and have established partnerships across the globe. Over the last three decades, we have created transformative change in the lives of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, helping win equal rights around marriage, having children and inclusive education.

Our campaigns drive positive change for our communities, and our sustained change and empowerment programmes ensure that LGBTQ+ people can thrive throughout our lives. We make sure that the world hears and learns from our communities, and our work is grounded in evidence and expertise.

To find out more about our work, visit us at www.stonewall.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1101255 (England and Wales) and SC039681 (Scotland)

Stonewall is proud to provide information, support and guidance on LGBTQ+ inclusion; working towards a world where we're all free to be. This does not constitute legal advice, and is not intended to be a substitute for legal counsel on any subject matter.

**'AS A HUMANIST
I BELIEVE IN
FREEDOM AND
EQUALITY FOR
EVERYONE,
REGARDLESS OF
THEIR SEXUALITY
OR GENDER
IDENTITY.'**

ANDREW COPSON

Andrew Copson is the Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association and President of the International Humanist and Ethical Union. Humanist organisations campaign for a world without prejudice and discrimination. That means recognising the dignity of all individuals and ensuring lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people enjoy the same equal rights as everyone else.



LGBT History Month takes place every February, organised by **SCHOOLS OUT UK**. It's a chance to celebrate the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people from our past and present. This year's theme is 'Religion, Belief and Philosophy'. At Stonewall we're proud to work with lots of inspirational LGBT people of faith in our work to challenge homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. Here are some of their stories.

You can find more resources and information at:
www.stonewall.org.uk/lgbthistorymonth
www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk



**'I'M
PROUD TO
BE BOTH
CHRISTIAN
AND LGBT.'**

DR KARL RUTLIDGE

Karl Rutlidge is a bisexual trans man who is also a Christian. He lives in Birmingham and is currently training to be a Minister in the Methodist Church, which means he writes essays and helps out in a local church. He also plays pool (badly) and drinks lots of coffee.



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Acceptance without exception

**'I'M
GAY. I'M
CHRISTIAN.
YOU CAN
BE BOTH.'**

KIERAN BOHAN

Kieran Bohan has worked with lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans young people in Liverpool for 10 years. He is a member of Changing Attitude, which supports the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Anglican Church. Kieran and his partner were the first same-sex couple to register a civil partnership in a place of worship in the UK.



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**'TO MY SIKH
LGBT FRIENDS
AND FAMILY,
YOU ARE NOT
ALONE. KEEP
BEING YOU.'**

MANJINDER SINGH SIDHU

Manjinder Singh Sidhu is an international human rights spiritual activist, author and speaker, who is passionate about equality and helping others. He produces video blogs to help other LGBT South Asians and offers life coaching to empower individuals to make change happen.



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**'HINDUISM
TEACHES US TO
FIND PEACE AND
TO TAKE CARE OF
ALL FORMS OF
LIFE. MY SOUL
IS NEITHER MAN
NOR WOMAN.'**

RESHMA JOHAR

Reshma was born in the UK and raised in a Indian household. She lived with her parents, grandparents and sister and had a large extended family. Growing up they celebrated Hindu festivals and Gujarati culture together such as Diwali, Holi, and Raksha Bandhan. She spent most of life living through separate boxes - religion, family and sexuality. She only became confident about her sexuality when she learnt more about her religion and because of her grandma's acceptance.



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**'I'M A
WOMAN, A
CATHOLIC, AN
INDIAN AND
A MEMBER
OF THE LGBT
COMMUNITY.'**

RUBY ALMEIDA

Ruby Almeida is a lecturer and a campaigner for LGBT equality. She was born in Rajasthan in India and moved to England when she was 11. She is the Chair of QUEST, a pastoral support group for LGBT Catholics. She asks people to take and accept her as a whole and not just for one aspect of her identity.



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**'IT'S PERFECTLY
OK TO BE TRANS
AND A PERSON OF
FAITH. DON'T LET
ANYONE TELL YOU
THE OPPOSITE.
YOU KNOW WHO
YOU ARE!'**

SURAT-SHAAN KNAN

Surat-Shaan Knan is a Jewish trans man. He spent most of his young years in the Mediterranean, and now lives in London. He is an international speaker, writer and campaigner. He feels he's never quite fitted neatly into 'those little gender boxes of female and male'. He's also an active member of the Liberal Jewish community, working for UK charity *Liberal Judaism*, and feels blessed to be part of a welcoming and inclusive faith community.



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