The Scottish Women's Convention PRIDE MONTH SURVEY 2024

Pride Month is a celebration across June of the LGBT+ community, with a focus on improving LGBT+ rights and equality, while also highlighting the contribution LGBT+ people have made across society. As a result, the SWC held a survey to understand LGBT+ women's experiences of living in Scotland, covering topics such as health, education and employment.

Overall, respondents explained that they felt comfortable being LGBT+ in Scotland, describing public services as largely inclusive. They also stated that they generally felt supported in their local communities, providing examples in their personal and professional lives.

However, survey respondents did highlight that improvements could be made. Women explained that primary care staff required further education around LGBT+ health concerns, for example safe sex. They also felt that lesbian relationships could be disregarded, with heteronormativity being dominant. Respondents went on to explain that the lack of LGBT+ inclusive sex education required increased focus from the Scottish Government.

Women also had differing experiences around being open about their sexuality within the workplace. Some respondents explained that they did not feel confident in being openly gay, believing that there should be improved equality training. Furthermore, negative experiences were given when they were in public, highlighting that discriminatory attitudes still impact women's lives,

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S CONVENTION (SWC)

The SWC is funded to engage with women across Scotland to ensure that their views are represented in policy and decision-making processes. The SWC uses the views of women to respond to a variety of parliamentary, governmental, and organisational consultation papers at Scottish, UK and international levels.

The SWC gathers information using different methods, including roadshows, thematic conferences, surveys, and both in-person and online roundtable events. Working together with many other equalities organisations and community groups, we use our broad network to ensure that women from a range of backgrounds are heard and acknowledged. We are continually reviewing innovative ways of engaging with women and developing our trauma-informed and culturally sensitive practice to support vital contributions from as many women as possible.



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WOMEN'S EXPERIENCES...

Some healthcare professionals don't seem to recognise lesbian relationships. A lot of the time health providers don't seem to understand that one can be sexually active with no possibility of getting pregnant

I have hidden my sexuality in most workplaces...I am quite feminine and so usually I'm assumed to be straight.

1 enjoy being part of a football league where being queer is celebrated each month. It's great to see so many different people come together and be themselves

I had no LGBT+ sexual health education in high school, but my experience at university was fine.

I have experienced people shouting at me and my partner on multiple occasions in public and on one occasion someone pretended to be sick on my partner and I when we were holding hands.

WOMEN'S SOLUTIONS...

Encourage workplaces to do equality audits and have inclusive maternity/paternity policies.

I think more access to contraceptives and knowledge around safe sex for LGBT+ women

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Make sure all healthcare staff are trained in LGBT+ inclusion and improve fertility and maternity services for same-sex couples and trans couples.

I would like the general public to change their attitudes and think of us as normal people with the same rights as everyone else. We need more education and formalisation of formalisation lesbian relationships. I would like people not to think of a lesbian couple as a sight or something hypersexual

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THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of the women who provided their invaluable insight into their experiences. We are forever grateful for the sustained engagement women give to our organisation, and we will continue to utilise the information given to inform Scottish policy-making practice.

SWC Contact Details

For further information or to share your views, please contact: Email - info@scottishwomensconvention.org Telephone - 0141 339 4797 Facebook, X & Instagram - @SWCwomen



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