LGBTQ+ Guide to Leeds

A useful list of support and social spaces for all our LGBTQ+ members, including top tips from some current students.
Hi everyone,
Welcome to your LGBTQ+ guide!
A big part of the reason I chose to come to Leeds was the huge LGBTQ+ scene there was on offer, and my time here wouldn’t have been the same if I hadn’t been able to find that. The best experiences, opportunities and friendships I’ve had at Leeds have stemmed from having the opportunity to get involved in the LGBTQ+ community and explore my own identity further.
With everything from nights out to inclusive sports organisations, there’s something for everyone to get involved with, and we can always help you find, and even create, new spaces.
Your Liberation Coordinators are a team of students who represent marginalised student groups in LUU and the University. They’ve put together the calendar of activity and campaigning for this History Month to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities and highlight experiences. You can read more about them at [luu.org.uk](http://luu.org.uk).
I hope you all enjoy Leeds as much as I have.

I’m Chloé, and I’m your E&D Officer for 2019/20. My first year in Leeds was greatly influenced by wanting to explore my queer identity, but knowing where to start was the hardest part.
For me, it wasn’t a case of ‘coming out’ it was more a case of ‘letting people in’ and so I would like to help you do the same and I want this guide to help you find your feet much easier than I was able to.
The Leeds scene is constantly changing and evolving but I hope this guide includes as much stuff as possible for you to get involved in.
I hope you feel at home here.

Chloé Elliott
Equality & Diversity Officer
2019/20

“Travelling Man is awesome and has a broad range of board games and comics including queer comics/manga. Plus it’s right near Flamingos so you can go get a new comic then a coffee.”

KAT

Your LGBTQ+ Directory
A useful list full of support and social spaces for all our LGBTQ+ members.

Hate Crime Reporting ———— 3
Gender Form Update ———— 3
Community Support and Campaigning Groups ———— 4
Faith Spaces ———— 5
Help and Support ———— 6
Sports ———— 6
Nights Out ———— 7

Gender Form Update
You can update your gender marker by filling out a Student Notification of Change Form. Return it to the Student Services Counter on Level 9 of the Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building.
You can find the form online at [students.leeds.ac.uk/info](http://students.leeds.ac.uk/info) by searching ‘Change personal details’.

Hate Crime Reporting
The University and LUU have a zero tolerance approach to hate crimes, sexual violence and harassment. You can report a hate crime anonymously to the University on [bit.ly/luuhatecrime](http://bit.ly/luuhatecrime).
You can also report a hate crime to a scheme made up of Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police and Stop Hate UK. Find more information by searching ‘hate crime’ on the [leeds.gov.uk](http://leeds.gov.uk) website.

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Megan
LGBTQ+ student

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Megan
LGBTQ+ student
Community Support and Campaigning Groups

● AFRICAN RAINBOW FAMILY
A support group for those of African heritage, refugees and wider BAME groups.
africanrainbowfamily.org

● LEEDS BI GROUP
A social and support group for the bisexual community, open to anyone over 18.
leedsbigroup.org.uk

● LGBT+ COMMUNITY HUB
This Leeds City Council group gets together quarterly to work towards an inclusive city.
leeds.gov.uk

● LEEDS SURVIVOR LGBT SUPPORT GROUP
This group is for anyone in the LGBTQ+ community or questioning their identity.
isics.org.uk

● LUU LGBT+ SOCIETY
Here for all LGBTQ+ students, they hold coffee hours, social events and nights out.
luu.org.uk/lgbt

● QTIPOC SOCIETY
A society for queer, trans and intersex people of colour. Join for social events and coffee hours throughout the year.
luu.org.uk

● MONTHLY DRY DROP IN
A safe space for anyone LGBTQ+ or questioning. They meet in the Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, every first Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm.

● SAGE – SUPPORTING OLDER LGBT PEOPLE
A project tackling the social isolation faced by older LGBTQ+ people (50+).
j.woods@mesmac.co.uk

● YORKSHIRE O.P.E.N.
A monthly discussion and support group for people in or curious about ethnically non-monogamous relationships.
y-open.org.uk

● YORKSHIRE TRANS* CHOIR
Meet up and sing twice a month on Wednesdays from 7:30pm-9:30pm. Search for them on Facebook.

● LEEDS LGBT+ BOOK CLUB
A reading group that discusses LGBTQ+ fiction, non-fiction and poetry.
leedslgbtbooks.com

● MESMAC NON-BINARY LEEDS
A peer-led support and social group for non-binary people.

