

# #FiveFilmsForFreedom 2020

**Information  
for schools**



# About #FiveFilmsForFreedom

#FiveFilmsForFreedom is the world's widest-reaching LGBTQ+ digital programme. This year's programme runs from **18 – 29 March 2020**

The British Council, in partnership with BFI Flare: London LGBTQ+ Film Festival, makes five LGBTQ+ themed short films available for the world to watch online for free, over a 12 day period each year. The programme, which features work by filmmakers from across the world, is selected from and coincides with BFI Flare. Over the 12 days, we encourage everyone, everywhere to watch the films in solidarity with LGBTQ+ communities.

Running since 2015, the programme has received over 14 million views in more than 200 countries.

## **There are lots of ways to get involved in this year's programme**

- Organise a discussion about your responses to the films and LGBTQ+ issues in your school and community
- Share your thoughts with your partner schools overseas and with us using #fivefilmsforfreedom
- Use our factsheet about LGBTQ+ rights around the world
- Send us a tweet from your school account telling us how you're getting involved

# London Loves You

London Loves You is a film made in a UK secondary school and shows a group of 14-17 year olds discussing how LGBTIQ+ issues affect them and others in their school.

Show your students the film  
[www.vimeo.com/schoolsonline/london-loves-you](http://www.vimeo.com/schoolsonline/london-loves-you)  
and then use the discussion sheet below.

### Some prompts for discussion:

- Do the young people in the films seem similar or different to young people in your country?
- What, if anything, surprised you about the views of the young people in the film?
- What value does diversity bring to society?
- Who is responsible for enabling students like those in the films to feel confident in themselves?
- How can schools help students feel safe and build mutual respect?
- Why are diversity issues hard to talk about sometimes?
- In your country do you think that different generations look at things differently?

Share and exchange opinions with pupils from your partner school.



134, directed by Sarah-Jane Drummey, Ireland



# Fact Sheet

*Goldfish*, directed by Mercedes Angelopoulos, Greece 2017

Something in the Closet, directed by Nosa Eke, UK, 2019

The UK is generally a welcoming and friendly place for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBTIQ+) people. In the UK it is illegal to discriminate against someone because of their sexual orientation or sex, and many international LGBTIQ+ students study in the UK on the understanding that their rights will be respected and that they can live life as they want.

## What is sexual orientation?

Sexual orientation is the overall term that is used to describe people's physical and/or romantic attractions to other people. The most common labels are heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

- Heterosexual (or straight) refers to a person who is attracted to and falls in love with someone of another gender.
- Homosexual (or gay man or lesbian woman) refers to a person who is attracted to and falls in love with someone of the same gender.
- Bisexual refers to a person who is attracted to and falls in love with someone of another or the same gender.

## What is gender identity?

Gender identity refers to the internal sense that people have that they are female, male, or some variation of these. For many people biological sex (which is based on chromosomes and sexual anatomy) and gender identity are the same. For others, however, they may be different. The terms transgender and non binary refer to individuals whose internal feelings of being male or female may differ from the sexual anatomy they were born with. Transgender and non binary people may be heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

## How many people identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual?

The Office of National Statistics in the UK, gives the following figures for 2017:

- 1.3% of the surveyed UK population, approximately 545,000, identified themselves as Gay or Lesbian
- 0.7% of the surveyed UK population identified themselves as Bisexual
- 0.6% identified themselves as 'Other.'
- 4.1% of adults stated 'Don't Know' or refused to answer the question
- 4.2% of 16-24 year olds in the UK identified themselves as Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual
- 1.1 million people aged 16 years and over identified as LGB out of a UK population aged 16 years and over of 52.8 million



### Is there an increase of public acceptance of LGBTIQ+ individuals?

There is certainly more discussion of sexual orientation in UK popular culture and media than ever before, and surveys suggest that there is a corresponding greater acceptance of homosexuality among the public.

Despite increasingly liberal views about homosexuality, a substantial minority in the UK, almost three in ten, continue to see it as always or mostly wrong. These views are not randomly distributed throughout the population, there are marked generational gaps and differences between the views of different religious groups.

### Are LGBTIQ+ people coming out at younger ages?

The average age at which young people 'come out' as lesbian, gay or bisexual is 15 in the UK.

For some, coming out can happen much earlier, and it is not uncommon for trans young people to talk about their identities at a much younger age.

**'DESPIE INCREASINGLY LIBERAL VIEWS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY, A SUBSTANTIAL MINORITY IN THE UK, ALMOST THREE IN TEN, CONTINUE TO SEE IT AS ALWAYS OR MOSTLY WRONG.'**

### Are schools safe places for young LGBTIQ+ young people?

In the UK, the Equality Act 2010 places a legal duty on all public bodies, including local authorities and schools, to take steps to eradicate discrimination, advance equality and foster good relations. They have to take a proactive role in tackling homophobic bullying and protect those who might be experiencing it.

