



PRIDE PACK

2026

Information, action and resources



INTRODUCTION

Parts of the Amnesty International UK movement have been attending Pride celebrations and Pride protests for decades, and local pride events are a highlight in the calendar for many of our local groups and student groups, as well as individual activists who attend, organise, marshal and otherwise get involved with events up and down the country.

The importance of Pride events is hard to overstate - as a protest with historic and demonstrable power, as a demand for recognition, as a statement of identity, and as an opportunity for solidarity - Pride is a fundamental cultural touchstone that demands inclusion, and demands Human Rights. There can be no more fundamental right than the ability to say "I am who I am" - and to be heard.

While rights around recognition and expression of sexuality have seen a reasonably steady upward trajectory in the last several decades, discrimination is still rife, with social media a particularly effective tool for delivering hate speech. In the last few years, the UK has seen an enormous regression in the cultural and legal protections of trans and non-binary people. Globally, over 60 countries around the world still have laws criminalising homosexuality. The need for Pride has not passed.

This pack contains actions that groups and individuals can take to pride events, knowing that the same actions will be taken up and down the country by other parts of the Amnesty movement, and that individually they will be contributing their voices to a collective that is a powerful voice for change. This year, we continue campaigning for a more responsible, more balanced and more honest media narrative on the rights of trans people, as well as introducing our Reading for Resistance campaign. This pack will be updated over the Pride Season with additional international or responsive actions as they arise, and with new resources, so please do check back!

RETURNING PETITIONS AND/OR PLEDGES:

Please return your petitions and/or pledges to the office by recorded delivery (for data protection reasons)- if you are an Amnesty group, you can reclaim the cost of this by contacting your Community Organiser.

The Queer Rights Network
C/O Community Organising
Amnesty International UK
1 Easton Street, London, WC1X 0DW



READING FOR RESISTANCE



Libraries serve as essential lifelines to communities, and they are under threat.

A 2023 a survey found that 1 in 3 UK librarians had been asked to remove or censor books, with the most targeted topics being LGBTQ+, Race and Empire, and that 82% of librarians were concerned about rising censorship pressure.

Book censorship in the UK is often informal and underreported, and while there is rarely a ‘formal ban’ there is increasing pressure to restrict access, quietly remove or relocate certain books. This is especially pressing for LGBTQI+ books school libraries, with a study by a professor at UCL finding that “almost all the UK attacks reported in my study centered on LGBTQ+ materials”.

Queer literature and LGBTQI+ books are where so many of us first encountered reflections of ourselves and our community, where we found representation, acceptance, joy and hope. Libraries who fight back against removing LGBTQI+ books are increasingly being targeted by anti-rights actors, with worrying cases of library professionals even losing their jobs.

The Reading for Resistance campaign champions libraries and bookshops as defenders of freedom of speech and safe spaces for queer communities. We must guard against a climate where libraries or bookshops avoid stocking certain books, holding talks or activities for fear of negative publicity or intimidation.

That’s why in 2026 we’re launching a national Queer Stories Covenant, for libraries and bookshops to stand together and publicly commit to resisting censorship, protecting diverse voices, and supporting LGBTQI+ staff and readers.

Take action to ensure your community is part of the fight back by:

- Asking your local libraries and bookshops to sign-up to the Queer Stories Covenant using the template on the next page.
- Raise awareness about this issue at your local pride and demonstrate community support for LGBTQ+ literature.



READING FOR RESISTANCE

THE QUEER STORIES COVENANT

Are you a library or bookshop that wants to fight back against creeping censorship of LGBTQI+ and other diverse literature?

By signing the Queer Stories Covenant, you can help protect libraries and bookshops as spaces of connection and safety for the LGBTQ+ community, defend the freedom to read and stand against censorship. No matter how big or small you are, whether you are in Inverness or London, whether you have a thriving drag story hour, or a small collection of queer literature, we are a powerful force if we come together.

Join us to be part of a visible national network and receive campaign materials, guidance and support from Amnesty International UK's Queer Rights Network, who will be publicly launching the founding signatories of the covenant in June 2026.

If you'd like more information please email us at queerrights@amnesty.org.uk.

We pledge to:

- **Proudly keep books with LGBTQI+ themes, stories and authors on our shelves.**
- **Refuse to comply with attempts to censor, silence or remove diverse voices from our collection.**
- **Always be a safe physical space for LGBTQI individuals and support our LGBTQI+ staff, with zero tolerance for homophobia and transphobia.**

Name of library or bookshop: _____

Address of library or bookshop: _____

Contact name and email: _____

Your information will be held by Amnesty International UK Section and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, and accessible to our staff and volunteers. We will never sell or swap your personal information with anyone else. Read more about how we use your information at [amnesty.org.uk/privacy notice](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice).



READING FOR RESISTANCE

COMMUNITY ACTION

If you are marching or have a stall this pride season you could harness this opportunity to raise awareness about rising censorship of LGBTQI+ books and stories in the UK and build community support to push back against this attack on freedom of expression. We have included some ideas below but you know what would work in your local area best so please get creative!

Remember to share any photos of videos of your action with us on Instagram @amnestyqueerrights or email them to us at queerrights@amnesty.org.uk.

PLACARD CREATION:

You'll find on the resources page at the end of this pack that there are 'blank placards' available to order. You can use these in a number of ways but our suggestion is that these are a great collective action for your stall or your group. Write statements or tag-lines that demonstrate your opposition to attempts to censor LGBTQI+ stories, or represent the joy you've experienced in queer literature.



