



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

LIBERATE



Cover Image Credit: Jackson Chambers Photography
Image Credit: Jackson Chambers Photography

OVERVIEW OF LIBERATE'S VISION & STRATEGY

Liberate exists to promote fairness and equality for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ+) community, their friends and families within the Bailiwick of Guernsey. We serve and support the LGBTQ+ community and those around them. Here at Liberate, we campaign for positive change in the laws and opinions within the Bailiwick to promote acceptance of everyone identifying as LGBTQ+, with the input and support of the LGBTQ+ community. We want to stand as positive role models and provide a voice for the Bailiwick's ever-growing LGBTQ+ community.

Our vision is to have a fair and equal society, where every LGBTQ+ person living in the Bailiwick is treated equally; with dignity and respect. Our goal is to create a place where the laws protect

the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals along with a society that welcomes and protects diversity. We wish to put in place support services for LGBTQ+ people growing up and growing old within the Bailiwick and to create an island community where everyone stands in equal footing with their neighbour, regardless of their ability, age, belief, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sex or sexual orientation.

Liberate is a registered charity established in Guernsey during 2014 to include, inform and support the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ+) communities across the Channel Islands.



LIBERATE'S MISSION IS TO:

- ♦ Educate and inform the public on a wide range of LGBTQ+ issues and support those who identify as LGBTQ+, their families and friends.
- ♦ Campaign to reform related laws and policies to ensure that LGBTQ+ people can enjoy the same freedoms and protection as everyone else in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.
- ♦ Question social attitudes and behaviours which discriminate against LGBTQ+ people.
- ♦ Offer advice and support to help tackle discrimination, in all its forms, against LGBTQ+ people.
- ♦ Positively promote awareness of the LGBTQ+ community and encourage support from all social, professional, governmental and political entities.
- ♦ Facilitate groups and events where LGBTQ+ people can meet in a safe and supportive environment.
- ♦ Create events to raise awareness of Liberate's work and to raise funds to support specific projects.





Image Credit: Jackson Chambers Photography

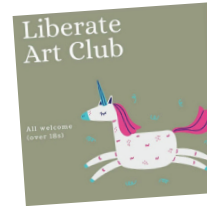
INCLUDE

An integral part of Liberate's mission is to ensure that all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ+) people feel included in our Island community, and that they have a 'place'.

- ♦ 7,000 people 'tuned in' to watch Channel Islands Pride live online in 2021 when some celebrations had to move online due to lockdown.
- ♦ Over 60 separate support group meetings took place. These offered 256 hours of support to 63 individual contacts.
- ♦ 123 Liberate group sessions happened with approximately 1125 individual attendances. These groups offer safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people (and allies) of all ages to meet. They include the Rainbow Chorus choir,
- ♦ Lit with Liberate book club, Trans Guernsey support group, Liberate art club, the Liberate Lions softball team and the LGBTQ+ youth network that we run in conjunction with the Youth Commission.
- ♦ 500+ people attended our Pride Family Fun Day that was part of Channel Island Pride. This ensured that Channel Islands Pride had continued to be one of the only Prides to go ahead in the world through COVID. The main CI Pride event is now the largest free independent community event that happens in Guernsey.
- ♦ We hosted 27 community and social events throughout the year with over 1,500 people attending.
- ♦ 31 training sessions around LGBTQ+ awareness and acceptance were delivered to organisations across the island with over 450 people attending.
- ♦ 105 lessons or assemblies were delivered across the Bailiwicks secondary schools.
- ♦ One Channel Islands LGBTQ+ Writing Competition was launched.



Image Credit: Keenan



Art Club was launched this year and it is an anti-social social group for people who might find the busier LGBTQ+ events and groups a little too much. And you don't need to be an artist to join!

The Liberate Rainbow Chorus had another successful year with performances including Channel Islands Pride 2021, Arts Seafront Sunday, GROW's Halloween event and even a wedding.



Although established during the first lockdown, 2021 was the first season the Liberate Lions played in the softball league. The spirit of all the team members is unbelievable and a new arm to the Liberate family has been created.

The LGBTQ+ Youth Network, in conjunction with the Youth Commission, aims to empower students to address issues in their schools as well as provide a way that they can access peer support and meet other LGBTQ+ young people. This has gone from strength to strength this year.



The Liberate LGBTQ+ Families group was launched this year. The aim for this group is to connect families together. This might be parents with LGBTQ+ children or LGBTQ+ people with children.

We attended and spoke at multiple community events promoting equality and inclusion, including the Chamber of Commerce, Young Business Group and Vale Earth Fair (Sneak Away Stage) these were attended by over 1,000 people. We also worked with the health department on various initiatives to make sure that the LGBTQ+ community do not miss out on vital health care and screenings

Liberate continues to be an integral part of Equality Guernsey. This well-established 'third sector' consortium came together to support of the introduction of discrimination legislation and to ensure that the 'equality agenda' stays a firm focus for the States of Guernsey over the coming years.

