

## LGB Alliance celebrates four generations of lesbian and gay activism at 4th Annual Conference

*This year's theme — Our Lives, Our Future — brings together 1960s LGB pioneers with young activists fighting the New Homophobia*

**13 August 2024:** The 4th Annual LGB Alliance conference will showcase young activists fighting the rise of ideologically-driven homophobia in the UK, and bring them together with LGB rights veterans to ask whether it will ever be “OK to be gay”.

This year, the theme for the biggest event in the LGB calendar — held once again at QEII Centre in Westminster on **Friday 11 October** — is *Our Lives, Our Future*. Over the course of the day, hundreds of gay, lesbian and bisexual delegates from across the generations will meet to share stories from six decades of LGB activism, from the battle for decriminalisation in the 1960s to the virulent New Homophobia of the 2020s.

Highlights from this year's conference programme include:

- **Young Lesbians Fight Back**, featuring TikTok creator Alison who highlights the abuse and threats faced by lesbians in an online culture dominated by gender identity ideology, which deems same-sex attraction ‘bigoted’
- **Sex, Lies and Victories**, where legendary barrister Akua Rheindorf KC will lead a discussion of the court cases that have shaped the resurgent LGB movement — from Jo Phoenix and Allison Bailey to LGB Alliance's own successful battle to preserve its charitable status
- **Bad Press?**, LGB Alliance conference's first “press panel”, where journalists will discuss the erasure of gay and lesbian perspectives from the media — and by broadcasters in particular — in favour of trans, “queer” and other identity groups

Other speakers at the event include legendary lesbian and women's rights campaigner **Julie Bindel**; former BBC journalist **Cath Leng**, New York-based writer and journalist **Ben Appel**, author of notable essays such as “The New Homophobia”, “Homophobia in Drag”, and “The Re-Demonization of the Gay Male”; lesbian activist and trade union rep **Jan Baxter**, who founded Lesbian & Gay switchboard in the 1980s; and journalist, publisher and writer **Simon Edge**, author of two satirical novels skewering the absurdity and homophobia of gender identity ideology.

“This year was the first in LGB Alliance’s history where we haven’t been fighting for our existence, following our opponents’ malicious and unsuccessful attempt to strip us of our charitable status,” **said Kate Barker, CEO of LGB Alliance.** “This has enabled us to focus all our efforts on initiatives that make a real difference to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. From the launch of the UK’s only helpline specifically for LGB young people, to the phenomenal growth of our nationwide network of Friends’ Groups, to ensuring the interests of LGB people are represented in Westminster and the media, it’s been another superb year.

“These successes are tempered by the fact that LGB people face discrimination on a scale not seen for years,” **Barker continued.** “It’s particularly distressing for older gays and lesbians to see young people facing threats and vitriol for saying they are same-sex attracted, especially when these attacks come wrapped in the Rainbow Flag — a symbol that used to unite us, but which now stands for a resurgent homophobia. Conference has quickly established itself as the most important event in the LGB calendar, where we can forge alliances and develop strategies to counter threats to the rights we fought so long to win.”

Tickets are already on sale to LGB Alliance supporters and to the public. Tickets at a concessionary rate are available on request for students and those who struggle to afford a full-priced ticket, as well as free ‘plus one’ tickets for disabled people who may wish to bring a helper. LGB Alliance also offers free tickets to those who simply would not be able to attend otherwise.

Journalists wishing to attend LGB Alliance Conference should contact the press office to secure their passes (details below).

For further information on LGB Alliance Conference visit: <https://lgballiance.org.uk/conference/>

Tickets are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lgb-alliance-conference-2024-tickets-902493280697>

-ENDS-

#### **Note to editors**

For press passes or for further information on the LGB Alliance conference, please contact the press office:

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## **About LGB Alliance**

[LGB Alliance](#) was founded to advance the interests of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals, and stand up for our right to live as same-sex attracted people without discrimination or disadvantage. We ensure that the voices of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals are heard in all public and political discussions affecting our lives.

We are committed to engaging with others respectfully; to discuss, propose, and oppose ideas. We do not attack individuals, and we believe that disagreement does not equal hate. We do not condone, endorse, or encourage any abusive or discriminatory behaviour towards any group or individual.

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