LGBT history month 2017

Our proud history:
From lone voices to collective union action for LGBT equality
Early 1970s ...
1974

- Howard Hyman
- Letter to NALGO’s Public Service magazine suggesting a gay group
- He asked “Am I the only one?”
First Nalgay newsletter
Hello!

The MALGO Gay Group is for all homosexuals, bisexuals, transvestites, transexuals, or any other sexuals who do not fit into Society's accepted standards of sexuality (it is not for child molesters or rapists etc.) and who belong to the National and Local Government Officers trade union.
1976

NALGO policy:
‘Sexual orientation’ to be included in non-discrimination clauses in all collective agreements
1980/81

• Jamie Dunbar – COHSE - hospital porter sacked for wearing a gay pride badge

• COHSE was the first union to issue advice on HIV in the workplace – facts not myths

• Susan Shell – NUPE – care worker sacked when she came out to a colleague
May 1983
Chanting N.A.L.G.O. crowds block road

“GAY” RIGHTS MARCH ON TYNWALD

DELEGATES at the 1993 N.A.L.G.O. conference in Douglas agreed by a majority vote yesterday afternoon to a motion calling for the boycott of the Isle of Man as a venue for future trade union conferences. It happened after 350 chanting Gay Rights supporters from the union marched on Tynwald to hand in a petition declaring that they were “disgusted to learn that our conference is being held on an island where homosexuality is still totally illegal.”
October 1983

• First national trade union lesbian and gay conference

• Organised by NALGO Met L+G group, endorsed by NEOC
Standing up for lesbian and gay rights

LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS

RUGBY - THE STORY BEHIND THE HEADLINES

The campaign to persuade Rugby Council to reaffirm a commitment not to discriminate against lesbians and gay men has been one of the most widely publicised Trade Union campaigns on the issue. Why did it happen? How did NALGO respond? What was achieved? What can be learned?

HOW THE STORM BEGAN.

Rugby is a small market town in the West Midland District of NALGO. The NALGO Branch has 260 members and is typical in its organisation and composition of NALGO Branches in the Local Government service.

At its meeting in July, 1984, Rugby Borough Council endorsed an equal opportunities agreement negotiated between Management and the Trade Unions, including NALGO. Sexual orientation was one of the grounds - along with sex, marriage, race, colour, nationality, ethnic and national origins - on which the Council agreed not to discriminate.
1984

- So unions began to support lesbian and gay workers.
- And some lesbians and gay men did a great deal to support striking union members.
And our union was there in solidarity ...
Taking it to the TUC

Unions demand gay rights law

Unions for lesbian and gay rights campaigners were celebrating their most spectacular triumph after the Trades Union Congress (TUC) voted overwhelmingly in support of a motion demanding legislation to protect them from discrimination in all areas of life. It is a major breakthrough in the long struggle to realize the rights of gay men and women.
Resisting Section 28
We’re coming out!
1990-91

Black lesbians and gays against media homophobia
After Rumania, Britain has the most discriminatory laws against gay men in Europe. But 1994 sees an opportunity for Parliament to at last revise the age of consent law, currently standing at 21 for gay men, and 16 for heterosexuals. This is perhaps the most obvious aspect of legal discrimination against gay men on the statute books—and one that still
An inclusive union
Putting our principles into practice

The public launch of LAGCAR. From left to right - Kursad Kahramanoglu (UNISON), Angela Mason (Stonewall), Daryl Telles (LAGCAR) and Jenny Cook ( REGARD).
1999 – going global!

Launch of EI/PSI guidelines

Working for lesbian and gay members
2004/2005 – becoming an LGBT group
LGBT – stronger together
2013
2017

Stronger together in UNISON
- still making history!
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