



Safe spaces for lesbian, gay,
bisexual and trans people

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender BME support groups

African Gay Christians

E: africangaychristians@yahoo.com

A lively e-group for African gay Christians.

Al-Bab for LGBT Arabs

E: brian@al-bab.com

W: www.al-bab.com/arab/background/gay.htm

Al-Bab is a British-based support group for LGBT Arabs that introduces non-Arabs to the Arabs and their culture.

Al-Bab consists mainly of links to other sites and pages on the internet but also contains some original material. The links are presented in an organised, structured way which is intended to make information easy to find.

Changing Attitude

*6 Norney Bridge, Mill Road, Marston,
Devizes, SN10 5SF*

T: Contact Revd Colin Coward on 01380 724908

M: 07770 844302

E: office@changingattitude.org or colin@changingattitude.org

W: www.changingattitude.org.uk

Working for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender affirmation within the Anglican Communion; Changing Attitude was founded in 1995, and they also welcome as members everyone whose concern is to work for change in the church's understanding of human sexuality. They have a growing network of active diocesan groups meeting and holding events in 25 dioceses (as of March 2010). There are also 14 other dioceses in which there are a Changing Attitude contact. Changing Attitude also has an international network of over 1000 people, including supporters in Wales, Scotland, New Zealand, Australia, USA, Canada, Brazil, Nigeria and Uganda.

Courage

PO Box 748, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 2ZY.

T: 01483 301411

E: office@courage.org.uk

W: www.courage.org.uk

Courage is a UK-based, none profit, evangelical Christian organisation, founded in 1988, for gay and lesbian Christians who are seeking a safe place of friendship in which to reconcile their faith and sexuality and grow towards Christian maturity.

Gay and Lesbian Humanist Association (GALHA)

1 Gower Street, London, WC1E 6HD.

T: 0844 800 3067.

E: info@galha.org

W: www.galha.org

GALHA provides a voice for the many non-religious in the lesbian and gay community in the United Kingdom and elsewhere and promotes a rational humanist approach to homosexuality and to lesbian, gay and bisexual rights as human rights.

Gay and Lesbian Orthodox Network (GLON)

T: Contact Avraham on 07773 086 233

E: glon_uk@yahoo.com

W: Link at www.jglg.org.uk

GLON is a non-judgemental support and social network for Orthodox gays and lesbians. It has been in existence for over 15 years and has regular meetings, discussion groups and social events. Co-ordinator Avraham is also happy to meet with people on an individual basis (by phone/email or in person) to talk about any issues or difficulties people may be going through.

Iraqi LGBT

Unit 111, 22 Notting Hill Gate, London, W11 3JE.

T: 07981 959 453 - Contact: Ali Hili

E: iraqilgbt@yahoo.co.uk

iraqilgbt@googlemail.com

W: www.iraqilgbtuk.blogspot.com/

Iraqi LGBT is an underground network of LGBT activists established inside Iraq, it is coordinated by Ali Hili from the safety of London UK. All the group's members in London are Iraqi refugees seeking asylum.

Jewish Gay & Lesbian Group

BM JGLG, London, England, WC1N 3XX.

T: 07504 924742 (Group Line),

E: group: info@jglg.org.uk

W: www.jglg.org.uk

The object of JGLG is to provide a meeting place where Jewish gay men, lesbians, bi-sexual's and transgender people can meet in a friendly and sociable atmosphere and to provide and organise events and/or activities which would be of interest to the members of JGLG.

Kiss

T: 020 8741 1879.

W: www.planetkiss.org.uk

Kiss is social support group made up of women who identify as lesbian, bisexual or queer and are of South Asian, Middle Eastern or North African descent. Some have been 'out' for a long time whilst others are just 'coming out'. The women meet up once a month in London.

Lesbian & Gay Christian Movement (LGCM)

Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London, E2 6HG.

T: 020 7739 1249

E: lgcm@lgcm.org.uk

W: www.lgcm.org.uk

The Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement is a UK-based international charity challenging homophobia and transphobia, especially within the Church and faith based organisations, as well as working to create and praying for an inclusive church.

The organisation started in April 1976 as the Gay Christian Movement (GCM) and changed the name to recognise the contribution of the female membership ten years later. LGCM has continued to grow, despite opposition and numerous attempts to get the organisation to fold and now has members from all corners of the world and from all the major denominations as well as no denominational affiliation.

