

# FIVE FILMS FOR FREEDOM

Information for Schools - Purple Friday

## Background

Love is a human right

### About the Programme for Schools on Purple Friday

To celebrate Purple Friday in the Netherlands, the British Council and STET are making a short LGBTIQ+ themed film available as part of our offer to secondary schools. The programme includes a short LGBTIQ+ themed film from the UK (Ladies Day by Director Abena Taylor-Smith), a pack with information that teachers can use in their classroom and a tailor-made workshop in English delivered by a professional actor from STET. During the workshop students will have the opportunity to learn about LGBTIQ+ experiences in an international context. The workshop will also offer them a safe space to share their personal reflections and experiences. The materials made available for the programme and workshop have been carefully selected for students aged 15-18.

### About Five Films For Freedom

The selected film, Ladies Day by Director Abena Taylor-Smith, was part of the annual Five Films For Freedom online programme. The British Council, in partnership with BFI Flare: London LGBTIQ+ Film Festival, makes five LGBTIQ+ themed short films available for the world to watch online for free, over a 12 day period each year in March.

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 LGBTIQ+ communities.

Running since 2015, the programme has received over 15 million views in more than 200 countries and principalities.

### About this pack

This pack contains background information and suggested prompts schools can use to prepare for the film screening and workshop. Schools that are not taking part in the programme can also use the resources to discuss LGBTIQ+ issues in the classroom and raise awareness on Purple Friday in their schools.

The pack includes:

- A glossary
- Country-specific factsheet on the UK
- Link to short video 'London Loves You'
- Suggested prompts that can be used to discuss the video 'London Loves You' in class
- A world view on sexual orientation laws in the world

## Glossary

Everyone has the right to self-identify, and will have differing relationships with the words that people choose to identify themselves with.

It is important to ask how a person identifies, and to respect their answer. Identities can be fluid and as life goes on, people often realise new things about themselves, and so the words that someone uses at one point in their life, may not be words that they will always identify with – and that's totally ok!

This glossary is not definitive, but below are some of the most common identities and terms used, when talking about sexual orientation (who you're attracted to) and gender identity (how you feel about and see yourself).

### Ally

A person who fights for, and supports others in their fight for equality, despite not being a member of the marginalised group, e.g. a heterosexual and/or cisgender person who believes in, and fights for equality, for LGBTIQ+ people.

### Asexual

A person of any gender or sexual orientation who experiences little, or no, sexual attraction. Asexual people may still experience other types of attraction, such as physical or romantic attraction.

### Bisexual

A person of any gender who experiences attraction to people of their own gender, and other genders.

### Cis / cisgender

A person whose gender is the same or mostly the same as they were assigned at birth.

### Discrimination

Treating individuals or a particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way than how a person might generally treat others, because they hold negative views about people with certain characteristics – e.g. a person's race, faith, sex assigned at birth, sexual orientation, class.

### Gay

A man who is attracted to other men. Sometimes the word 'gay' is used by women who are attracted to women too.

### Gender Expression

Refers to how a person externally presents their gender. This may be through choice of clothing, general physical appearance or social behaviour. Gender expression is most commonly/ traditionally measured on a scale of "masculinity" and "femininity", although not always.

### Gender Fluid

A person who feels that their gender is not static and that it changes throughout their life, this could be on a daily / weekly / monthly basis.

### Gender Identity

How a person feels about and knows themselves to be. This might be as a woman, a man, as both, as neither, or in another way.

### Gender Neutral/ Agender

A person who does not identify with any gender.

## Heterosexual/ Straight

A person who is attracted to people of a different gender e.g. a man who is only attracted to women.

## Homophobia

Discrimination against and/or fear or dislike of lesbian and gay people (including those perceived to be gay or lesbian). This also includes the perpetuation of negative myths and stereotypes through jokes and/or through personal negative thoughts about lesbian and gay people.

## Intersex

A person is assigned intersex, often at birth, when their sex characteristics don't align with the medical definitions of "female" or "male". A person's external and internal body, as well as chromosomes and hormones, can all be factors when assigning sex.

## Lesbian

A woman who is attracted to other women.

## LGBTIQ+

An umbrella expression and an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer/questioning (plus other related identities), sometimes shortened to LGBT+.

## Non-binary

An umbrella term for gender identities which are not confined by the gender binary of "women" and "men". Non-binary people may identify with no gender at all or with more than one gender.

## Out/Coming Out

LGBTIQ+ people living openly, and telling people about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

## Pronouns

Words used to refer to someone when their name isn't used. They usually suggest a person's gender, although some people prefer, or identify with, neutral pronouns. Common pronouns include her, she, him, he, they, them.

## Queer

Historically this word was used as a negative insult, however many people feel they have reclaimed the word to have a positive meaning. Some people use it as a collective term for LGBTIQ+ people, and some use it to explain their gender, sexual or political identity. Some people still use this word as an insult, this is LGBTIQ+phobia and should be challenged.

## Sex Assigned at Birth

People are assigned a sex at birth, usually based on observation of external genitals. A person may be assigned "female", "intersex" or "male". However, this does not necessarily reflect how a person will identify themselves.

## Sexual Orientation

The part of a person's identity that describes who they experience attraction to, often but not always based on gender, e.g. lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, pansexual.

## Trans / Transgender

A person whose gender identity is in some way different to the gender they were assigned at birth.

## Transition

A term that refers to changes a person might make to affirm their gender. These changes might be medical and/or social. E.g. a person might change their name, pronoun or clothing. A person might start to take prescribed hormones or make surgical changes to their bodies. Everyone's transition will be different.