In spite of this most students still hear homophobic remarks and report feeling unsafe at some point, and many are still victims of physical harassment and assault.

### Same-sex marriage legislation

**Same-sex marriage** is legal in the **United Kingdom**, with the exception of Northern Ireland.

The legislation to allow same-sex marriage in **England** and **Wales** came into force on 13 March 2014, and the first same-sex marriages took place on 29 March 2014.

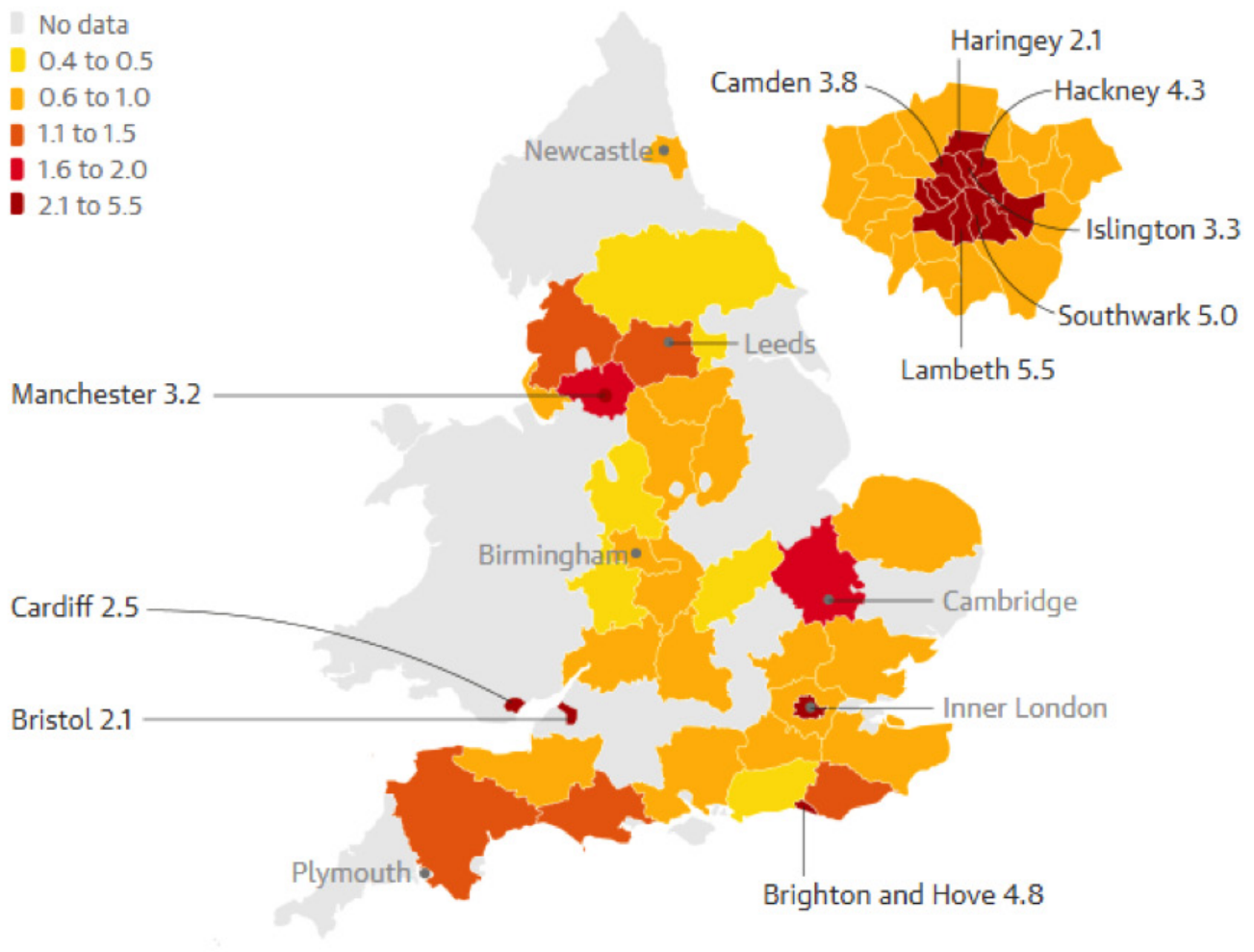
Legislation to allow same-sex marriage in **Scotland** took effect on 16 December 2014.

