

PRIDE IN EDUCATION

Concerns over Decline in UK LGBTIQA+ Rights

Pride in Education is deeply alarmed by the recent decline of human rights in the UK, particularly for the LGBTIQA+ community. It is dismaying but not entirely surprising to see the UK fall three places down to 17th on the ILGA-Europe rankings for LGBTIQA+ rights in one year.

From being number 1 in 2015 to number 17 in 2023, the UK used to be a beacon for LGBTIQA+ rights, and this decline is a cause for great concern. The reasons are outlined in the report and include the lack of reforms around gender identity, the absence of intersex recognition, the increasingly hostile political discourse surrounding trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive people and their rights, and the government's stalled response to implement a full-scale ban on awful conversion practices.

We are acutely aware of the detrimental impact this has had on the lives, well-being, and mental health of LGBTIQA+ individuals, especially young people at particularly vulnerable formative points in their lives.

This toxic environment has led to an increase in hate crime targeted at the LGBTIQA+ community, especially towards trans individuals, and this situation must be remedied immediately.

It is important to note that reports like "More in Common" in 2022 showed that the UK public is opposed to the anti-trans and anti-LGBTIQA+ rhetoric. Therefore,

these majority views and the adverse impact this anti-LGBTIQA+ rhetoric is having on the community must not be ignored. In solidarity with all LGBTIQA+-led charities, Pride in Education urges the British government to follow through on its commitment to ban all conversion practices and to remove the block on the Scottish Gender Recognition Reform Bill. The UK must become a safer and more welcoming place for everyone!

It is crucial that this and future governments acknowledge and address the concerns of the LGBTIQA+ community and take active measures to progress and protect all LGBTIQA+ people in all of their diversity. Until then, Pride in Education remains committed to sharing the positive impact through our conference and material; that inclusive education is key to unlocking the ability to overcome this harmful anti-LGBTIQA+ environment.

Links to reports below:

More in Common <https://www.moreincommon.org.uk/our-work/research/britons-and-gender-identity/>

Rainbow Europe Map and Index 2023

<https://www.ilga-europe.org/report/rainbow-europe-2023/>