

HIGHLAND LGBT FORUM



www.gay-ness.org.uk



Charity registered in Scotland No. SC039528
For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people
in the Highlands & Islands

BACKGROUND

The Highland LGBT Forum started life as the Inverness Pride Committee in 2002 when Pride Scotland decided to take its annual event outside Edinburgh and Glasgow for the first time. Inverness Pride was a huge success (with some 300 people attending the main Pride party) and proved that members of different groups within the LGBT community could work together and achieve very positive results.

When Pride was over, the committee decided to stay together to take forward all the more serious issues facing us as a community such as geographical and social isolation, lack of access to information and lack of positive images. We submitted a report on these and other matters to the Scottish Parliament.

Over the next few years we made connections with the Equality Network, Northern Constabulary, LGBT Youth Scotland and other organisations.

AIMS OF THE FORUM

- Addressing the problems of social and geographical isolation faced by LGBT people in the Highlands through the organisation of social events, social groups and outdoor activities.
- Acting as a source of information and referral on health and other services available to LGBT people in Highland.
- Providing a link between its members and other agencies involved in working in LGBT issues and initiatives.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

In September 2003, we co-organised an LGBT Conference in Inverness, together with Beyond Barriers (a Scotland-wide project to challenge discrimination and prejudice against LGBT people).

The Forum and its social group committee have organised many events including two Pride Balls in Inverness. We have also been instrumental in getting local venues to offer gay nights.

In April 2008, The Highland LGBT Forum was awarded charitable status by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.

We are networking with local groups and national organisations to build a better future for the Forum and the LGBT community. Plans include research, awareness raising, and regular outdoor activities to promote healthy lifestyles. We are also working with HUG on LGBT mental health research.

GROUPS

Members of the Highland LGBT Forum are involved with the Pink Castle Philosophy Club, Highland Rainbow Folk (raising awareness of older LGBT people), Swans (local Trans group), and GirlZone which is a well-established social group in Inverness for lesbian, bi & trans women.

CONTACT

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