Faith Spaces

● ALL HALLOWS CHURCH
A Church of England Church in Hyde Park, very welcoming to LGBTQ+ people.
allhallowsleeds.org

● HIDAYAH
A nationwide organisation for LGBTQ+ Muslims. They campaign for social justice and give LGBTQ+ Muslims a voice.
hidayahlgbt.co.uk

● INCLUSIVE MOSQUE INITIATIVE
Dedicated to creating places of worship for marginalised communities, spiritual practice and inclusive Islamic principles.
inclusivemosque.org

● QUEER SPACE AT THE UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY
The Chaplaincy hosts a space for LGBT+ Christian students and their allies.
Tuesdays during term time, 5pm-6pm.

● SARBAT
They want equality for everyone and welcome all LGBTQ+ Sikhs. Get in touch with them at “LGBT Sikh” on Facebook.

● SINAI SYNAGOGUE
Open to anyone who wishes to establish and nurture a connection to Judaism.
sinaileeds.uk

For trans people, Rude Studios are great because they make sure in their tattoo and piercing training that they practice on all different body types. They knew all the rules about surgery before I even had to ask.”

LEO
Help and Support

- **LGBT SWITCHBOARD**
  Talk in confidence to the switchboard about anything that is on your mind. They are on the phones from 10am-10pm.
  0300 330 0630

- **LGBT+ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE**
  Provides confidential support for both you and your family.
  womensaid.org.uk

- **LUU ADVICE**
  Come find the Help and Support team in the Union Foyer for private, expert advice.
  luu.org.uk/student-help-support

- **TOUCHSTONE**
  Popular with the LGBTQ+ community for mental health support.
  touchstonesupport.org.uk

Sports

- **LEEDS HUNTERS**
  An inclusive rugby group open to all gay, bisexual and straight males of any age.
  theleedshunters.com

- **BAD MITTENS**
  An inclusive badminton group.
  ‘Bad Mittens’ on Facebook.

- **LEEDS FRONTRUNNERS**
  A running group set up for the LGBTQ+ community and their friends. They aim to be the friendliest running club in Leeds and are part of International Frontrunners (IFR).
  ‘Leeds Frontrunners’ on Facebook.

- **INCLUSIVE SPORTS SOCIAL**
  Leeds’ inclusive sports and active lifestyles groups hold monthly socials.
  @leedslgbtsport on Twitter.

- **THE HILLS HAVE GAYS**
  A walking/adventure group open to all.
  ‘The Hills Have Gays’ on Facebook.

- **STRIKE-BACK KICKBOXING**
  Open to all ages, this is an LGBTQ+ kickboxing group aiming to challenge homophobic views while developing self-defence and kickboxing skills.
  Email them for more info: strike.back.kickboxing@gmail.com

Nights Out

- **BLAYDS BAR**
  Small and secluded, it’s popular with womxn. Search ‘Blayds Bar’ on Facebook for more information.

- **FIBRE**
  A four-floor super bar.
  barfibre.com

- **THE KEY CLUB**
  Although not a LGBTQ+ club by nature, Key Club is incredibly accepting of everyone who walks through the door. Emo music with cheesy bangers.
  thekeyclubleeds.com

- **THE NEW PENNY**
  Recently given a blue plaque for its work with the LGBTQ+ community. Expect cheesy songs. Search for ‘The New Penny’ on Facebook.

- **QUEENS COURT**
  Known for its involvement in courtyard parties – a bar, a pub, it even does food.
  queenscourtleeds.com/leeds

- **TUNNEL**
  Expect drag queen dance offs at the biggest actual LGBTQ+ club in Leeds.
  tunnelleeds.com

- **VIADUCT SHOWBAR**
  Home of cabaret, best known for its themed nights, quirky bar staff and talented drag queens.
  viaductleeds.com

- **WHARF CHAMBERS**
  A member-owned co-op with loads of really cool events. Home to Love Muscle, the pumping gay dance party.
  wharfchambers.org
Write or read other LGBTQ+ students’ stories on our Medium account:
medium.com/leeds-university-union

“Not specifically LGBTQ+ but Key Club has always been a banging night out for anyone and everyone.”
JOSH

“For LGBTQ+ people who are fond of getting piercings and tattoos but aren’t sure which places will be friendly, then Red Tattoo and Piercing are brilliant.”
ISABELLE