

Managing equality in the lifelong learning sector: sexual orientation and faith or belief

Can you answer yes to any of these questions:

- Do you work or study in a further or higher education environment?
- Have you faced challenges in the workplace or learning environment because of your belief, faith or sexual orientation?
- Do you manage equality matters for your workforce or learners?
- Would you like to share your thoughts and experiences to inform good practice guidance for colleagues across the sector?

If so, Lifelong Learning UK would like to invite you to take part in a new research project to support and promote equality and diversity in the lifelong learning sector.

Supported by The Forum for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Equality in Post-School Education (The Forum), the research will identify good practice in managing the relationships between sexual orientation and inter-faith equality in the lifelong learning sector.

Why we need your contribution

Your input will help us to develop an understanding of the relationship between these two equality strands in learning environments across England, how this relationship works and the challenges faced when meeting the needs of diverse groups. The research will also seek to identify examples of how relationships between the two have been successfully nurtured.

The findings will be used to develop good practice guidance and support for those working and studying in the lifelong learning sector.

Lifelong Learning UK is pleased to be working closely with Phil Barnett and Dr Ian Gittens of Phil Barnett Associates Ltd to undertake the research. Ian and Phil have extensive experience in the field of equality and diversity in the lifelong learning sector, having previously delivered training, consultancy and published research into sexual orientation and race equality.

If you would like to participate in an interview or help to set up a focus group in your region, please contact Phil Barnett by email at philbarnett100@aol.com.

For further information about Lifelong Learning UK's work to promote and support equality and diversity in the lifelong learning sector, visit www.lluk.org/equality-and-diversity.htm.

How to get involved

Whether you're an individual or representing a provider, there are two ways you can provide your input:

1. Face to face focus groups and individual interviews – contact us by 30 December 2009 to express your interest and we'll set up a regional focus group or interview in a local further or higher education institution. Interviews can be conducted by telephone if preferred.
2. Complete the online survey – share your thoughts and experiences online at www.lluk.org/managing-equality.htm. The survey is available until 15 January 2010 and should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

This questionnaire is available in alternative formats on request.



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