We organised four main events which saw over 1,250 people attend. These events were:

- ♦ Love is Love Soiree (Liberate's annual birthday event)
- ♦ Channel Island Pride Family Fun Day
- ♦ Hell-O-Queen
- ♦ New Years Eve Party

Other events which saw over 500 people attend, included:

- ♦ Our infamous Lip Sync Battles
- ♦ The Unicorn Races



Strong effective relationships with other organisations include:

- ♦ The Youth Commission of Guernsey & Alderney
- ♦ Safer
- ♦ MIND Guernsey
- ♦ Autism Guernsey
- ♦ Guernsey Disability Alliance
- ♦ SHARE Nurses
- ♦ Health Connections
- ♦ Bailiwick Social Prescribing
- ♦ The Town Church
- ♦ Guille Alles Library
- ♦ Department of Education
- ♦ Department of Health
- ♦ Guernsey Community Foundation
- ♦ Sports Commission
- ♦ Chamber of Commerce
- ♦ Along with many more

Our connections with the media include:

- ♦ BBC Radio Guernsey
- ♦ Guernsey Press
- ♦ Bailiwick Express
- ♦ ITV - including sitting on their diversity panel



I'm here for...
YET ANOTHER
TIME!
#NoMoreDelays

Protect Love
Protect Faith
Protect Parents

Amendment 2
Amendment 6
Delays

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LIBERATE

REFORM

At Liberate we believe that one day we will all be treated equally under the law; no matter what our ability, age, belief, ethnicity, gender identity, race, sex or sexual orientation.

- ♦ Same sex marriage has now been introduced in all the Channel Islands.
- ♦ New marriage laws have come in to place which mean that same sex couples now have much more choice in where they can get married.
- ♦ The States of Guernsey voted to include sexuality in the first phase of the new Anti Discrimination Legislation. This should be voted into law in 2022 with the law coming into force in 2023. Race, Disability, Belief and Carers Status will also be protected.
- ♦ The States of Guernsey agreed to up date the birth registration laws to enable same sex parents to be included on their child's birth certificates - this has been deferred until the last quarter of 2024 i.e. the end of this political term.
- ♦ The States of Guernsey have introduced new guidance with regards to people changing their names which will make it much easier (and cheaper) for trans and non binary people to change their legal name.
- ♦ Work is still progressing with regards to healthcare for transgender people in the Bailiwick and we hope to be able to announce these new measures during 2022.



Ellie Jones
Equality Guernsey (Liberate)

Sexuality, Sex and Gender Identity: LGBTIQ+ work is the difference!
Sexuality, Sex and Gender Identity: LGBTIQ+ work is the difference!

INFORM

We have pooled our collective knowledge and experience to help inform and assist people about the issues that affect the LGBTQ+ community. We always aim to do this in an informative, fun and accessible way.


- ♦ All States of Guernsey secondary schools, the College of Further Education, Ladies College, Elizabeth College and the home education group received various age appropriate lessons and/or assemblies on LGBTQ+ terminology, inclusion and anti-bullying.
- ♦ LGBTQ+ inclusive training was delivered to multiple Dr's, nurses and staff in departments at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital including Frossard Ward, Children's Dentist, CAMHS (Children and Adult Mental Health Services) to help ensure that LGBTQ+ are treated with dignity and respect when visiting the hospital.
- ♦ Liberate delivered workshops to the Sports Commission, the Youth Commission, Action for Children, Suissville, the Children's Dentist, and the islands teachers on sex, sexuality and gender identity with the aim of giving people the tools to feel comfortable in nurturing the future of our young people and our thriving young sporting community.
- ♦ LGBTQ+ sessions were delivered to organisations including CIPD (Channel Islands Professional Development), Guille-allès Public library, Les Nicolles prisoner diversity class, Scouts, Guernsey Post, Health Improvement Commission, Family Proceedings and Advisory Service and the Autism Outreach team.



SUPPORT

We provide support to anyone with questions about gender identity, sexuality, or any aspect of LGBTQ+ life. This is available to all who feel they need it, whatever that reason may be.

- ♦ We responded to 87 different requests for support and help from individuals with regards to LGBTQ+ issues and questions. The majority of the one to one support that Liberate is asked for relates to gender identity.
- ♦ Our Trans Guernsey group meets monthly with eight-twelve people attending each session, with 37 individuals supported this year.
- ♦ We launched a support group for LGBTQ+ families. Consisting of a private group on Facebook, meet ups and online support. We hope to grow this group as the membership increases.
- ♦ We developed a community survey for the Over 65 community as a way to be able to reach out to the older LGBTQ+ community. This will progress throughout 2022.
- ♦ All of our under 18 work is done in conjunction with the Youth Commission of Guernsey and Alderney. This work has seen approximately 100 individual contacts with LGBTQ+ young people and their families.



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