



# PRIDE+ Bulletin

April-May 2026

**The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice on LGBTQ+ issues**

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## News

[Anti-LGBTQIA+ school suspensions soar amid anti-bullying cuts – transphobic policy may make it worse](#)

**Queer AF, May 2026**

New Department for Education data has revealed a huge increase in school suspensions over homophobic and transphobic bullying in England, alongside racist and ableist abuse. Homophobic and transphobic abuse specifically saw a 25% increase between the spring term in 2021-22 and the spring term in 2024-25

[Increase in drug-resistant Shigella cases among gay and bisexual men](#)

**UK Health Security Agency, March 2026**

New UKHSA data shows that sexually transmitted Shigella cases in England continue to occur at high levels, with over 2,500 diagnoses in 2025

[Trans people are dying of suicide more than the general UK population, new investigation reveals](#)

**Queer AF, April 2026**

Using open-source research, FOIs, interviews with bereaved parents, data from new project Trans Lives which collects data on trans deaths, and a whistleblower who has spoken publicly for the first time, we have found that despite warning signs that trans people are dying of suicide more than the general UK population, official data remains inadequate – while rights and healthcare rollbacks continue.

[UK drops in Rainbow Map scoring again, as Spain takes top spot](#)

**Queer AF, May 2026**

The United Kingdom has slid down yet again in the ILGA Europe annual Rainbow Map ranking of countries' LGBTQIA+ rights provisions. Though it stays in 22nd place, it now has a ranking of only 44%, just one point above the Europe-wide average.

[UK makes anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime an 'aggravated offence' in landmark law change](#)

**Attitude, April 2026**

Following a long string of advancements, anti-LGBTQ+ hate crime has officially become an "aggravated offence" under UK law. The amendment, spearheaded by UK LGBTQ+ charity Stonewall since 2024, makes it so that, under the Crime and Policing Bill, anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes are treated equally alongside offences motivated by race and religion.



## Guidelines, Policies and Reports

### [2025 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People](#)

#### **The Trevor Project, May 2026**

This survey on the mental health of LGBTQ+ young people amplifies the experiences of more than 16,000 LGBTQ+ people ages 13 to 24. For the seventh year, the survey found that LGBTQ+ young people are too often placed at higher risk for suicide not because of who they are, but as a result of how they are mistreated and stigmatized. Our findings offer evidence-based ways to show support for LGBTQ+ young people – and do our part to help address the urgent public health crisis of suicide among this high-risk population.

### [2026 Kantar DIVA Curve Report](#)

#### **Kantar, April 2026**

The Kantar-DIVA-Curve report shines a spotlight on the lived realities of LGBTQIA+ women and non-binary people. Their experiences are often shaped by conditional safety, uneven access to care and the need to navigate systems that were not designed with them in mind. 33% of respondents stated they avoided healthcare due to discrimination, and 40-46% said they left healthcare settings when they felt dismissed.

## Research briefings

### [Tackling loneliness could reduce depression for sexual minority older adults](#)

#### **The Mental Elf, May 2026**

Older adults who identify as part of a sexual minority, such as lesbian, gay, or bisexual individuals, consistently show higher rates of depression compared to their heterosexual peers. sexual minority older adults are particularly vulnerable to loneliness. They are more likely to live alone, less likely to have children, and may have experienced rejection or loss within family and social circles.

## Published research

### [Exploring the use of gender-inclusive language amongst health care students and staff in obstetrics and gynaecology](#)

#### **Medical Education, April 2026**

Gender-inclusive language is increasingly recognised as essential in health care to ensure respectful and equitable care for transgender and gender-diverse individuals. However, the adoption of gender-inclusive language in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G) may vary across generations and hierarchical levels, and the perspectives of students and staff on its use remain underexamined. This study aimed to explore how O&G learners and clinicians understand and use gender-inclusive language.

### [Healthcare Experiences of Older Adults with an LGBT+ Identity: An Integrative Review](#)

#### **Healthcare, April 2026**

Older adults with an LGBT+ identity represent an under-researched population within healthcare. Existing evidence suggests that they experience distinct health challenges compared to their heterosexual counterparts, partly shaped by lifelong experiences of stigma and discrimination. This review aims to synthesise the existing literature on how older adults with an LGBT+ identity experience encounters with healthcare.

## Blogs / Commentary / Editorials / Opinion Pieces

### [Beyond the rainbow flag: a commitment to celebrating LGBTQ+ surgeons and advocating for LGBTQ+ patients](#)

#### **The Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, May 2026**

Pride means more than a month of rainbow; it means celebrating LGBTQ+ surgeons and advocating for LGBTQ+ patients. Surgery, in particular, with its former archaic views and unspoken rules around acceptance, has not always felt like a place where members felt



safe to be truly themselves. Safety and acceptance have a profound impact on the wellbeing and morale of LGBTQ+ clinicians.

[myGwork LGBTQ+ Mental Health survey](#)

**myGwork, May 2026**

It's more important than ever to place a focus on workplace mental health. The findings from myGwork's groundbreaking global study on LGBTQ+ professionals paint a clear picture of the unique mental health challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in professional environments.

[Recommended but not forced segregation: New guidance could push Trans+ people out of public life](#)

**Queer AF, May 2026**

A new code of practice by the Equality and Human Rights Commission has been laid before Parliament. Described as a "toned down" version of a previous draft, it sets out how Trans+ people should be protected from discrimination, while affording organisations that wish to exclude Trans+ people legal defences in order to do so.

[This is why LGBTQIA+ fertility equality still matters in 2026](#)

**Diva, April 2026**

For far too many people, especially LGBTQIA+ people, the journey to parenthood remains unequal, expensive, stressful and too often deeply unfair.

[Trans Day of Visibility: A Message from 6 Trans Community Elders](#)

**GLAAD, March 2026**

A powerful reflection on resilience, history, and community, this story highlights six trans elders sharing their experiences, wisdom, and hope for the future of transgender acceptance in the face of ongoing challenges.

[What lesbian visibility means for the NHS and why leadership matters](#)

**NHS Employers, April 2026**

Layla McCay reflects on why visible lesbian leadership is not only a workforce issue but central to inclusion, performance and patient care.

**Books / Audiobooks**

*A selection of newly published books from the LGBTQ+ community. (Please note these are not held by the Library Service but are available from the usual book retailers).*

**John of John by Douglas Stuart**

The Booker winner's epic tale of gay love and loneliness in the Hebrides charts an uneasy homecoming against a backdrop of repression

**The Queer Bookshelf: A Reader's Guide by Layla McCay**

We are in the middle of a vibrant renaissance of queer writing. But LGBTQ+ writers, characters and readers have been here since the beginning - quietly, defiantly, and persistently telling their stories - if you know where to look.

**Fruit Fly by John Silver**

Mallory needs Leo if she wants another bestseller. Authenticity sells, and there's nothing more authentic than real life. She's the perfect person to tell Leo's story. Gay, sad, dark – just what the world needs right now. But as secrets threaten to unravel more than just her career, Mallory must decide: just how far will she go to pen the perfect story?