

## Bi visibility day - 23rd September 2018

Wed 19/09/2018 15:51

To: [REDACTED]

It is the 20th annual Bi Visibility day this September 23rd. The date highlights bisexuality and the challenges posed by biphobia and bisexual erasure, as well as celebrating the work of a growing number of local, national and international organisations around the world which champion bisexual visibility and equality.

First marked in 1999, it is a chance for the bi+ community and allies to come together and celebrate as well as helping to raise awareness and correct misconceptions. Bi+ people are often under-represented in the media and when discussing LGBT+ issues.

Definition of Bisexual: adj. Attracted sexually and/or emotionally to more than one gender.

There are some people who prefer not to label their sexuality but who might fit into that description, or who prefer to use other words such as queer, pansexual or omnisexual to mean essentially the same thing, but perhaps to emphasise that they are attracted to a spectrum of gender identities.

Bisexual, lesbian and gay visibility has come a long way in recent years. There are open and happy lesbian and gay film stars, TV characters, celebrities. There are a growing number of 'out' bi people too, but not so many. It can still feel quite an isolated experience coming out as bi. Stonewall have developed a guide on 'coming out' and also have details on their website on how to access local groups in the area. If you would like advice or support at the College, please contact the LGBT Staff network on [lgbt@cymoedd.ac.uk](mailto:lgbt@cymoedd.ac.uk) or [zoe.wellington@cymoedd.ac.uk](mailto:zoe.wellington@cymoedd.ac.uk).

Maybe you're a partner, friend, colleague or family member of a bi person who wants to know more and wants to help or understand. Here's a few ideas:

- Accept who the person is.
- Put right anyone who tries to convince them, or you, that bi people are really gay or straight.
- Challenge homophobia and biphobia.
- Help bi people find other bi people if they are feeling isolated or alone.

The website [www.bivisibilityday.com](http://www.bivisibilityday.com) has more information and resources that you may wish to access.

Please take some time to look at the link below, which displays a series of posters produced by Stonewall profiling bi people across the UK.

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/sites/default/files/bvd-posters.pdf>

'SO MANY ISSUES WOULD BE SOLVED IF PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD ...

[www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

'SO MANY ISSUES WOULD BE SOLVED IF PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD BISEXUAL PEOPLE EXIST.' LIBBY BAXTER-WILLIAMS Libby is the Director of the bisexual women's advocacy organisation, Biscuit.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight the College's zero tolerance approach to biophobia. The College policies, including the Sexual Orientation Policy and the Bullying and Harassment policy and procedure, may be found on the Equality and Diversity section of the intranet.

If you would like to become a Bi Role Model at the College, and would be interested in attending Stonewall's Bi Role Model training programme, or would like to become an LGBT Ally, please contact [REDACTED] for more information.



W: [www.cymoedd.ac.uk](http://www.cymoedd.ac.uk)



**'SO MANY  
ISSUES WOULD  
BE SOLVED  
IF PEOPLE  
UNDERSTOOD  
BISEXUAL  
PEOPLE EXIST.'**

## **LIBBY BAXTER-WILLIAMS**

Libby is the Director of the bisexual women's advocacy organisation, Biscuit. Even after coming out as a teenager it took her a long time to be open about being bisexual, because how can you be something that doesn't exist? Now she works to make sure that experiences like hers are in the past. She hosts events especially for bisexual people, campaigns against bi erasure, and works with LGBT organisations to make their bisexual representation better.



Every year on 23 September, Bi Visibility Day celebrates bi people across the globe, while recognising the work still required to make biphobia a thing of the past and to put bi visibility on the agenda.

Bi refers to an emotional and/or sexual orientation towards more than one gender. At Stonewall we're proud to work with lots of inspirational bi people and share their stories to achieve acceptance without exception.

Visit [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk) for more information and resources.

 **Stonewall**  
Acceptance without exception

'FRIENDS TOLD  
ME BISEXUAL  
PEOPLE DON'T  
EXIST, BUT  
I'M REAL AND  
MY SEXUALITY IS  
WONDERFUL!'

## JACQ APPLEBEE

Jacq is a Black, disabled, bisexual activist and writer. They are one of the co-founders of the support and social group: Bi's of Colour. Jacq produced the Bi's of Colour History Report - the first of its kind in the world, documenting the lives and experiences of minority ethnic bisexual people.



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# 'BEING BI IS PART OF MY IDENTITY AND IT IS VALID AND BEAUTIFUL'

## EMILY EATON

Emily is a student, vlogger and activist from Essex. Taking part in Stonewall's Young Campaigners Programme led her to become a Bi Role Model and she aims to create inclusive safe spaces for support and discussion. Emily is passionate about advocating for the LGBTQ+ community and women's rights; she is a great fan of theatre, Disney, tea and travelling. Having previously felt the consequences of bi erasure, Emily now strives to be visible in the community and challenge stereotypes.



