

We all need some good news on COVID

A sense of guarded optimism has emerged in the UK over the past few days as positive vaccine news and reduced transmission rates suggest that the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel is shining a little brighter.

The government hasn't exactly covered itself in glory during the pandemic, and we must hope that the light we see is not an oncoming train. But all the signs are promising and we live in hope that life will return to some kind of normality sooner rather than later. The Prime Minister's address on Monday 22nd outlined a cautious route out of the gloom but, make no mistake, there is still a lot of work to be done, not least to ensure that everybody has an equal chance of recovery.

The pandemic has been crueler to some people than others.



We're in the midst of February **LGBT History Month**, the annual celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, which is in its 17th year.

It's a chance to refocus, raise awareness and encourage further education in LGBT issues and its history. But one worrying aspect of the pandemic is that working at home can cause bigger problems for young LGBT people, when home isn't necessarily a place where they feel safe.

Young people often feel they need to hide their sexuality at home, and while one in five LGBT workers have experienced discrimination or negative comments, this can increase when people communicate through social media or private messaging.

[Read more here](#)

COVID has increased the **disability pay gap** and has also had a disproportionate impact on Black, Asian or Minority ethnic groups, so as we (hopefully) begin to climb away from the pandemic let's make sure we leave no-one behind.

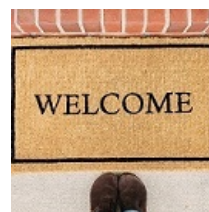
Barnardo's, the children's charity, has got it right with the recent launch of **Boloh**, a COVID-19 **helpline and web chat for BAME children** aged 11 and above, as well as for parents and carers affected by the pandemic and lockdowns.

[Visit boloh here](#)

Welcome our newest members

ONGO PARTNERSHIP

NORTH STAR HOUSING GROUP



Have your say on our website



We're doing a major overhaul of the member resources area on our website.

Have your say on what should be included:

[Feedback to us here](#)

Dementia research at Worcester University

At last week's Chartered Institute of Housing LGBTQ+ event our Programmes Manager, Moreen Pascal, met Teresa Atkinson, senior research fellow at Worcester University.

The university has won funding to undertake a number of housing related projects which can be found on their website, and which includes the [Housing & Dementia Research Consortium](#), which enables professionals from across the sector to have a voice in the direction of research to support residents, tenants and staff.

For further information contact Teresa at: t.atkinson@worc.ac.uk

Can you help in our search for mentors?



HDN's new **Staff Mentoring Programme** opens for mentee applications in mid-April, but mentor recruitment is ongoing throughout the year and the need is greatest in London and the South East.

Would you, or a colleague, consider becoming a mentor to offer guidance and experience to someone outside your organisation? If so we'd love to hear from you at:

mentoring@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

Upcoming Events

Chartered Institute of Housing Older LGBT People - Making care fair: Wed 3rd March 10am to 11:45am

.This is the fourth session of the CIH's Older People's Housing series of events and will focus on the issue of making care fair for older LGBT people.

[Book now](#)

**Northern Diversity Group
meeting**
Tuesday 9th March
11am to 12:30pm

**Midlands Diversity Group
meeting**
Wednesday 10th March
10:30am to 12:00pm

Join us to share best practice and promote ED&I excellence at community, organisation and sector level.

Contact us on 01484 652606 or email info@housingdiversitynetwork.co.uk

[For details of all our events click here](#)

What We Do at HDN

Contact us to see if we can help

We work with organisations on a range of equality, diversity and inclusion issues. These include management and leadership training, board and executive team discussions on Black Lives Matter and/or the pandemic, and reviewing and helping on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plans and Strategies.

Contact [Mushtaq Khan](#) for further details.

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