The Northern Ireland Executive has stated that it does not intend to introduce legislation allowing for same-sex marriage in **Northern Ireland**.



# ENGLAND AND WALES LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL POPULATION - MAPPED

Estimated gay or lesbian population 2013-15, percentage

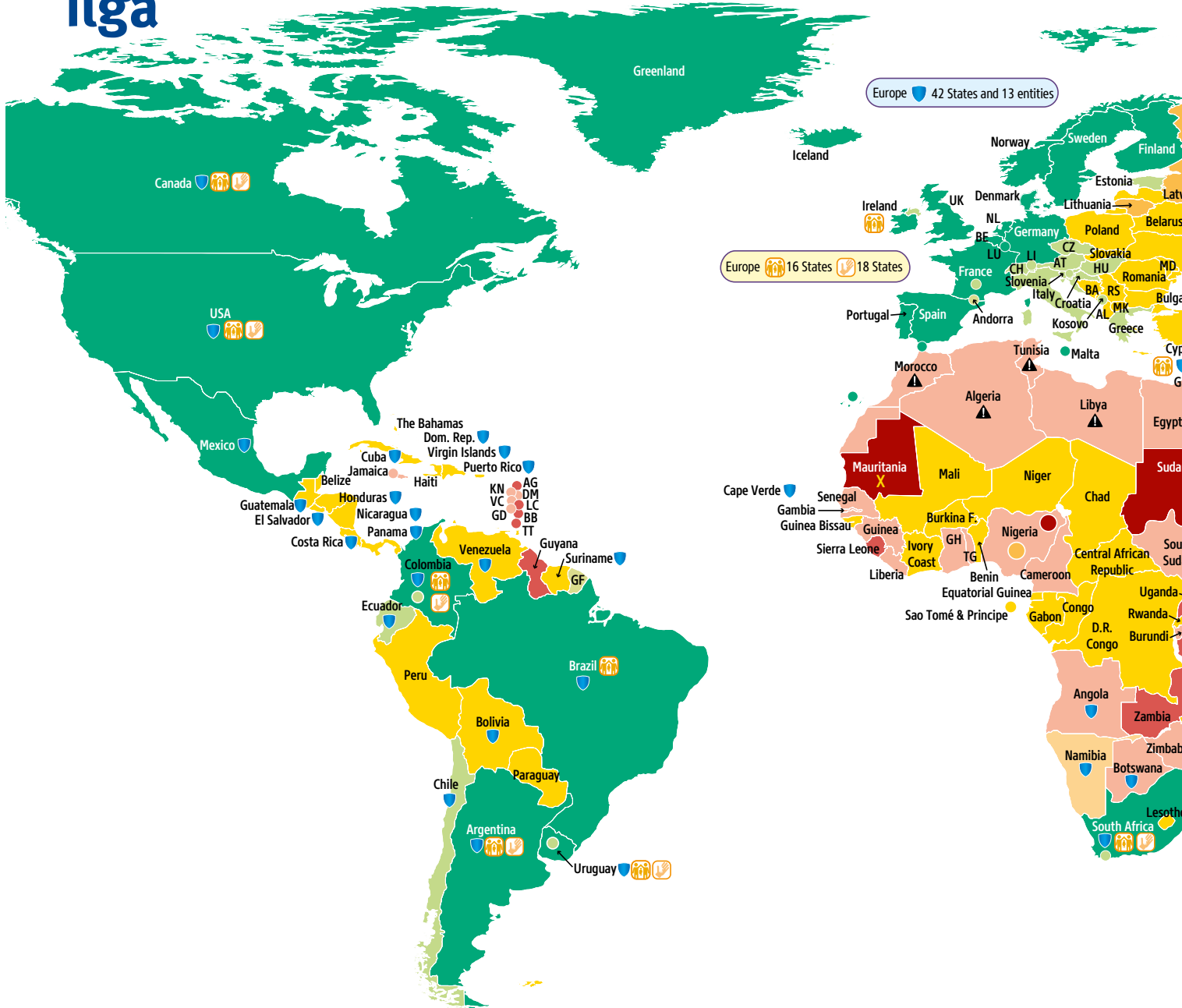


Guardian graphic | Source: ONS. Estimates for 31 out of the 35 recognised English counties



# SEXUAL ORIENTATION LAWS IN

ILGA, THE INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN, GAY,



## CRIMINALISATION

72 STATES

DEATH		implemented in 8 States (or parts of)		14 Y - life (prison)	14 States
		not implemented in 5 States		Up to 14 Y	57 States
		Religious-based laws alongside the civil code: 19 States		'Promotion' laws	3 States
				No penalising law	

