

VOLUME 2 • APRIL 2020

FREEDOM SCHOOLS PROJECT

EMPOWERING LGBTQ+ EQUALITY IN EDUCATION



Hi everyone!

COMING UP:

FREEDOM
ONLINE

LESBIAN VISIBILITY
WEEK

THE FREEDOM
BATIK

WAYS TO KEEP IN
TOUCH

We're back! We hope that you enjoyed a break over the Easter holidays, whatever you got up to.

You might have settled in to being at home now, or it might still feel really weird. Both of those things are okay - and so is anything else that you might be feeling!

OTR and Freedom are still bringing you loads of content online - to find out more, visit our website: www.otrbristol.org.uk

LESBIAN VISIBILITY WEEK

What is Lesbian Visibility Week?

2020 was the first ever Lesbian Visibility Week - before then, there's been Lesbian Visibility Day instead. It is an opportunity to recognise, support and celebrate lesbians and queer women, and it's a chance to unite all women.



Why does it take place?

A recent survey showed that 39% of women weren't aware of Lesbian Visibility Day, and that lots of women still didn't feel able to talk openly about their sexuality. Lesbian Visibility Week aims to create an opportunity to celebrate and make space for all LGBTQ+ women.



How can I find out more info?

Visit www.lesbianvisibilityweek.com for more information about the events that took place. Look at the 'Visible Lesbian 100' too to find out about some influential LGBTQ+ women!



WHO AM I?



I am one of the founders of UK Black Pride
In 2016, I turned down an MBE from the Queen as an act of resistance against colonialism and the legacy of the British Empire

I was the CEO of Stonewall until 2019, and am now a member of the House of Lords. helped Stonewall to become a more inclusive organisation, supporting the inclusion of trans people



I came out in 1994. It is often said that I was the first lesbian in the public eye in the UK to come out. In 2015, I founded the Women's Equality Party to campaign for gender equality.

I am a political activist, a filmmaker and documentary maker. I was one of the co-founders of GLOW, an LGBTQ+ rights organisation in South Africa, and I organised the first Pride event in South Africa in 1990



I am an American actress, comedian, writer and producer. I have never publicly come out, although I have always been open about my sexuality. I was recently arrested for taking part in a climate change protest in Washington D.C.

I am a writer, actress and producer from Chicago. I was the first black woman to win a Primetime Emmy Award in 2017. I actively recruit LGBTQ+ people and people of colour for the projects that I work on



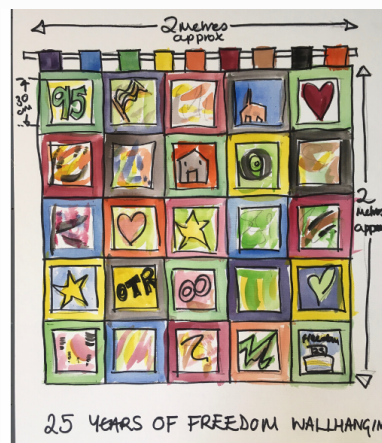
THE FREEDOM BATIK

In celebration of Freedom's 25th year, we're working with a local artist, Jo Whiteland, to create a commemorative Batik.

Batik is an Indonesian technique of creating layered pictures using wax. .

We want the Batik to be a collaborative effort from our Freedom members, both past and present, and our wider network of colleagues and friends.

The batik will consist of 25 individual squares, each representing a year of Freedom's history, from 1995 - 2020. A bit like this:



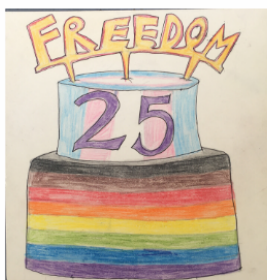
This is where you come in - we want you to design the batik!

The finished product will be 2m x 2m. Each individual panel will be 30cm x 30cm

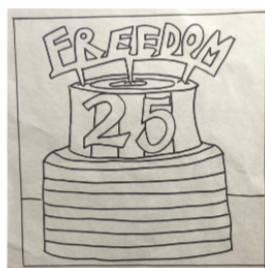
Each panel will represent a significant LGBTQ+ event for that year - either specifically for Freedom, or more broadly for LGBTQ+ people and communities.

Your design should be clear and colourful, with a simple outline.

Here's an example:



Original Design



Jo's Outline



Finished Panel



THE FREEDOM BATIK

First, go to our Doodle Poll to choose your year(s):

<https://doodle.com/poll/m79ug3zbvq6mzwyi>

You can make more than one submission, but we're only allowing up to 3 people to choose the same year, so that we have lots of choice across the whole time frame.

Once 3 people have chosen a year, it will disappear from the poll. No one other than Natasha and Henry will know which years you've chosen

This can be a scanned file, or a clear photograph. With each submission, please include the following information:

What year does your design represent?

Why did you choose this design and this year?

What is the most important element of your design?

Deadlines and Timeframes:

First Wave: April 20th - May 8th

If your submission is for a year between 1995 - 2002, please send your design to us by Friday 15th May

Second Wave: May 18th - June 5th

If your submission is for a year between 2003 - 2010, please send your design to us by Friday 5th June

Final Wave: June 8th - June 26th

If your submission is for a year between 2011 - 2020, please send your design to us by Friday 26th June

Please email your designs to **LGBTQ@otrbristol.org.uk**, or if you have any questions or would like some more information about the Batik Project.





FREEDOM ONLINE



Whilst we can't see everyone in person at the minute, we're trying to bring you lots of content on social media so that we can stay connected. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - we're **@FreedomLGBTQ**

If you'd like to join Freedom, email us at **LGBTQ@otrbristol.org.uk** - we're still running our group sessions online, and there are a few ways you can get involved

Remember to check out OTR too for loads of things to get involved with - including pet shows, Italian lessons, and Yoga!
www.otrbristol.org.uk

OTHER PLACES FOR SUPPORT

A few useful places to go if you need some support:

LGBT Switchboard: 0300 330 0630
www.switchboard.lgbt

Mermaids: 0808 801 0400
www.mermaidsuk.org.uk

Mind Out:
www.mindout.org.uk

Kooth:
www.kooth.com

WHO AM I? ANSWERS

- 1) Lady Phyll
- 2) Ruth Hunt
- 3) Sandi Toksvig
- 4) Beverley Ditsie
- 5) Lily Tomlin
- 6) Lena Waithe

