

## Introduction

With October marking the start of the academic year, and many students returning to campus, both old and new – October was a very busy and stressful month. We managed to host our first events and welcome students to Essex – it was great meeting so many of you there. As we head into another national lockdown I know that times are really challenging for many of us in the community, I will be doing my best to host more fun community events this month and welcome any and all feedback (please email [ptolgbq@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ptolgbq@essex.ac.uk)). Anyone who is struggling right now, know you aren't alone and please feel free to reach out for support – I'm more than happy to signpost available services to you that can help.

## Goals

- For this month, my main goals are to continue gathering feedback directly from the community and to host more online social events for students
- Raise students' issues at Student Parliament
- Work on delivering an online memorial event for Trans Day of Remembrance
- Continue online social media engagement (primarily Instagram) to educate students both in and outside of the community

## What have I done this month?

- Hosted 2 LGBTQ+ Network community events – one online games night, one in-person colouring session
- Gathered further feedback from students on the types of events they want to see as we head into a second national lockdown and will be restricted to online only where community engagement is often more difficult
- Got the SU to change the name of the network from LGBT+ students to LGBTQ+ students to better reflect the diversity and full spectrum of the students we represent and have us inline with the likes of the society's name and other university networks
- Continued planning for future events in the coming month
- LGBTQ+ inclusivity training with the new Anglican chaplain on topics such as the importance of stating pronouns, and understanding various LGBTQ+ specific issues and challenges faced

## What can expect in the next month?

- I will be continuing to attend more online training sessions to improve my skills and knowledge of how to best engage with the community and be a successful officer for you
- I will be responding to feedback and emails to ensure these plans are centred around what the community most wants to see
- I will be attending the first parliament of the academic year halfway through the month representing the LGBTQ+ community – so please email me anything that you want to be raised here, such as better mental health support for students etc.