In green, yellow and orange countries, same-sex sexual acts were decriminalised or never penalised: **123 States**

## PROTECTION

85 States

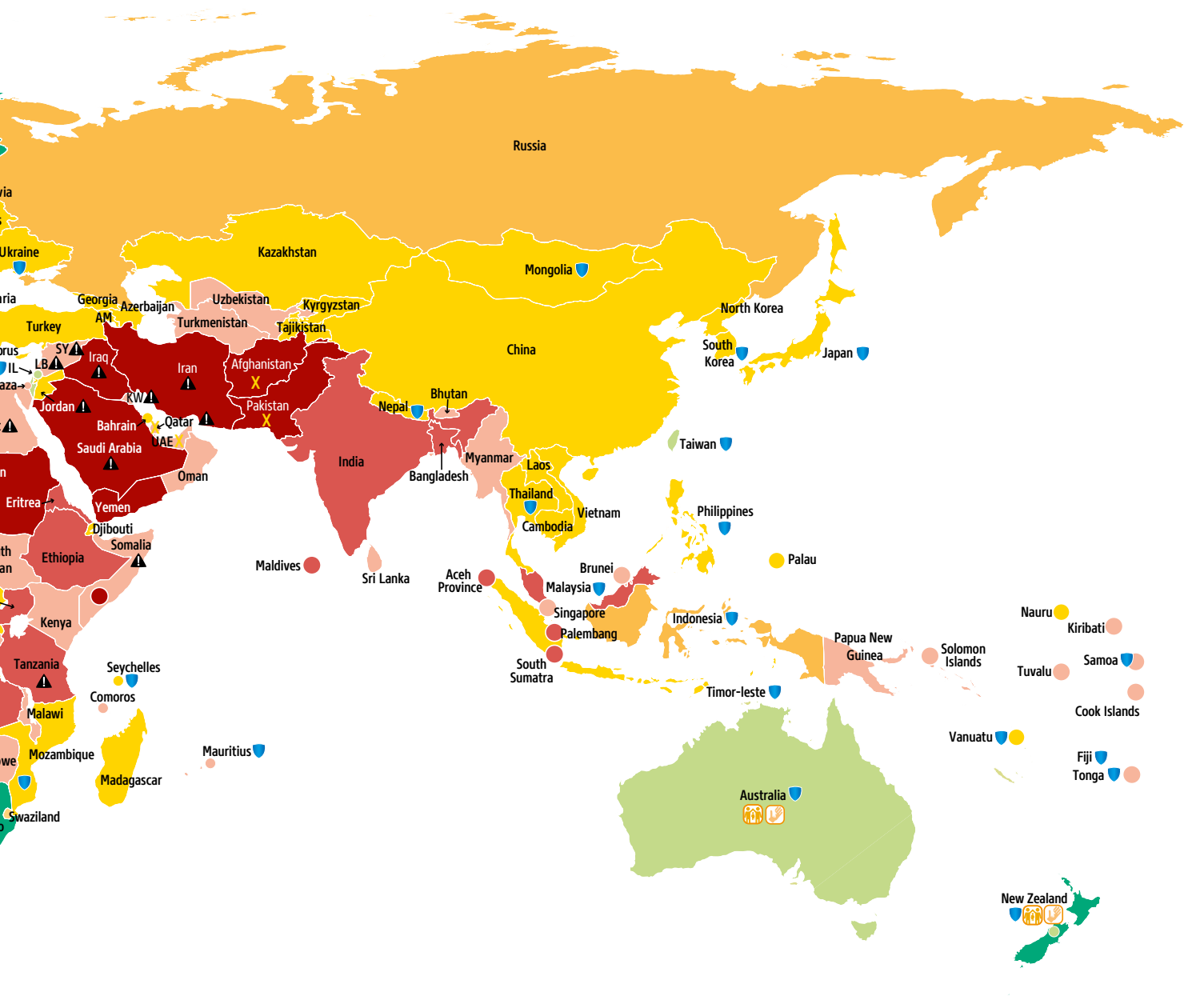
Many States run concurrent protect

	Constitution
	Employment
	Various
	Hate crime
	Incitement to hate
	Ban on 'conversion therapy'

# THE WORLD - OVERVIEW

**MAY 2017**  
ILGA.ORG

BISEXUAL, TRANS AND INTERSEX ASSOCIATION



## RECOGNITION

47 States

A small number of States provide for marriage and partnership concurrently

- 9 States
- 72 States
- 63 States
- 43 States
- 39 States
- 3 states

- Marriage 24 States
- Partnership 28 States

- Joint adoption 26 States
- 2nd parent adoption 27 States

Separate detailed maps for these three categories are produced alongside this Overview map.

