

FIVE FILMS FOR FREEDOM

Information for Schools 2021

Love is a human right



Pure, Dir. Natalie Jasmine Harris, 2020

Five Films For Freedom is the world's widest-reaching LGBTIQ+ digital programme. This year's programme runs from 17-28 March 2021

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.

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.

There are lots of ways to get involved in this year's programme

- Organise a discussion about your responses to the films and LGBTIQ+ issues in your school and community
- Share your thoughts with your partner schools overseas and with us using #FiveFilmsForFreedom
- Use our fact sheet about LGBTIQ+ rights around the world
- Send us a tweet from your school account telling us how you're getting involved
- [Watch the films](#)

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 LGBT+ 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.



Bodies of Desire, Dir. Varsha Panikar, Saad Nawab, 2020

Country-specific factsheet



Victoria, Dir. Daniel Toledo, 2020

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.

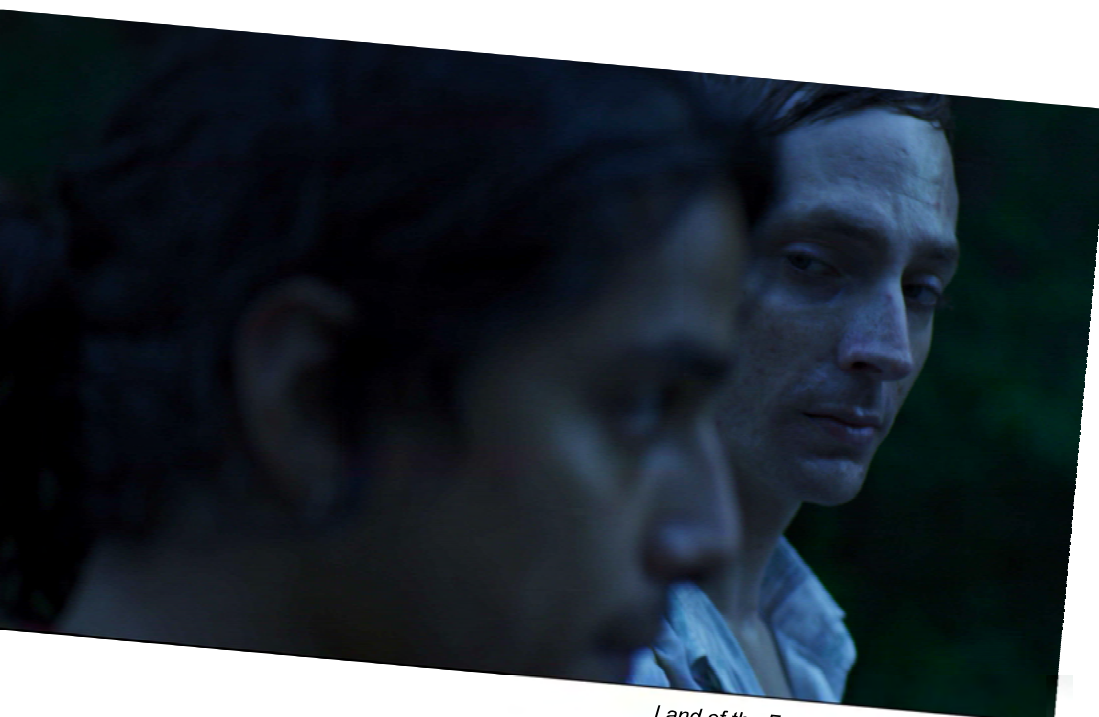
In spite of this most students still hear homophobic remarks and report feeling unsafe at some point, and many are still victims of physical harassment and assault.

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.



Land of the Free, Dir. Dawid Ullgren, 2020

London loves you



London Loves You, (c) British Council, 2015

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.

