

LGBTQ+ PEOPLE

At Girlguiding North West England, we strive to show all girls they can do anything, and this includes our LGBTQ+ members. We support our LGBTQ+ young members, volunteers, parents, and all LGBTQ+ people within our organisation and strive to ensure that all LGBTQ+ individuals feel supported, welcomed, and free to be themselves.

What does LGBTQ+ stand for?

Lesbian- Women who are attracted to other women

Gay- People experiencing attraction to someone of the same gender. This is a term for people of any gender.

Bisexual- People who experience attraction to more than one gender.

Transgender- An umbrella term for anyone whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity do not match up.

Queer- An term used to describe individuals who don't identify as straight and/ or cisgender. This word was once used as a slur but has since been reclaimed by the LGBTQ+ community.

Questioning- People who are still exploring their sexuality.

+ - The plus in LGBTQ+ is an all-encompassing + used to represent many other identities within the LGBTQ+ community, such as Intersex, Asexual/Aromantic, pansexual, agender, non-binary, gender fluid etc.

Why is it essential to support our LGBTQ+ members?

Girlguiding North West England commits to being an inclusive organisation. This means that we strive to ensure that all members involved in our organisation have equal access to the opportunities we offer, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

What do we currently do to support our LGBTQ+ members?

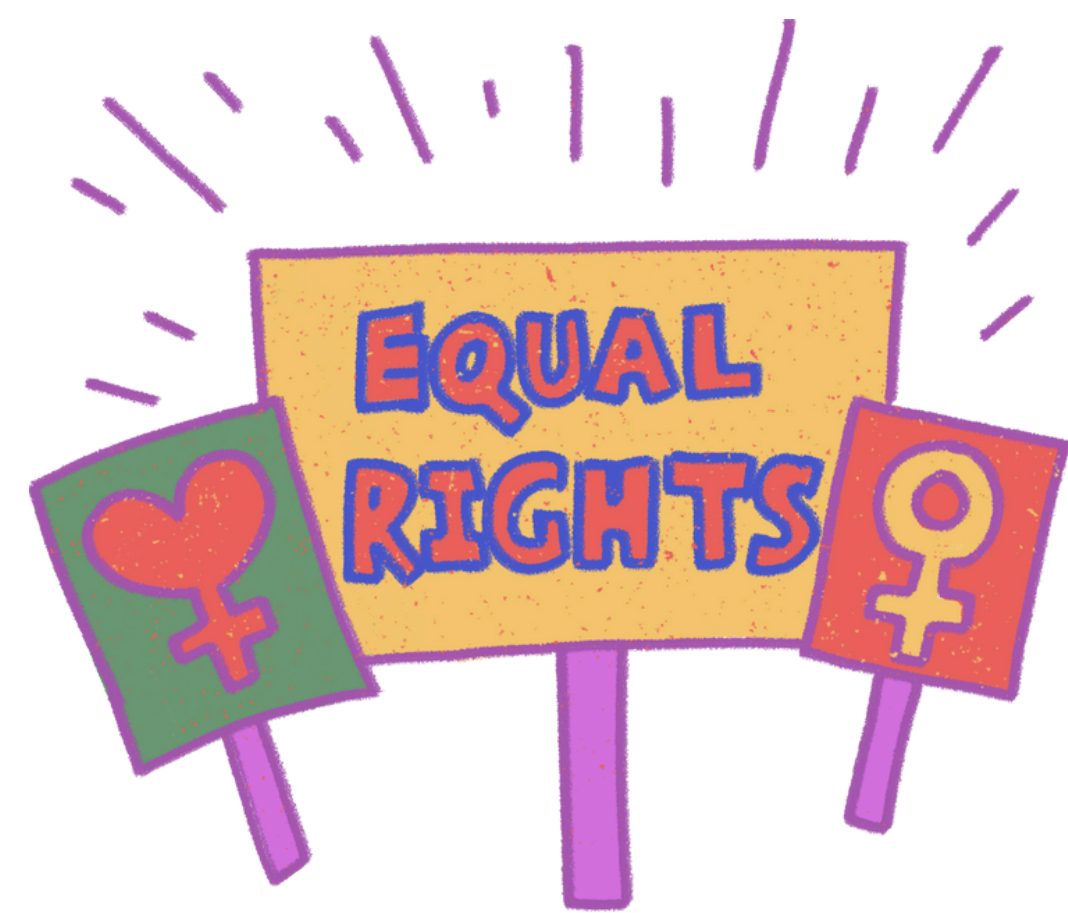
Girlguiding North West England strives to support all of our LGBTQ+ members. We have attended Pride since 2015 and are very excited to continue sharing our guiding pride in future parades. Follow us on social media to keep up to date with our next parade and attend with us.

How can you foster an LGBTQ+ inclusive environment within guiding?

Creating an LGBTQ+ inclusive environment can include many things. From considering the way we speak to about, and to, LGBTQ+ individuals, to how we make LGBTQ+ individuals feel represented within our organisation; being LGBTQ+ inclusive means listening to, welcoming, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people. Conversations surrounding LGBTQ+ individuals may seem daunting, but they don't need to be. There are many resources available to help support age appropriate conversations surrounding identity and family types.

Supporting trans members

At Girlguiding North West England, we are proud to welcome and support trans members. We strive to offer a space where all members feel included, supported, and free to be themselves, and this includes our transgender young members and volunteers. For more information surrounding how to support trans members, please visit the Girlguiding website for more guidance [here](#).



Resources:

Conversations surrounding LGBTQ+ topics are essential to ensuring that our LGBTQ+ members feel welcome and included within Girlguiding. To support you in having these conversations we have collected some resources which can aid these conversations or may provide support and comfort to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Videos:

- CBBC Bedtime Stories, 'Two Dads'
- CBBC Bedtime Stories, 'The Pirate Mums'

Books:

- ABC Pride, Dr Elly Barnes MBE and Louie Stowell (3-5 years)
- The Girl with Two Dads, Mel Elliot (3-6 years)
- Mama and Mummy and Me in the Middle (3-7 years)
- Heather Has Two Mommies, Leslea Newman, Illustrated by Diana Souza (3-7 years)
- My Shadow is Pink, Scott Stuart (3-9 years)
- Two Dads, Carolyn Robertson, Illustrations by Sophie Humphreys (4-8 years)
- Pirate Mums, Jodie Lancet-Grant, Illustrations Lydia Corry (4-8 years)
- The Black Flamingo, Dean Atta (12-16 years)
- Heartstopper, Alice Oseman (13+ years)
- You Should See Me in a Crown, Leah Johnson (13-17 years)
- Felix Ever After, Kacen Callender (14-17 years)
- Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda, Becky Albertalli (14+ years)

Resources for adult members:

- Beyond Pronouns: The Essential Guide for Parents of Trans Children, Tammy Plunkett
- Being an Ally: Real Talk about Showing up, Screwing Up and Trying Again, Shakirah Bourne and Dana Alison Levy
- The Transgender Issue: An Argument for Justice, Shon Faye
- Prejudice and Pride: LGBT Activist Stories from Manchester and Beyond, Sidney Street

