

## **Scotland Report June 2012**

The committee met at the end of April to discuss motions that we will be submitting to conference. Several topics have been identified and these are being worked on at present.

The committee were unable to host any IDAHO events this year but we did support local branches that put on events. As a result of this, we have managed to fill our reserved seat for bi members. The new member will be attending our next meeting.

We have submitted two motions to the first STUC LGBT conference which is being held in Glasgow on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September and we will be sending several delegates to this conference.

We have been involved with a networking group for LGBT groups in public, private and voluntary sector workplaces (SWAN). The last event was held at the Scottish Government and was addressed by Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Nicola spoke of the commitment of the Scottish Government to equality and we were pleased to hear that the equality budget has been increased by 6% which includes a specific budget for LGBT issues. Nicola advised that the responses to the consultation on equal marriage are currently being evaluated and it is hoped that the report will be available shortly. The Cabinet will then consider whether to move to legislative changes. We await the announcement with bated breath.

As well as Nicola's session, we saw a film made by the Edinburgh LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing, Transvisions. The documentary type film brings to light the issues that can affect transgender people. In particular it focuses on those issues relating to identity, stigma and discrimination. Tranvisions looks at why these issues may contribute towards the disproportionately high rates of mental ill health experienced by transgender people, and gives advice on what communities can do to inform and support those who are transitioning or questioning their gender identity.

The event finished with a talk by the co-chair of the Scottish Government's LGBT network. An out lesbian, she talked of her experiences as a civil servant for 14 years and there was a lively discussion on how we can all encourage greater participation in our groups and greater visibility in our workplaces.

It was a very worthwhile event and we are currently exploring if we could host a future session and what this would include.

Our next meeting is being held in Edinburgh on the eve of Pride Scotia. The committee will be staying over after our committee meeting and will have a full presence at the event.

**Elaine Duffy and David Calderwood**  
**Scotland Regional Reps**