



ANNUAL REPORT

2020

LIBERATE




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.



Guernsey Pearl

YOUB

Netwest Intern

THE PRIDE FLAG
The rainbow flag is the symbol of the LGBTQ+ community. It was created by Gilbert Baker in 1978. The flag has eight colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Each color has a meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for harmony, and purple for spirit. The flag is a symbol of hope, love, and acceptance.

Image Credit: Snapped by StoGo



Image Credit: Paul Cambers

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'.

- ◆ It was reported that 7,000+ people attended Channel Island Pride in Guernsey. Due to COVID-19, we hosted the only in person Pride to happen in the British Isles and Europe. Pride is now the largest independent community event that happens in Guernsey.
- ◆ 48 separate group meetings were held with 92 hours of support given to 797 contacts. These offer a safe space for LGBTQ+ people of all ages to meet (including the LGBTQ+ youth network that we run in conjunction with the Youth Commission).
- ◆ 29 community or social events were held with over 12,000 people attending.
- ◆ One set of rainbow steps were painted in the public eye.
- ◆ Nine different community training sessions around LGBTQ+ awareness and acceptance were conducted.
- ◆ 35 colourful 'identity flags' were hoisted on the mast in the middle of the roundabout in St Peter Port to raise awareness of different sexualities and gender identities.
- ◆ 99 lessons or assemblies were delivered across the Bailiwick's schools.
- ◆ One award was won at the Community Foundation Awards for 'Best Organising Committee' for Channel Island Pride, and our CEO Ellie Jones was shortlisted for 'Outstanding Individual of the Year'.



Bailiwick Rainbow MINDS, a peer led mental health support group for all LGBTQ+ people, was launched.

Liberate's choir, the Rainbow Chorus, went from strength to strength growing to over 50 members. They started the year by coming 2nd in their first ever Eisteddfod performance. They then went on to perform at the Vale Earth Fair, The Retro Festival, Arts Sunday, Channel Island Pride and finishing the year with a performance at the St Peter Port Christmas lights switch on.



The Liberate Lions softball team was established. However, COVID-19 meant that our team will have to defer to the 2021 league.

The LGBTQ+ Youth Network was launched in conjunction with the Youth Commission. This 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.

We attended and spoke at multiple community events promoting equality and inclusion, these were attended by over 1,500 people. We also co-hosted a social policy election hustings and two 'protest' events with the purpose of positively promoting the introduction of discrimination legislation.

We organised three main events which saw over 8,000 people attend overall. These events were:

- ◆ The Great Camp Out
- ◆ Channel Island Pride
- ◆ Hell-O-Queen Liberate

We've hosted 7 main events which saw over 6,000 people attend, these include

- ◆ CI Pride
- ◆ Our infamous Lip Sync Battles
- ◆ The Exhibitionist Pudding Party
- ◆ The big Quiz of the Queer
- ◆ Drag Queen Bingo.

Strong effective relationships with other organisations include:

- ◆ The Youth Commission of Guernsey & Alderney
- ◆ MIND Guernsey
- ◆ Autism Guernsey
- ◆ Guernsey Disability Alliance
- ◆ SHARE Nurses
- ◆ The Town Church
- ◆ Guernsey Against Discrimination
- ◆ Black Lives Matter Guernsey
- ◆ 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 - we also sit on the ITV diversity panel



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Educate
#NoMoreDelays
Equality Guernsey

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Protect Love
Protect Faith
Protect Parents
✓ Amendment 2
✓ Amendment 6
#NoMoreDelay
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guernseydisability
alliance

I'm here for...
YET ANOTHER
TIME!
#NoMoreDelays
Protect Love
Protect Faith
Protect Parents
Amendment 2
Amendment 6
Delays

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 was introduced in Sark, meaning that all of the Channel Island's now have marriage equality.
- ◆ The policy letter for the new discrimination legislation was unanimously approved in the States of Guernsey. With the protected characteristic of 'sexuality' being moved from the last phase to the first phase after a successful campaign.
- ◆ Guernsey's Health Service are introducing a streamlined way to update all health records and gender markers associated with name changes and transition. This will
- ◆ result in historical medical records including a person's sex assigned at birth and any previous names. This will only be accessed and seen by professionals that need to know that information with strict confidentiality.
- ◆ Updating of the birth registration laws to enable same sex parents to be included on their child's birth certificate was passed in the States of Guernsey in conjunction with the discrimination legislation.
- ◆ A new set of inclusion guidelines for trans and gender non-conforming students were created to assist schools. These were done in conjunction with the Education Department, SHARE nurses and the Youth Commission with the aim of providing greater clarity around issues that may arise for schools, and trans and gender non-conforming students.
- ◆ Work progressed significantly with regards to healthcare for transgender people in the Bailiwick and we hope to be able to announce these during the first half of 2021.



Elle Jones
Equality Gateway Librarian

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 and Elizabeth College received various age appropriate lessons and/or assemblies on LGBTQ+ terminology, inclusion and anti-bullying.
- ◆ LGBTQ+ inclusive training was delivered to all medical students. The LGBTQ+ community have differing health needs and this will help ensure all people are treated with dignity, privacy and respect. UK figures show that only 1% of nurses have any specific training on LGBTQ+ issues.
- ◆ Liberate delivered three workshops to the Sports Commission, and two to the Youth Commission 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 sporting community.
- ◆ Our 'Pride in Sport' campaign saw local sports teams, personalities and sporting events join to help tackle the problem of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in sport. 3,000 rainbow laces and sweat bands were given out to wear and a video made to raise awareness of these issues.
- ◆ Liberate worked in conjunction with UK charity 'Just Like Us' to train 3 young adult members of the LGBTQ+ community as LGBTQ+ Ambassadors over a period of 6 weeks. This means they can deliver sessions in schools in 2021. We believe inclusive LGBTQ+ lessons delivered to young people by young people will have a strong, positive effect.



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 52 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 an average of eight people attending each session, with 25 individuals supported this year.
- ◆ All of our under 18 work is done in conjunction with the Youth Commission of Guernsey and Alderney. This work has seen over 100 individual contacts with LGBTQ+ young people and their families.
- ◆ We received funding to look at developing support for the older LGBTQ+ community. This will progress throughout 2021.



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