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The  
Diversity Trust  
Influencing Social Change

# Spring Newsletter

## We are partnering for real, positive change!

Our Spring newsletter is bursting with highlights and positive stories for reflection and inspiration. As always, we strive to influence social change to achieve a fairer society.

As we feel Spring in the air, we're excited to offer you a roundup of our highlights. Keep scrolling for all the positive stories, spotlights on new partnerships, events and campaigns.

## Spotlight on our latest equalities podcast featuring

### Jonny Benjamin MBE [Mental Health Activism](#)

Jonny Benjamin MBE is a mental health activist, public speaker, writer, vlogger and film producer. Jonny is known for the campaign he launched to find a stranger who had talked him down off Waterloo Bridge, when Jonny planned to jump.

*“...what we so often do in mental health, is wait until the crisis point, people only get treated at that crisis point. But you know, if we take it back to the early intervention stage, it can make such a massive difference. So, we're really trying to focus on that.”*

— Jonny Benjamin (MBE)

Diagnosed at twenty, with Schizoaffective Disorder (a combination of Schizophrenia and Bipolar), Jonny's battles with mental health have resulted in him being hospitalised. During a challenging time, he found himself on the side of Waterloo Bridge, ready to end his life, when a stranger talked him down. This had a huge ripple effect for Jonny, who has since launched campaigns to support, discuss, and break mental health stigma.

Number 8 in our podcast series, [Mental Health Activism](#) featuring Jonny Benjamin, is available now to stream for free via our website, here:

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2021/03/the-diversity-trust-podcast-8/>

## Also Available... from our podcast series

### Race Equality with Roianne Nedd #7

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2020/10/the-diversity-trust-podcast-7/>

### Disability Awareness with Samantha Renke #6

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2020/06/the-diversity-trust-podcast-6/>

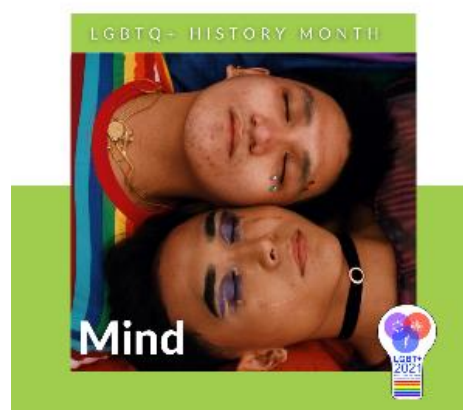
### Faith Equality with MP Tanmanjeet Dhesi #5

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2020/04/the-diversity-trust-podcast-5/>

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## The Diversity Trust – Podcasts

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## Spotlight on LGBT History

LGBT History Month is an annual event in the UK taking place in February. It came in the wake of the abolition of Section 28 of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations in 2003 and the government's proposals to bring in a single equality act and a public duty. This did not come to fruition until 2010. The month is intended to raise awareness and combat prejudice against the LGBT+ Community. While LGBT History Month has ended, it remains crucial to celebrate wins for the community worldwide whilst being mindful of all the work that still needs to be done.

### Did you know...

In 1974 in the UK, a group of teachers fired for being outed by students, formed The Gay Teacher's Group, which evolved to become Schools OUT the UK in 2005, co-chaired by Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick, and also founded LGBT History Month.

- ★ 1967: Sexual Offences Act decriminalised sex between two men aged over 21yrs
- ★ 1972: First London Pride, attracting around 2,000 participants
- ★ 1992: World Health Organisation declassifies same-sex attraction as a mental illness
- ★ 1999: Trans Day of Remembrance for those subjected to transphobic violence
- ★ 2000: Government lifts ban on lesbians, gay men and bisexual people serving openly in the armed forces (ability now to apply for stripped medals to be returned too)
- ★ 2003: Section 28 repealed in England and Wales, following Scotland's lead, lifting the ban on local authorities and schools from 'promoting homosexuality.'
- ★ 2013: recognition Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act passed in England and Wales.

The pace of change could be increased, and there is a lot to do before we can rest!

Including:-

- *Banning of all forms of "conversion therapy" in the UK*
- *Making it easier for trans individuals to have their gender recognised by law*
- *Improving LGBTQ+ sex education in schools*

## Check Out...

A recent talk by our Founder, Berkeley Wilde, during LGBT History Month:

**Pride and Progress:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saJCZgKfFpw>

## Check Out... Our Social Impact Report

Have you read our latest social impact report? Check out the work we have been doing and the impact we have made.

Read the Impact Report (2019-20) here: [DT\\_IR\\_2020\\_3.pdf\[7\] FINAL](#)



### IN THIS REPORT

→ **106** training courses delivered

→ **+70%** in course delivery from 2019

→ **253** young people used our LGBTQ+ youth services, **+18%** from 2019

### Training & Consultancy

- 45 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- 20 Transgender Awareness
- 18 Diversity in Practice (LGBT+)
- 15 Hate Crime Awareness 'Every Victim Matters' (with SARI)
- 8 Unconscious Bias Training

"IT'S A PLACE THAT LETS ME MEET PEOPLE WHO'S BECOME MUCH LIKE A SECOND FAMILY."  
– ALPHABETS MEMBER  
THE DIVERSITY TRUST, YOUTH SERVICES

## Spotlight on... New Partnership with Skin Deep UK



*“The Diversity Trust has been our partner of choice since the inception of Skin Deep, and so I am thrilled to announce our partnership. It is such an honour for us to work collaboratively on bringing about positive social change, and we have some really exciting initiatives planned.”*

*— Laura Broadbent, Marketing Manager for Skin Deep*

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with UK Skin Deep promoting inclusivity through their skin tone products. The partnership’s initial focus will be on funding The Diversity Trust’s vital work to commission joint research, training, publicity, and outreach. Skin Deep will support this by donating 10% of profits to The Diversity Trust, meaning consumers will directly support the promotion of inclusion, equality and diversity. Their collaboration will extend to our online platforms, creating hubs of information and educational resources centered around equality.