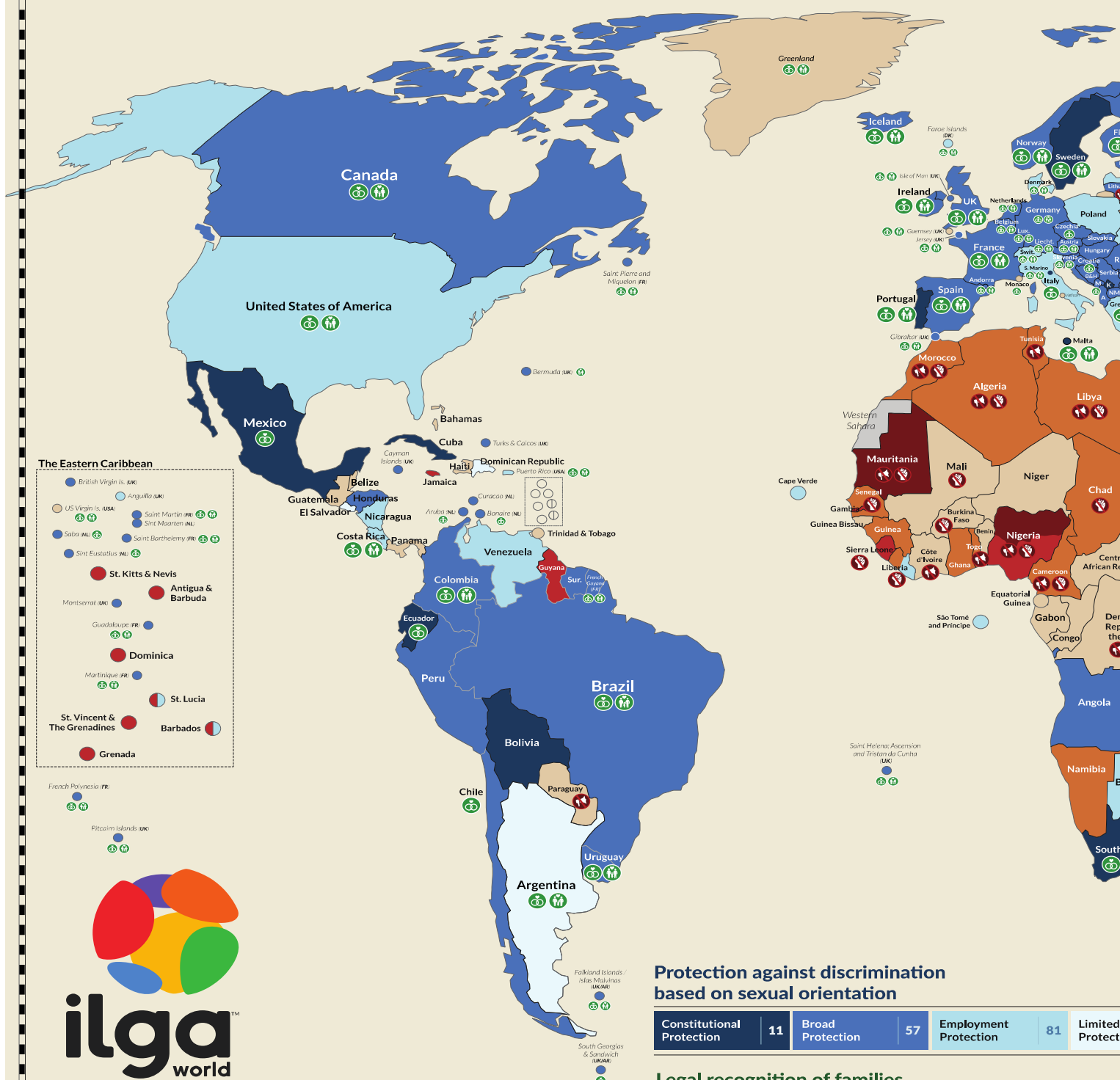
Show your students the film <https://vimeo.com/158625035> and then use the discussion prompts below

Some prompts for discussion:

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

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

From criminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults



The data presented in this map is based on *State-Sponsored Homophobia*, an ILGA report by Lucas Ramón Mendos, Kellyn Botha, Rafael Carrano Lelis, Enrique López de la Peña, R.I. 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

CLASS TASK

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

The following case studies show a series of dilemmas faced by people in different countries. Read about their situations, discuss the dilemmas and consider what you might do in these circumstances.