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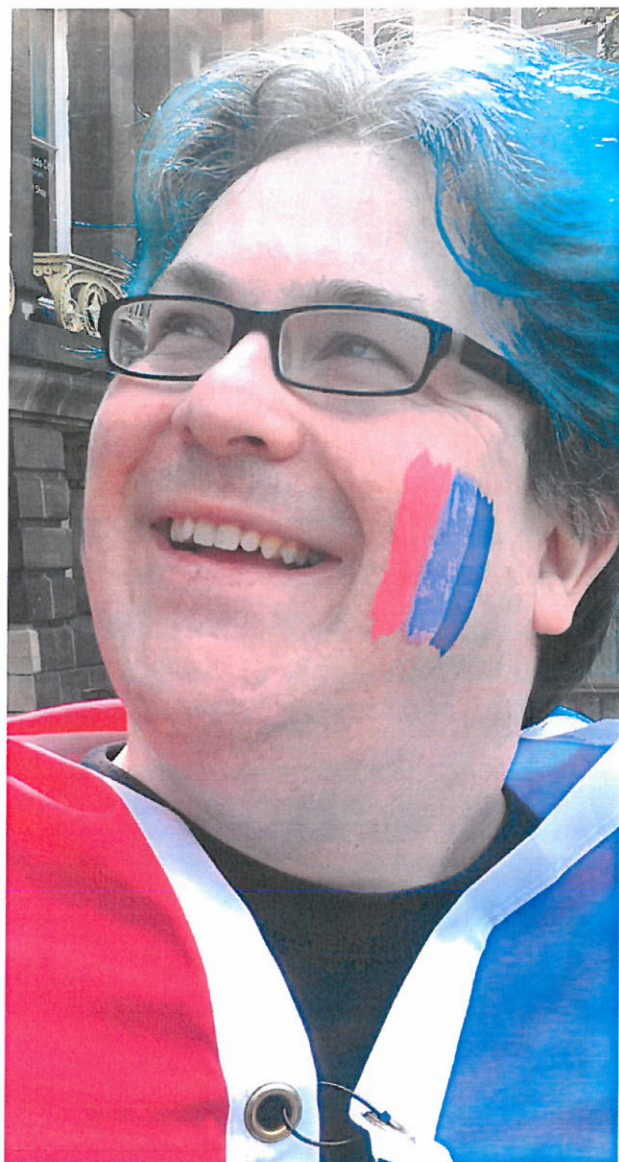
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**'SOME PEOPLE  
SAY BEING  
BI IS JUST A  
PHASE BUT YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE REALLY  
FEELING'**

## **JEN YOCKNEY MBE**

Jen is a genderqueer bi woman who runs the UK's longest established bisexual support organisation, BiPhoria, and has helped many other people to build bi support in their local area. She's the editor of Bi Community News magazine, and set up BiVisibilityDay.com in 2001 which tracks all the events that mark Bi Visibility Day worldwide. In 2016 Jen was the first person to appear in the Honours List for services to the bisexual community - and the first Mx. You can follow her on Twitter at @jenyockney



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**'BI VISIBILITY DAY  
GIVES ME THE  
PLATFORM TO STAND  
UP AND SHOW  
THAT I AM OUT, I  
AM PROUD, I AM  
BI - AND THAT I AM  
VISIBLY PROMOTING  
OUR VIBRANT  
AND DIVERSE  
COMMUNITY'**



## **SUE VINCENT-JONES**

Communications specialist Sue Vincent-Jones is Co Chair of PRISM, the Welsh Government's LGBTI+ Staff Network. She is committed to creating a vibrant, refreshing and exciting network which is open, warm and inclusive. Role model Sue, believes in leading by example and thinks we should all be free to be ourselves – whenever and wherever we want.

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'THERE IS STILL  
A LOT OF WORK  
TO BE DONE  
WITHIN THE LGBT  
COMMUNITY AND  
BEYOND, WHICH  
IS WHY IT IS  
IMPORTANT FOR  
BI PEOPLE TO BE  
VISIBLE, OUT AND  
PROUD'

## CANDACE CHAN

Candace grew up in Hong Kong and always felt like an outcast there, for her moving to London was the best decision she made for herself. London has given her the freedom to be who she wants to be and love who she wants to love. It took Candace a long time to accept who she was and not try to pass as straight/gay. Biphobia and bi-erasure exist in everyday life even within the LGBT community. Candace hopes that sharing her story will help more people find self acceptance and self love.



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