

Scotland Region Report 2010

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

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.

We meet four times a year and we rotate the meetings to include meetings outwith the central belt. Recently, we have met in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness.

We have reserved seats for bi, trans, disabled and black members, however, despite our efforts, we have yet to fill our bi, black and disabled seats. We have worked with other self organised groups to reach out to these members and we have advertised positions externally in relevant communications and websites. We would encourage any member who is eligible to apply for one of these seats.

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.

Anti-BNP work is now a standing agenda item. This year, we have prioritised recruitment of black members and working with other groups and organisations. This was the theme of our successful Celtic Connections event with colleagues in Northern Ireland where we looked at working with the devolved governments and other groups. Campaigning material has been developed from these workshops which will be rolled out to branches shortly.

We have linked to Hope Not Hate on our website and have submitted Motions to Branch AGMs on fighting the far Right.

Most of our recruitment activities have centred round Pride events. Members of the committee attended events at Dumfries, Edinburgh and Glasgow to recruit and we have again sponsored Glasgay! which takes place throughout October and November. We will be taking part in a series of debates and we will have information stalls at many events.

Members of the committee have reviewed current training availability in Scotland and have been working with LAOS to identify gaps and to input what we believe needs to be added.

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