134, Dir. Sarah-Jane Drummey, 2019



Sam

You are a 15-year-old school pupil in the UK. You are questioning your sexual orientation, but you definitely know that you are not straight. You have not felt confident to talk to your friends about this because you always hear them say things like “that’s really gay”, when they really mean to say “that’s really rubbish.” You have never heard your friends saying anything positive at all about lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, so you are just not sure how they might react if you came out to them.

On The Proud Trust website, you have seen the interactive map that shows the locations of all the groups for LGBTIQ+ young people in the UK, there is one that is a short bus journey away from you home.

What would you do?



Maysa

You are a 17-year-old Pakistani woman, living in Pakistan. For 11 months, you were in a loving, but secret, relationship with Latifa. One night, your parents caught you kissing each other, they were very angry and you have been forbidden from ever seeing Latifa again.

Subsequent to this, your parents have forced you to marry a man, a rich man, who is much older than you are. He is unkind and makes you do things that you do not wish to do. You are very unhappy and you fear for your life, especially if your husband ever found out that you were still secretly seeing Latifa, about once a month or so.

You have heard that laws about lesbian, gay and bisexual people are different in other countries and you think that you might be able to seek asylum as a refugee in another country. You can access your husband's money.

What would you do?

Amir

You are 18. You are a gay man. You have never questioned your gender, you feel like you are a man. You have never told anybody that you are gay because in your country, Iran, same-gender relationships are punishable by death.

One day, you meet a woman in a café who has undergone gender reassignment surgery (ie. when she was born, she was assigned male). As being trans is not illegal in Iran, she has chosen to live her life as a woman, and has even had some surgery to her body. She does not particularly feel that she is a woman, but this way, she tells you, she can live out her desire to be in a relationship with a man, without fear of punishment.

What would you do?

*When Pride Came To Town,
Dir. Julie Lunde Lillesæter & Julia Dahr, 2020*



Damba

You are a 55-year-old gay man, born and living in Uganda in Africa. In your country, sexual acts between two people of the same gender is illegal, and may be punished by life imprisonment. Much of the anti-gay law that exists in Africa today, does so as a result of Britain introducing it, whilst colonising these countries and bringing them into the British Empire around the turn of the 20th century.

When you were a younger man, you travelled to the USA and saw first hand, how LGBTIQ+ Pride rallies and marches were attempting to change people's attitudes and laws, with success. In many Western countries, Pride events began as very political, with people protesting for better treatment and rights. More recently in such countries, Pride events have become a celebration of LGBTIQ+ lives.

You wish for similar legal changes to occur for the people of Uganda, for them to have the freedom to love who they love, without fear. You want to organise a Pride rally in Kampala, the capital. You know if it goes ahead, there is a very good chance that you will be arrested and put into prison.

What would you do?

Crashing Waves, Dir. Emma Jane Gilbertson, 2018



Lukasz

You are a 27 year old teacher. You are from Poland and you love your home country and family. Five years ago, you met Ben, a 25 year old computer programmer from Germany. You have fallen deeply in love and are very happy with each other!

As free movement of people between EU member countries is allowed, and as Ben can work from anywhere, you decided to buy a house together in Poland. In 2017, Germany announced that same-sex marriage was going to be legalised. Poland does not recognise marriage between people of the same gender.

What would you do?

Marsha P Johnson



Marsha

It is the summer of 1969, New York, USA. You are a black trans woman. You are enjoying a night out with friends in a pub called The Stonewall Inn, one of the very few establishments at this time that is welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people.

Significant anti-LGBTIQ+ laws exist. People live in fear, often forced to live double lives. Police raids on your favourite bar are becoming more and more frequent, with people being arrested for such 'crimes' as not having ID cards, or not wearing enough clothing that matches their gender assigned at birth.

You are tired of the poor treatment that you and your friends are receiving. This negative attention feels unfair and the police raid that occurs at 1.20am on Saturday 28 June 1969 feels like one too many.

What would you do?

(Have a look online to find out exactly what Marsha P Johnson did do)

