

Scotland Region Report 2011

The Scotland LGBT Committee comprises of four women and four men. Most service groups are represented and there is a geographical spread of several areas in Scotland, including rural areas.

We have reserved seats for bi, trans, disabled and black members and would encourage any member who is eligible to apply for one of these seats.

We meet four times a year and we rotate the meetings to include meetings outwith the central belt.

Representatives of the committee are also elected to the Learning and Organising Services (LAOS) Committee, Women's Committee, Scottish Committee, International Committee, Communications and Campaigns Committee, Scottish Council and the Glasgay! Board. Our members on these bodies are active and ensure that our priorities are taken forward to as wide an audience as possible.

Despite the wide geographical split of the committee and relative infrequency of meetings, we work well together and much of our work is done by email and teleconference. We plan our work for the year based on the motions passed at conference and we prioritise these accordingly and review progress at each meeting. Comments and updates are fed into the national committee by the regional reps.

This year we have worked with helping branches set up LGBT self organised groups. We held an open event where any branch could attend and we have worked with branch officers to get their groups up and running.

Four committee members represented Scotland at the 25th ILGA World conference which was held in December 2010 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was entitled "Building the way forward in times of crisis". The conference was a mixture of plenary sessions, panel sessions and workshops. The plenary sessions were used for voting on those topics that required decisions to be made. The panel sessions were focused on specific LGBT issues. We are grateful to Scottish Council for their continued support of our attendance at ILGA Europe and ILGA World conferences, both important equality based conferences.

In March we attended the TUC There Is A Better Way march and rally in London. This was a hugely successful day and the LGBT community and Scotland were well represented.

In April we held a successful Hustings event where we invited representatives from all the major parties in the Scottish elections along. This was chaired by Lillian Macer, Regional Convenor and was very successful.

The Committee have been involved in a Steering Group of the STUC looking at setting up the first STUC LGBT Conference which it is hoped will be held next year.

Most of our recruitment activities have centred round Pride events. Members of the committee attended events, Edinburgh and Aberdeen to recruit and we have again sponsored Glasgay! which takes place throughout October and November and will have a presence at many of these events.

Committee members have been involved in campaigning against the BNP and the Scottish Defence League. We have attended rallies and I am pleased to say that the SDL have yet to march in Scotland!

The Scottish Government have just launched a consultation on equal marriage. The Committee are currently considering this and will respond.

As always, we would encourage involvement from new activists so if you would like more information, please contact one of your regional reps.

Elaine Duffy and David Calderwood, Scotland reps to National LGBT Committee