UK Legislative Lives :

Illustrating Intersectional LGBTQI+ Lifecourse (In)equalities

2019-20

Global Pandemic

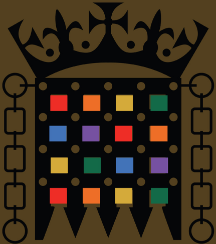
Global pandemic erupts, with Covid–19 cases reported in the UK, ensuing lockdown and cancellation of face–face fieldwork. Cancellation of many UK Pride events, reports on the adverse effects on LGBTQI+ communities and a move to online community supports. Many CILIA interviewees spoke about ‘toxic’ online debates, especially around GRA consultation, others indicating a ‘digital divide’ across generations, and translating into existing urban–rural divides. What might LGBTQI+ (digital) citizenship look like moving forward?

CILIA Research Associate,
Maja Andreasen joins the team!

2018

CILIA Commences

The ‘Comparing Intersectional Lifecourse Inequalities among LGBTQI+ Citizens in 4 European Countries’ (CILIA–LGBTQI+) project commences!
@LGBTQILives



2016

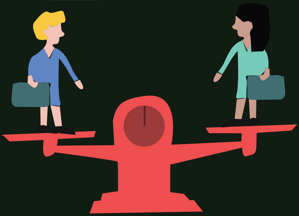
LGBT Members of Parliament

There were 40 LGBT MPs in the Parliament of the United Kingdom, reported in 2016 as the most in any parliament in the world.

2014

Same Sex Marriage Act

Same-sex marriage becomes legal.



2010

The Equality Act

The Equality Act act extends individuals' rights in areas of religion and belief, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

Many CILIA participants feared that such extensions would be threatened or withdrawn in a post-Brexit UK context.

2004

The Civil Partnership Act

The Civil Partnership Act 2004 is passed, as is The Gender Recognition Act 2004, which allows people to acquire a new birth certificate, affording them full legal recognition of their acquired sex for all purposes, including marriage.'

'So civil partnership was fine, but it was just a secondary class, so equal marriage was good…'

(Lachlan, 24, Gay Cis Man)

The Gender Recognition Act

CILIA Participants ranged from 20–77 years old and included 24 women including 6 trans women, 13 including 4 trans men and 1 intersex man, 7 Non–binary, genderqueer, queer, gender diverse and 1 individual questioning their gender identity. Sexual orientation included lesbian, gay men, bisexual, queer, asexual, pansexual & polyamorous.

'... reforming the Gender Recognition Act, I feel like there needs to be formalisation of non-binary identities...'

(Rhi, 35, Queer, Bisexual Genderqueer)

2003

Section 28 Repealed

Section 28/Clause 2A, which banned councils and schools from 'intentionally promoting homosexuality', is repealed in England and Wales and Northern Ireland. Scotland repealed this in 2000. Most of the CILIA interviewees were schooled during Section 28/Clause 2A.

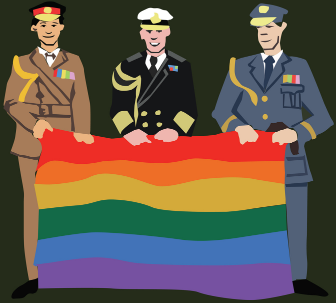
'... those big billboards, you kept passing them, and it was absolutely horrific. ... they would say things like 'your child will be made to role-play a gay person in drama in school'. But even after Section 28 was disbanded nothing really changed, nothing really happened overnight'.

(Tessa, 50, Lesbian Cis Woman)

2001

Unequal

The last two pieces of unequal law regarding gay male sex are changed.



2000

Armed Forces

The Labour government stops banning ‘homosexuals’ from the armed forces after the European Court of Human Rights rules it unlawful. The law will not actually be repealed until the Armed Forces Act 2016.

The Labour government introduces legislation to repeal Section 28, the bill is defeated in the House of Lords. Scotland abolishes Clause 2a (Section 28) in 2000, one of the first pieces of legislation enacted by the new Scottish Parliament.

CILIA participants felt ambivalent about whether or not Scotland was ‘doing better’ than the rest of the UK on LGBTQI+ rights.

1999

Admiral Duncan Pub Bombed

The Admiral Duncan, a gay pub in Soho, was bombed by former British National Party member David Copeland, killing three people and wounding at least 70.

1989

Stonewall UK

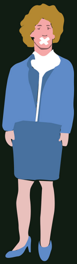
The campaign group Stonewall UK is set up to oppose Section 28 and other barriers to equality.

1988

Section 28

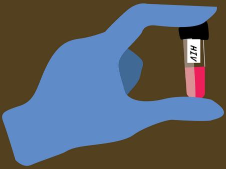
Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 enacted as an amendment to the United Kingdom's Local Government Act 1986, on 24 May 1988 stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".

On 23 May 1988 a group of lesbian activists invaded a BBC TV news studio as it went live on air. They were protesting against the introduction of new UK laws to limit LGBT rights.



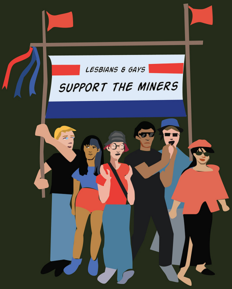
1987
Backlash

Many CILIA interviewees spoke about Margaret Thatcher and ‘remembered’ the 1980s as a homophobic period - even when they hadn't lived in these times.



1985
Body Positive

AIDS hysteria grows in the UK. London support group Body Positive was set up as a self–help group.



1984
Miners

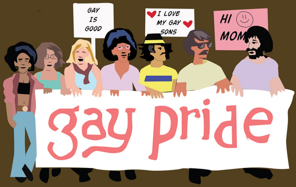
Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners, a campaign of LGBT support for striking workers in the miners' strike of 1984 and 1985, is launched.

1980

‘In Private’

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 decriminalized ‘homosexual acts’ between two men over 21 years of age ‘in private’ in Scotland.

CILIA PI celebrates her 2nd birthday!



1970

Gay Liberation Front

The Gay Liberation Front was active throughout the 60s and 70s, formed in New York City in 1969, immediately after the Stonewall riots.

50 years later, CILIA PI, Yvette Taylor, and Research Associate, Matson Lawrence, visited the site of the Stonewall Riots in New York.

‘I’m definitely one of those like pride is still a protest. Like I don’t party when I go to pride. Like I look fabulous, yes, but like I don’t party.

(Clio, 35, Bisexual, Cis Woman)

1969

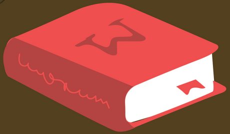
Outright Scotland

Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) formed as the first British gay activist group. In Scotland, the Scottish Minorities Group is founded (later known as Outright Scotland).

1967

Sexual Offences Act

The Sexual Offences Bill 1967 decriminalised homosexual acts between two men over 21 years of age in private in England and Wales. The 1967 Act did not extend to Scotland.



1957

Wolfenden Report

The Report of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution, known as the Wolfenden report, advised that homosexuality should be made legal.

1942

Oldest CILIA interviewee

The oldest CILIA interviewee, Keith (77) was born!

CILIA LGBTQI+
intersectional lifecourse
(in)equalities

Samia Singh (Designer) and **Yvette Taylor** (Principal Investigator)
'Comparing Intersectional Lifecourse Inequalities among LGBTQI+ Citizens in 4 European Countries' (CILIA–LGBTQI+)
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See: https://lgbtqilives.wordpress.com/