LGBT Imaan

28 Commercial Street, London, E1 6LS.

E: info@imaan.org.uk

W: www.imaan.org.uk

Imaan supports LGBT Muslim people, their families and friends, to address issues of sexual orientation within Islam. It provides a safe space and support network to address issues of common concern through sharing individual experiences and institutional resources.

Imaan promotes the Islamic values of peace, social justice and tolerance through its work, and aspires to bring about a world that is free from prejudice and discrimination against all Muslims and LGBT people. Imaan is an independent organisation run by volunteers and without external funding.

Muslim Youth

18 Rosemont Road, London, NW3 6NE.

T: 0207 435 8171 F: 0870 774 3519

E: info@myh.org.uk W: www.myh.org.uk

Helpline: 0808 808 2008

Helpline hours: Monday – Friday: 6pm – 12am &
Saturday – Sunday: 12pm – 12 am.

The Muslim Youth Helpline (MYH) is a registered charity which provides pioneering faith and culturally sensitive services to Muslim youth in the UK.

Muslim Youth has a confidential helpline where any young Muslim in the UK can talk about anything, including issues related to sexuality. No call will ever be traced and no one will ask their name.

Their core services are free and confidential emotional support service available nationally via the telephone, email, internet and through the post. The service uses male and female volunteers trained in active listening and basic listening skills to respond to client enquiries.

Naz Project

241 King Street, London, W6 9LP.

T: 020 8741 1879 Fax: 020 8741 9609

E: npl@naz.org.uk

W: www.naz.org.uk

The Naz Project provides sexual health promotion services and support groups for various BME MSM: Portuguese speakers, Somalis, South Asians, and Spanish speaking Latin Americans. We also provide support services for BME MSM living with HIV.

The Safra Project

P.O. Box 45079, London, N4 3YD.

E: info@safraproject.org

W: www.safraproject.org/

The Safra Project is a resource project working on issues relating to lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender women who identify as Muslim religiously and/or culturally (Muslim LBT women).

The Safra Project was set up in October 2001 by and for Muslim LBT women. The issues faced by Muslim LBT women, and the (combination of) prejudices based on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, religion, race, culture and immigration status that they experience, are unique and currently insufficiently addressed.

The word Safra is related to the words for 'journey' and discovery' in languages such as Arabic, Farsi and Urdu. The Safra Project does not seek to provide ultimate answers or solutions, and is not a faith group. Its ethos is of inclusiveness and diversity.

Somali Gay Community

E: info@somaligaycommunity.org

W: www.somaligaycommunity.org

Somali Gay Community was established in 2005 by a small group of gay Somalians living in the U.K, to create a space for Somalian gays and lesbians in the UK to access information, share experiences and develop support networks. It also liaises with agencies that can provide professional help and support for gays & lesbians living in the UK.

Southall Black Sisters

21 Avenue Road, Southall, Middlesex, UB1 3BL.

Helpline: 0208 571 0800 (Mon-Fri 10am–5pm) -

Closed Wed 12.30pm to 1.30pm

T: 0208 571 9595 (Mon-Fri 9am–4pm) - Closed

12.30pm to 1.30pm for lunch

F: 0208 574 6781

E: info@southallblacksisters.co.uk

W: www.southallblacksisters.org.uk

A charitable organisation which manages a resource centre in West London that provides comprehensive services to women who are experiencing violence and abuse; they offer specialist advice, information, casework, advocacy, counselling and self-help support services in several community languages.

Club listings

Club Kali

www.clubkali.com/

The world's largest and original Asian music based LGBT club.

Saathi Night

<http://www.saathinight.com/>

South Asian gay club night in Birmingham.

Related articles

Gay and Lesbian Rights: Why Humanism Cares, Rob Tielman argues that gays and humanists are natural allies.

What's wrong with being gay and Muslim?, "the Qur'anic verses usually cited as condemning homosexuality are by no means as clear or unequivocal as people imagine". By Brian Whitaker

Same-Sex Sexual Activity and Lesbian and Bisexual Women

Article from the Feminist Sexual Ethics Project website which argues that, despite current conventional wisdom to the contrary, same-sex sexual expression has been a recognised aspect of Muslim societies for many centuries.

Sodom and the Koran, Raza Griffiths tackles the controversial question of whether a person can be gay and a Muslim, and the issues surrounding religious homophobia.

2000 Years of Church Homophobia, Peter Tatchell says Dr Qaradawi symbolises the threat that Islamic fundamentalism poses to Muslims, Jews, women and gay people

Outcast heroes: the story of gay Muslims, from Britain to Egypt gay men are stigmatised and attacked. But some are starting to fight back.