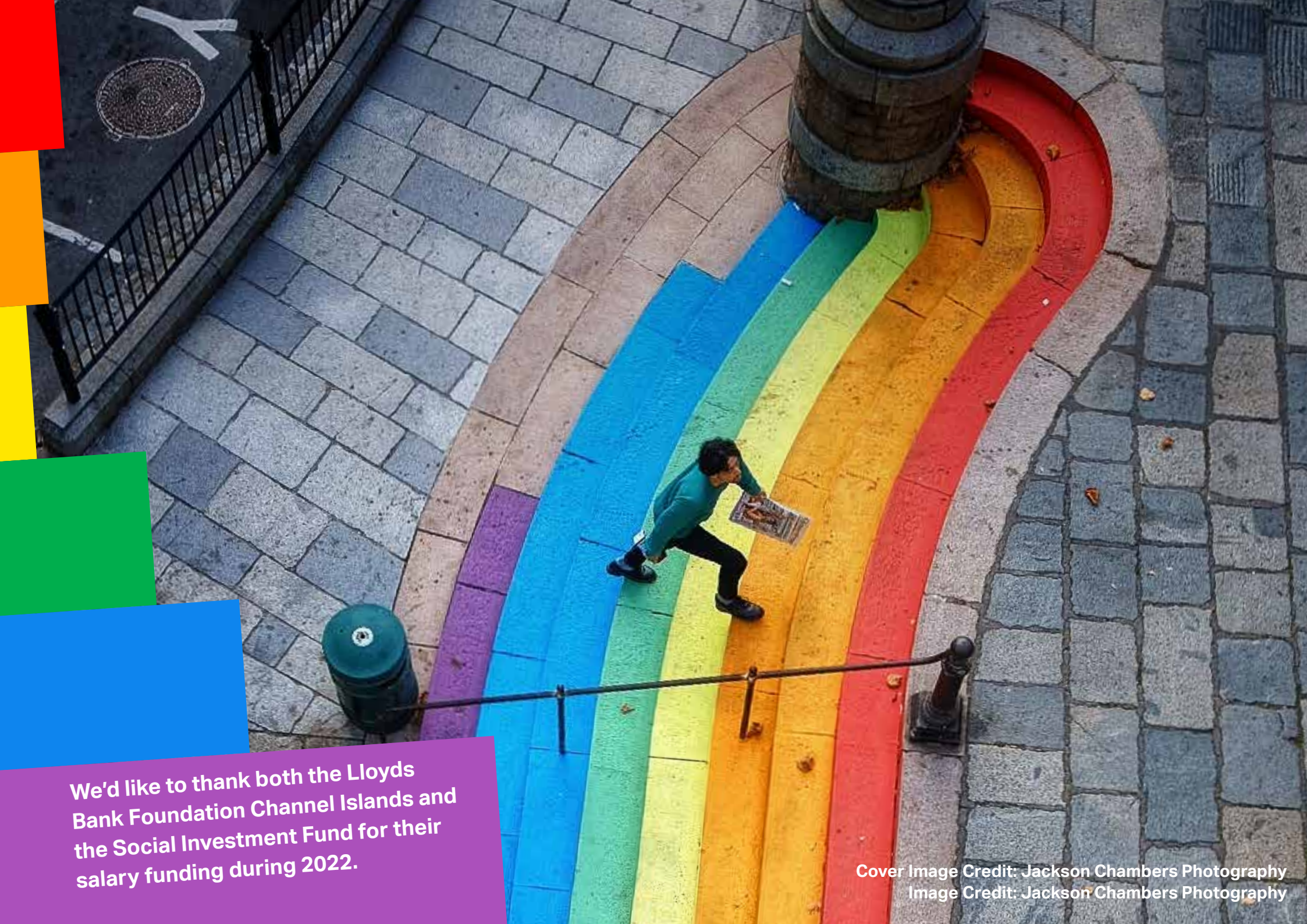




# ANNUAL REPORT

2022

**LIBERATE**



We'd like to thank both the Lloyds Bank Foundation Channel Islands and the Social Investment Fund for their salary funding during 2022.

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'.

- ◆ 8,000 people joined Channel Islands Pride in Guernsey now making it the biggest free community event that happens on the island.
- ◆ 15,000 people attended 29 community and social events that we hosted through the year.
- ◆ 75 lessons and assemblies delivered in eight secondary schools across the Bailiwick engaging with over 3,000 students.
- ◆ 130 Liberate group sessions happened with approximately 1340 Individual group attendances. These groups offer a safe space for LGBTQ+ people (and allies) to meet. They include the Art Club, Liberate Lions softball team, Lit with Liberate book club and the Rainbow Chorus choir.
- ◆ 35 talks and training sessions around LGBTQ+ awareness and acceptance were delivered to organisations across the Bailiwick with approximately 775 people attending.
- ◆ 34 separate support group meetings took place. These offered 61 hours of support to 229 individual contacts. These includes our trans group, youth group (run in conjunction with the Youth commission) and family group.
- ◆ 27,000 households in Guernsey were surveyed to assess any unmet needs of the Over 65 LGBTQ+ community.



Art Club has gone from strength to strength in 2022 with an average of 20 attendees each week. Art club is an anti-social social group for people who might find the busier LGBTQ+ events and groups a little too much.

The Liberate Rainbow Chorus had a major restructure this year with a new choir lead taking the helm. They performed at Pride and Arts Seafront Sunday.