## Transphobia

Discrimination against and/or fear or dislike of people whose gender identity does not align with the gender they are assigned at birth, or whose gender identity or expression doesn't appear to align. This also includes the perpetuation of negative myths and stereotypes through jokes and/or through personal negative thoughts about trans people.

## Country-specific factsheet about the UK

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.

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

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

- 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.

### **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.

## 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.

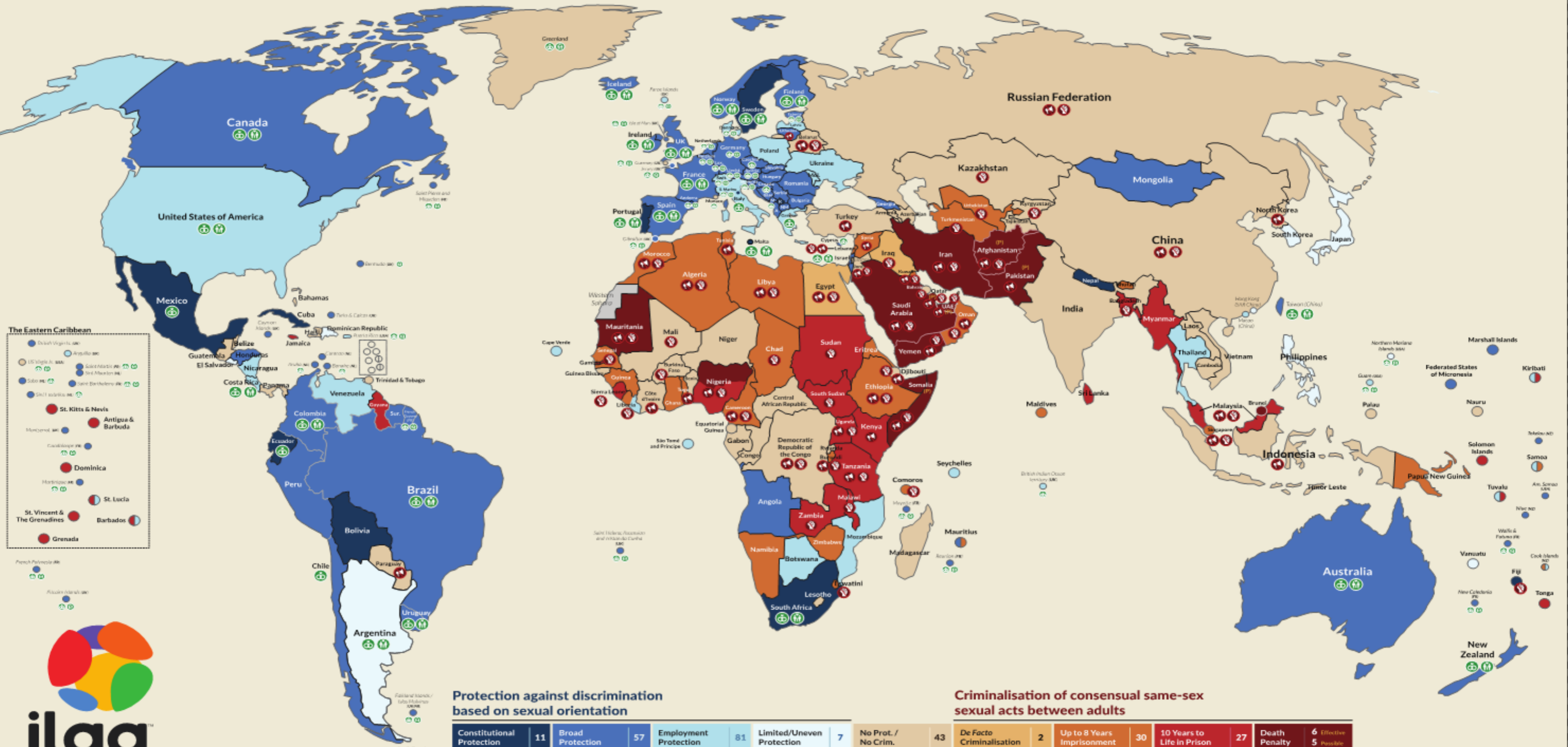


Show your students the film 'London Loves You' (<https://vimeo.com/158625035>) and then use some of the discussion prompts below:

- Do the young people in the films seem similar or different to young people in the Netherlands?
- 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 the Netherlands, do you think that different generations see diversity differently?

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION LAWS IN THE WORLD

From criminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults to protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation



- The Eastern Caribbean**
- Antigua & Barbuda
  - Barbados
  - Belize
  - Dominica
  - Grenada
  - St. Kitts & Nevis
  - St. Lucia
  - St. Vincent & the Grenadines
  - Tobago



The data presented in this map is based on State-Sponsored Homophobia, an ILGA report by Lucas Ramon Mendos, Kellyn Botha, Rafael Carrano Lelis, Enrique López de la Peña, R.J. and Daron Tan. This map can be reproduced and printed without permission as long as ILGA is properly credited and the content is not altered. [ilga.org](http://ilga.org)

### Protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation

Constitutional Protection	11	Broad Protection	57	Employment Protection	81	Limited/Uneven Protection	7	No Prot. / No Crim.	43
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### Legal recognition of families

- Marriage or other forms of legal union for same-sex couples
- Adoption open to same-sex couples (either jointly or via second parent adoption)

### Criminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults

De Facto Criminalisation	2	Up to 8 Years Imprisonment	30	10 Years to Life in Prison	27	Death Penalty	6	Effective	5	Possible
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### Legal barriers to the exercise of rights

- Legal barriers to freedom of expression on SOGIESC issues
- Legal barriers to the registration or operation of sexual orientation related CSOs

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