BANNED BOOK STALL:

Raise awareness of creeping censorship by organising a stall to draw attention to the books and authors facing attempts to remove them from UK school and community libraries. Why not make it interactive and ask the public to guess which books have been subject to censorship requests? You can find a list of those from a single school [here](#) or include the following suggested titles:

- Heartstopper - Alice Oseman
- Girl, Woman, Other - Bernardine Evaristo
- This Book is Gay - Juno Dawson
- Men Who Hate Women - Laura Bates
- The Book of Non-Binary Joy - Ben Pechey
- Red, White & Royal Blue - Casey McQuiston
- Queerly Autistic - Erin Ekins
- ABC Pride - Louie Stowell, Elly Barnes & Amy Phelps



READING FOR RESISTANCE

COMMUNITY PLEDGE

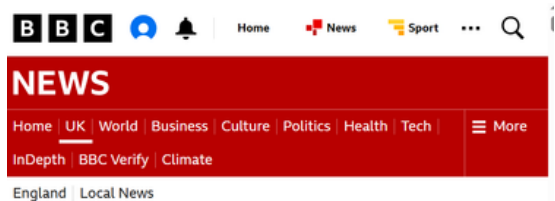
We, the undersigned, are part of _____ community and stand together against attempts to challenge, censor or remove LGBTQI+ and other diverse books and stories from libraries and bookshops in our area.

NAME	SIGNATURE

Your information will be held by Amnesty International UK Section and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, and accessible to our staff and volunteers. We will never sell or swap your personal information with anyone else. Read more about how we use your information at [amnesty.org.uk/privacy notice](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice).



LGBTQI+ DISCOURSE IN UK MEDIA



The lesbians who feel pressured to have sex and relationships with trans women

© 26 October 2021

Over recent years, the UK has seen a sharp rise in hate crimes towards marginalised communities, particularly trans people, migrants and refugees. This escalation has not occurred in a vacuum. It has coincided with, and been reinforced by, an increasingly hostile portrayal of these communities in UK media. The BBC, as the UK's most influential public service broadcaster, plays a key role in this distortion, and it must do better.

A YouGov poll in 2025 found that 70% of trans people felt the reporting by BBC News as "hostile". This is unsurprising when several times over the past few years the BBC has had to defend and amend articles that demonstrated substantial anti-trans bias, described the rights of trans people as "an area of controversy" and in 2021 admitted it had breached standards on accuracy after publishing the news story with the sensationalist headline pictured above.

This BBC coverage is compounded by a wider UK media landscape that since 2015 has seen an average of 154 articles have been published about trans people every month. This amounts to 13,000 articles, focused on less than 1% of the UK population. This increase has been overwhelmingly negative.

This dangerous and irresponsible BBC reporting extended to another vulnerable group within the LGBTQI+ community in April 2026, when they published an investigation into individuals allegedly helping people fabricate LGBTQI+ asylum claims.

In nearly 70 countries across the world same-sex relations are still criminalised and for LGBTQI+ people, asylum can be a lifeline. Only around 2% all UK asylum claims included sexual orientation as a reason for needing protection and doing so requires them to navigate a hostile, dehumanising system to "prove" their sexual orientation or gender identity. This irresponsible reporting misrepresents isolated incidents as systemic problems, fuels harmful stereotypes and causes real harm to marginalised communities whose lives are being made harder by the rise in racist far-right rhetoric.



LGBTQI+ DISCOURSE IN UK MEDIA

The BBC has a unique responsibility to set the standard for fair, accurate, and ethical reporting. We urge you to act now to ensure your journalism contributes to safety, dignity, and justice for all.

We the undersigned call on the BBC to:

- Adopt clear editorial safeguards to prevent dehumanising language, misrepresentation, and sensationalism in coverage of marginalised communities and ensure those with lived experience are meaningfully included and heard in coverage that affects them.
- Scrutinise whether the coverage of hostile anti-trans and anti-asylum narratives is in the public interest and refrain from presenting the rights of trans people, migrants or asylum seekers as debate with sides.
- Consistently challenge politicians and opinion makers on why they are disproportionately focused on trans people, asylum seekers and migrants.

NAME	SIGNATURE

Your information will be held by Amnesty International UK Section and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, and accessible to our staff and volunteers. We will pass the information provided in this petition to the target of the petition. We will never sell or swap your personal information with anyone else. Read more about how we use your information at [amnesty.org.uk/privacy notice](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice).



RESOURCES

Make your pride presence loud and glorious, by ordering the resources below.

You can do this by emailing the Supporter Communications Team at SCT@amnesty.org.uk with the quantities you need, alongside the order codes, which you can find below! Alternatively, use our online resource order form at: <https://tinyurl.com/AIUKresources>



"PRIDE IS PROTEST" placard

Order code: LGBT023



"LOVE IS A HUMAN RIGHT" placard

Order code: LGBT001



"PROTECT PRIDE PROTECT PROTEST" placard

Order code: LBGT024



"I AM WHO I SAY I AM" placard

trans flag colours
Order code: LGBT014

non-binary flag colours
Order code: LGBT019



Blank (logo only) placards for photo actions

Order code: LGBT022



Pride sticker sheet (15 stickers)

Order code: LGBT008



I am who I say I am sticker sheet (15 stickers)

Non-binary flag colours
Order code: LGBT020

Trans flag colours
Order code: LGBT013



Gender identity for beginners: leaflet

Order code: LGBT017



BBC trans discourse action cards

Order code: LGBT027

We don't want to be wasteful, so our resources do not currently reflect our new network name and branding! We'll update this section of the pack over pride season as existing resources are expended, and new ones developed!

