

004 - LGBT+ Inclusive Sport

Union Notes¹

1. Lesbian, gay and bisexual students are all more likely to drop out of university than heterosexual students
2. More than half of LGBT+ students report feelings of not fitting in as the main reason for considering dropping out of studies
3. LGBT+ students who experience prejudice harassment are 2-3 times more likely to consider leaving their course
4. Just two in ten (20.6%) trans students feel completely safe on campus
5. One in two (51%) trans respondents have seriously considered dropping out of their course
6. LGBT+ Students are 25% less likely to join a sports club than heterosexual students
7. 17.1% of LGBT students who participate in team sport are not open to anyone on the team
8. Only about a third of LGBT students (36.6%) agreed or strongly agreed that equality policies with regards to sport were visible at their institution.
9. 46.8% of LGBT students who do not participate in sport find the culture around sport alienating or unwelcoming.
10. 14.3% had experienced homophobia, biphobia, or transphobia which has put them off from participating.
11. 18.7% were put off by gendered sports teams, and this rose to 38.9 per cent of trans respondents.
12. 60% of LGBT+ students have witnessed a student acting negatively towards people because of their sexual orientation at least once; one in 10 respondents saw or heard this behaviour every day; and more than half of lesbian/gay (51%) and non-binary students (59%) had experienced homophobic or transphobic name-calling.

Union Believes

1. That Homophobia, Biphobia, Transphobia are absolutely unacceptable in all forms
2. That more should be done to promote inclusivity in all spheres of university life
3. That there is clearly a particular issue with regards to the environment in sports clubs, which puts LGBT+ off from engaging in sports clubs
4. That we should strive not just for 'acceptance' nor 'tolerance' but liberation. LGBT+ students should not have to accept a certain level of coded or overt discrimination, nor should they feel a need to modify their behaviour in any way in order to join a sports club
5. To re-iterate that we, as a union, have a zero-tolerance stance on all forms of discrimination

Union Resolves

1. To mandate the Vice President and LGBT* officer to work together to co-ordinate a series of "Come Out and Play" charity matches
2. For the Union to purchase, and make available to students, rainbow laces. Council grants discretion to the President and Vice President on how the laces should be sold or distributed
3. To encourage sports teams to get as many players as possible wearing rainbow laces

¹ *Education Beyond the Straight and Narrow*. NUS (2014)
Out in Sport: LGBT Students' Experiences of Sport. NUS (2012)
Pride and Prejudice in Education. NUS (2016)
LGBT in Britain – University Report. Stonewall/ YouGov (2016)
No Place for Hate. NUS (2011)

4. To mandate the Vice President to, every year, get all club chairs and captains to sign the BUCS #TakeAStand pledge and to publically share the clubs signing the pledge
5. To mandate the Vice President and LGBT* officer to explore through stonewall and others, what Pride materials could be purchased alongside the rainbow laces campaign
6. To mandate the Vice President to bring captains and chairs together to discuss how to clamp down on “casual” or “low-level” LGBTphobia within clubs and to re-iterate to them that whilst public displays of inclusion are important, this must also reflect an open and inclusive environment