Skin Deep and The Diversity Trust will work together to ensure their ambition to bring about positive social change is realised with the highest possible impact. Get buying, to get supporting!

**For more on this new partnership please visit:**

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2021/02/skin-deep-the-diversity-trust-announce-partnership/>



*"We are really excited about the collaboration with Skin Deep. We share a real passion for making visible the often invisible and less well heard in society, and we believe we can achieve so much more working together to affect real, lasting change."*

— *Berkeley Wilde, Founder & Director of The Diversity Trust*

## Work with us...



We are hiring, check out the role description [here](#), please share this if you know of any youth and community workers who might be interested.

**Closing date: 12 May 2021**

## Spotlight On... HIV Testing campaign

### #GiveHIVtheFinger

We were excited to support the national HIV Testing week with our HIV campaign across our social platforms. It has never been more vital in our present-day history to pay attention to our health and work collectively to erase stigmas around health and health inequalities.

Myths around HIV have plagued access to treatment for many years, but testing is the only way to know your HIV status, to start accessing free treatment and support to stay healthy. Don't delay, give HIV The Finger by ordering a free home finger-prick test kit today:

<https://freetesting.hiv>



***MYTH #1: If you are HIV positive, you will die young.***

***FACT: Being HIV positive is not a death sentence. With the right treatment, HIV positive individuals can live long and healthy lives.***

## Check out...

[It's a Sin](#) premiered in the UK on Channel 4 in January and received critical acclaim for its writing and depiction of AIDS. The first episode became Channel 4's biggest drama launch, and the series was the most binge watched show on the platform with 6.5m+ views. It's also been credited for creating an upsurge in HIV testing and related searches on-line.

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## Spotlight on... Our Guest Blog Colse Leung 12 Steps Towards Prejudice Recovery





Our guest blogger, [Colse Leung](#), Creative & Design consultant and Founder of [Bristol Threads](#), has written a compelling and courageous blog on **12 Steps Towards Prejudice Recovery**.

Written through the lens of diversity. Diversity and inclusion needs are not recent phenomena; diversity and inclusion have been national and global issues that have been avoided, and at times, even denied. For many specialists in the Diversity & Inclusion space, the road to progress has been isolating and elusive.

Despite the elevation of D&I, efforts brought about by the social movement of the Summer of 2020, even now, there are many environments where avoidance around diversity and inclusion or, tokenism, is the chosen strategy, instead of meaningful positive action.

In his blog, [12 Steps Towards Prejudice Recovery](#), Coles describes the **12-Steps** guide as a framework that allows for self-reflection, without self-judgement.

*“For those who don’t know, ‘12 Steps’ is something people use in addiction recovery. It’s a way to acknowledge the change and progress in your life yet recognise the tension you may not be there yet’. They allow you to find a sense of progression and possibility.”*

## Check out... Immigration to the UK for LGBT+ People



COVID-19, Brexit, and the US election have meant that news stories that usually make the headlines get no coverage at all. This is helping barriers to go unchallenged on serious and important issues. [The experiences of those seeking asylum](#) in the UK and the rest of Europe based on their sexual orientation or gender identity need to be discussed... Read more from Peter Markham here:

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2020/11/immigration-to-the-uk-for-lgbt-people/>

## Check Out... Just Launched Distillery x Diversity Trust Partnership



Award-winning content studio [distillery](#) is leading the search to create the world's most diverse typeface. Encouraging us all to look at typeface and typography in a whole new way.

Launched in collaboration with the Diversity Standards Collective, and raising money for [Disasters Emergency Committee](#), The Diversity Trust and [UNWomen Wwk](#), **#DiversityTypeProject** is a unique initiative to bring our differences together and encourage the world to engage in the diversity conversation.

To find out more, visit: <https://bit.ly/39cuARn> #LinkInBio #DiversityType

# distillery

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## Coming up...



This network will be LGBTQ+ led and will look at how we can improve services, increase voice and influence and make a difference for LGBTQ+ communities in B&NES.

Calling all LGBTQ+ Professionals in Banes!

**When:** 22 April 2021

**Where:** Virtual, 2pm-4pm

To register please email [info@diversitytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@diversitytrust.org.uk)

## In case you missed it... Diversity Trust in the press!

We've been featured in the media, including alongside the UN!

Distillery launches Diversity Type Project | Media | Campaign Asia

<https://www.pioneerspost.com/news-views/20210308/ese-does-it-how-build-regional-social-enterprise-ecosystem>

## Also Check Out...

Migrant Women Are Not Being Protected By Domestic Abuse Policy

<https://www.diversitytrust.org.uk/2021/03/migrant-women-are-not-being-protected-by-domestic-abuse-policy/>

We Are The Diversity Trust Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUD9rkLWbPk>

## On Social Media? Connect with us!

You can find us across all social platforms search @Diversitytrust for our latest updates.

0772 029 4991

The Diversity Trust, PO Box 5189, Somerset BA6 0BN [www.diversitytrust.org.uk](http://www.diversitytrust.org.uk)

