LGBT Outreach

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LGBT Outreach Tips

• Many “minority population” outreach strategies work and apply to LGBT communities

• Do not make “oppression” comparisons

• Do not debate how valid a person’s feelings are

• Try to work “with” the communities - not “for”

• Language matters - best to mimic if unsure
LGBT Outreach Tips Cont.

• Listen before you speak - how does the audience refer to themselves? What terms?

• Rarely are two places the same on LGBT issues
  • Marriage in 15 nations (16 with UK in 2014)
  • Illegal to be gay in 78 nations
  • Punishable by death or life in jail - 15 nations
LGBT Outreach Tips Cont.
LGBT Outreach Tips Cont.

• International events - pick location wisely

• “The law exists but is rarely applied anymore” - would this persuade you to risk jail time for a wiki event?

• Many “western” nations consider the T to be a part of LGBT - so check that issue as well

• Venue open and welcoming? Gender neutral bathrooms are often a metric used
LGBT Outreach Tips Cont.

- Wiki is international - with editors in the 15 nations where it is punishable by death - make no assumptions

- Privacy matters - would you risk jail time, your job, or personal life exile for wiki?

- Allies are wonderful - but ideally not always present

- Being LGBT does not imply bias - are male editors discouraged from editing articles about men or Brits from UK articles?
State of LGBT within Wikimedia

- Most projects have a LGBT category
- Wikibooks
  - LGBT Young Adult Literature Wikibook
- Wikimedia Commons
  - LGBT Free Media Collective*
- Wikinews
  - English - LGBT Portal
State of LGBT within Wikimedia

- Wikipedia
- Chinese - LGBT Association
- English - Portal & WikiProject LGBT studies
- French - Project LGBT
- Persian - WikiProject LGBT studies
- Spanish - WikiProject LGBT
State of LGBT within Wikimedia

- Wikisource
  - English - Portal
- Wikivoyage
  - English - LGBT Expedition
- Wikimania
  - Annual meetups since 2010
- WikiQueer - non-Wikimedia project for other LGBT wiki content
Wikimedia LGBT

meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/LGBT

LGBT@lists.wikimedia.org

#wikimedia-lgbt – IRC Channel

www.facebook.com/WikimediaLGBT

@WikimediaLGBT – Twitter

For allies and LGBT individuals and organizations
Wikimedia LGBT

- Brief discussion in 2011 as part of Wikipedia Loves Libraries
- April 6, 2012 - outreach project developed and #wikimed-lgbt IRC channel created
- July 1, 2012 - mailing list goes live
- August 2012 - change from outreach project to affiliate
- August 2013 - proposal for user group then ThOrg
Wikimedia LGBT Cont.

- Affiliate starting as LGBT Wikimedians User Group
- Proposed initial activities:
  - Collaborations and outreach intrawiki
  - Collaborations and outreach non-wiki
  - “It Gets Better” video
  - Wiki Loves Pride
  - LGBT Free Media Collective
  - Wikimania
• Proposed additional long-term activities:
  • Archives directory
  • Education on LGBT health issues
  • Research
  • Track / meetup at Diversity Conference
  • Wikipedia Loves LGBT Libraries
  • Wiki safe space for LGBT participants
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