The data represented in these maps are based on *State-Sponsored Homophobia: a World Survey of Sexual Orientation Laws: Criminalisation, Protection and Recognition*, an ILGA report by Aengus Carroll and Lucas Ramón Mendos. The report and these maps are available in the six official UN languages: English, Chinese, Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish on [ILGA.org](http://ILGA.org). This edition of the world map (May 2017) was coordinated by Aengus Carroll and Lucas Ramón Mendos (ILGA), and designed by Eduardo Enoki ([eduardo.enoki@gmail.com](mailto:eduardo.enoki@gmail.com)).

The following case studies show a series of dilemmas faced by people in different countries. Read about their situations, discuss the dilemmas and consider what you might do in this circumstances

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO? CASE STUDIES



### Name: Sam

You are a 15-year-old school pupil in the UK. You are questioning your sexual orientation, but you definitely know that you are not straight.

You have not felt confident to talk to your friends about this because you always hear them say things like “that’s really gay”, when they really mean to say, “that’s really rubbish”. You have never heard your friends saying anything positive at all about lesbian, gay, bisexual (or trans) people, so you are just not sure how they might react if you came out to them.

On The Proud Trust website, you have seen the interactive map that shows the locations of all the groups for LGBT+ (and questioning!) young people in the UK, there is one that is a short bus journey away from your home.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



### Name: Maysa

You are a 17-year-old Pakistani woman, living in Pakistan. For 11 months, you were in a loving, but secret, relationship with Latifa. One night, your parents caught you kissing each other, they were very angry and you have been forbidden from ever seeing Latifa again.

Subsequent to this, your parents have forced you to marry a man, a rich man, who is much older than you are. He is mean to you and makes you do things that you do not wish to do. You are very unhappy and you fear for your life, especially if your husband ever found out that you were still secretly seeing Latifa, about once a month or so.

You have heard that laws about lesbian, gay and bisexual people are different in different countries and you think that you may be able to seek asylum as a refugee in another country. You can access your husband’s money.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



### Name: Amir

You are 18. You are a gay man. You have never questioned your gender, you feel like you are a man. You have never told anybody that you are gay because in your country, Iran, same-gender relationships are punishable by death.

One day, you meet a woman in a café who has undergone gender reassignment surgery (i.e. when she was born, she was assigned male). As being trans is not illegal in Iran, she has chosen to live her life as a woman, and has even had some surgery to her body. She does not particularly feel that she is a woman, but this way, she tells you, she can live out her desire to be in a relationship with a man, without fear of punishment.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



### Name: Damba

You are a 55-year-old gay man, born and living in Uganda in Africa. In your country, sexual acts between two people of the same gender is illegal, and might be punished by life imprisonment. Much of the anti-gay law that exists in Africa today, does so as a result of Britain introducing it, whilst colonising these countries and bringing them into the British Empire around the turn of the 20th Century.

When you were a younger man, you travelled to the USA and saw first-hand, how LGBT Pride rallies and marches were attempting to change people's attitudes and laws, with success. In many Western countries, Pride events began as very political, with people protesting for better treatment and rights. More recently in such countries, Pride events have become a celebration of LGBT lives.

You wish for similar legal changes to occur for the people of Uganda, for them to have the freedom to love who they love, without fear. You want to organise a Pride rally in Kampala, the capital. You know if it goes ahead, there is a very good chance that you will be arrested and put into prison.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



### Name: Lukasz

You are a 27-year-old teacher. You are from Poland and you love your home country and your family. Five years ago, you met Ben, a 25-year-old computer programmer from Germany. You have fallen deeply in love and are very happy with each other!

As free movement of people between EU member countries is allowed, and as Ben can work from anywhere, you decided to buy a house together in Poland. In June 2017, Germany announced that same-sex marriage was going to be legalised. Poland does not recognise marriage between people of the same gender.

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



### Name: Marsha

It is the summer of 1969, New York, USA. You are a black trans woman. You are enjoying a night out with friends in a pub called The Stonewall Inn, one of the very few establishments at this time that is welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people.

Significant anti-LGBT laws exist. People live in fear, often forced to live double-lives. Police raids on your favourite bar are becoming more and more frequent, with people being arrested for such "crimes" as not having ID cards, or not wearing enough clothing that matches their gender assigned at birth.

You are sick and tired of the poor treatment that you and your friends are receiving. You are not harming anybody and you are minding your own business. This negative attention feels unfair and the police raid that occurs at 1.20am on Saturday 28 June 1969 feels like one too many...

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

**N.B.** Do a little research to find out exactly what Marsha P Johnson did do.