2022 was the second season for the Liberate Lions softball team. The are still chasing their first win but the team spirit of all the members is unbelievable and everyone is enjoying playing.

The LGBTQ+ Youth Network, in conjunction with the Youth Commission, is a twice monthly group that aims to empower students to feel confident in their identities as well as provide a way that they can access peer support and meet other LGBTQ+ young people.



Lit with Liberate book club was launched this year in conjunction with the Guille-Alles Library. The aim is to explore LGBTQ+ literature in a safe space.



We attended and spoke at multiple community events promoting equality and inclusion, including the Chamber of Commerce, Chartered Governance Institute, Barclays and the Royal College of Nursing these were attended by over 750 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 exist 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 5 main fundraising and awareness events which saw over 8,500 people attend. These events were:

- ◆ Love is Love Soiree (Liberate's annual birthday event)
- ◆ Channel Islands Pride
- ◆ Friends of Liberate launch
- ◆ LGBTQ+ Business network launch
- ◆ Drag Bingo
- ◆ New Years Eve Party

Other events which saw an additional 1,500+ people attend, included:

- ◆ Our infamous Campikoe and Lip Sync Battles
- ◆ New Years' Eve and Christmas parties for our volunteers
- ◆ Dressing up box (an opportunity for our trans community to try clothes and 'looks' in a safe environment)

## 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



The Prevention of Discrimination (Equality) Ordinance, 2022

- Amendment 1
- Amendment 2
- Amendment 3
- Amendment 4
- Amendment 5
- Amendment 6
- Amendment 7
- Amendment 8
- Amendment 9
- Amendment 10
- Amendment 11

Equality

WHILE WE ARE  
Different  
⇒ NOT ⇒

NO BODY  
IS DISPOSABLE

SAME  
MINDS  
CENTRE

PROTECTION  
FROM  
DISCRIMINATION  
IS A  
HUMAN RIGHT

Without barriers

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Equality

NOBODY GETS  
LEFT BEHIND

#TogetherWeRise

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Equality

0% of disabled people  
have an invisible  
mental impairment

NO BODIES  
LEFT BEHIND

# 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.**

- ◆ The States of Guernsey made it easier and more accessible for people to be able to change their name, with under 18's also being able to do this for free (with their parents permission).
- ◆ We are still battling to ensure that same sex parents can be named on their children's birth certificates. We are assured by the States of Guernsey that this will happen before the end of this political term in 2025.
- ◆ The States of Guernsey passed the first phase of the Anti Discrimination Legislation which will see protection for disability, carers, religion and belief, race and sexuality. This comes into effect in October 2023.
- ◆ Discriminatory rules for gay men donating blood were scrapped.
- ◆ Accessible assisted reproduction for female same sex couples was confirmed.
- ◆ A new Trans Healthcare agreement came in to place at the end of 2022. This is both life-saving for trans people and money saving for the tax payer. This is quite possibly the most life changing thing that Liberate have helped accomplish. Guernsey now has some of the best government-funded and accessible gender-affirming health care in the world.



# 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.

- ◆ LGBTQ+ information and inclusion sessions were delivered to organisations including the Health Improvement Commission, States Agriculture and Infrastructure Department, Guernsey Community Foundation, GROW, GVS, MIND, Edible, Safer, the Autism Outreach team, GSPCA, Prison Diversity and Inclusion group, Islands Insurance, St John, Probation and Guernsey Employment Trust.
- ◆ Liberate delivered workshops to the Youth Commission, Action for Children, Suisseville, the Family Proceeding and Advisory Service, youth workers, sports clubs and charities that interact with young people as well as teachers at the Grammar, Les Vois and Les Beaucamps schools. These aim to give people the tools to feel comfortable in nurturing the future of our LGBTQ+ young people. The Guernsey Children and Young People survey 2019 showed that 18% of young people in Guernsey identify as LGBTQ+.
- ◆ LGBTQ+ inclusive training was delivered to multiple staff in departments at the Princess Elizabeth Hospital to help ensure that LGBTQ+ are treated with dignity and respect when visiting the hospital.
- ◆ As a school support agency (and in partnership with the Youth Commission) lessons and assemblies on LGBTQ+ terminology, inclusion and anti bullying were delivered in an age appropriate manner to students at Elizabeth College, Grammar school, Les Beaucamps High School, Ladies College, St Sampsons High School, Les Vois School, Le Mare De Carteret High School and the College of Further Education.



# 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 222 different requests for support and help from individuals with regards to LGBTQ+ issues and questions. With 163 of those coming via email and 58 via our social media channels.
- ◆ Our trans group meets once a month with 10-15 people attending on average. Through out the year 38 people were supported.
- ◆ We offered one to one support for 11 parents, 18 LGBTQ+ adults and 16 LGBTQ+ young people. Much more individual support was delivered through our private WhatsApp groups.
- ◆ Through our partnership with the Youth Commission we supported LGBTQ+ young people and their families offering over 40 hours of support.
- ◆ We delivered an island wide survey to assess the needs of the older LGBTQ+ community. This was delivered to every household in Guernsey and we had over 600 replies (which represents between 10-30% of over 65's). The engagement from the LGBTQ+ community was minimal and therefore the data was not usable for ourselves but this has been passed on to other organisations whose service users may benefit.



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Image Credit: Snapped by StoGo