



# *Michael Logue for Association LGBT+ Officer*

## *My Manifesto*

### *Community • Outreach • Action*

Hi, I'm Michael and I'm running to be your Association LGBT+ Officer!

Before coming to St Andrews, I could never have imagined being able to embrace and become comfortable with my own LGBT+ identity to the degree I have done. This amazing acceptance has come from LGBT+ students all over St Andrews, but Saints LGBT+ was instrumental in organising the events, such as LGBTed Talks, that had the most profound impact on me.

I've spent the last year on the Saints LGBT+ committee trying to give back to the community by working as the Wellbeing and Policy Officer, setting up and managing my own LGBT+ wellbeing subcommittee and working to address all sorts of LGBT+ wellbeing-related issues. I want nothing more than to continue this work as the Association LGBT+ officer this year. Here's why:

- I have experience in supporting a **wide variety of LGBT+ identities** and an understanding of the issues different identities and communities face.
- I know what it is like to **successfully lead a subcommittee**, and my close work with the LGBT+ president this year as second in command, along with Peer Support and Student Services has given me an understanding of how to most effectively communicate with various sections of the Uni involved in LGBT+ support.
- I've been told I'm **extremely approachable** and easy to access, which are essential qualities in someone who will be the face of Saints LGBT+.
- Both on and off Saints LGBT+ committee I'm always extremely responsive to any concerns raised and address them in a timely manner.
- I understand the need for communication and trust. **I always make decisions after consultation with all relevant parties**, and make sure diverse viewpoints are valued.

Read through my manifesto to get an idea of the kinds of things I will accomplish as your Association LGBT+ Officer. Enjoy!

## 1. Events-

The events provided by Saints LGBT+ are essential in retaining a sense of community and support for many students in St Andrews. This sense of community has been impacted this year due to the lack of in-person events. As president of Saints LGBT+, I will make sure to plan exciting and innovative events to rebuild the community for LGBT+ students. As Wellbeing & Policy Officer, I was responsible for organising wellbeing-related events for Saints LGBT+ this year and also collaborated with other societies to host events addressing LGBT+ issues.

- **General-**
  - i) **In-person events-** I will take advantage of opportunities to hold in-person events in any capacity. This would include the use of the Can-Do tent or similar venues allowing events in limited numbers.
  - ii) **Online events-** I will ensure online events continue alongside in-person events until everyone in our community is able to attend. This means students who cannot attend events in-person will not be left out.
  
- **Union LGBT+/Gay Night Out-** this has been previously discussed with the Union and is always requested by students, but it's never been set up! I will finalise plans for a regular Union LGBT+-themed night out, aiming for once per month, alternating between a club night and a bar night.
  
- **Large in-person events-** ensure the long-established events such as Glitterball and Drag Walk as well as festivals like Transfest and Queerfest, are carried through to next year, despite the setbacks from COVID this year.
  
- **"Welcome to Saints LGBT+..." events-**
  - i) I will ensure we host specific events to **include students** who have not yet had the opportunity to be involved in Saints LGBT+ or the St Andrews LGBT+ community as a whole, especially students who were unable to attend events in-person and/or online this year.
  - ii) This includes 2020/21 Freshers, 2021/22 Freshers, Postgraduates and any students who have not yet felt comfortable attending a Saints LGBT+ event.
  - iii) I will arrange a coordinated program of **"Welcome to Saints LGBT+..." events** in Fresher's week to reach out to and involve these students.
  - iv) These events will also be supported by the **LGBT+ groups in halls** to further involve Freshers.

- **Meetups-** As Wellbeing & Policy Officer I collected reports from the representatives hosting online meetups this year.
  - i) Feedback indicates some meetups are still **intimidating to attend**, specifically MLM and WLW ones.
  - ii) I will work with the Marketing and Wellbeing Events Officers to make these events **more welcoming** and accessible using different language, messaging and marketing strategies, and by structuring them around an activity, such as helping in our new LGBT+ garden with Transition St Andrews.
  
- **Panel discussion and academic-style events-**
  - i) feedback has indicated desire for events such as **panel discussions** on different LGBT+ issues. I will organise a series of these events.
  - ii) I will specifically reach out to the **St Andrews Institute for Gender Studies (StAIGS)** to involve academics in a panel discussion event.
  - iii) I will also reach out to **leaders in LGBT+ policy** and activism e.g. Ban Conversion Therapy UK, LGBT Youth Scotland, for guest speakers at similar events.
  - iv) Hosting events of this nature will equally act as **outreach to students** who have requested such events in the past.
  - v) I will also reach out to other St Andrews groups such as LGBT in STEM, in order to run **collaborative events**, supporting LGBT+ people in a wide range of fields.

## 2. Mental Health & Wellbeing-

As Wellbeing & Policy Officer this year and through setting up and managing the LGBT+ wellbeing subcommittee, I have a profound understanding of the mental health and wellbeing issues and concerns of the community in St Andrews and the strategies we can use to address these issues.

- **Addressing the impact of COVID-**
  - i) I will focus on the wellbeing of students who have not had the opportunity to be involved in the St Andrews LGBT+ community, specifically due to restrictions over this past year.
  - ii) I will place a special focus on the wellbeing of **students who have had to remain at home**, in potentially **unaccepting environments**, for all or part of the past year. It is essential these students properly connect with the LGBT+ community in St Andrews and are able to access resources and support.

- **Peer Support and Student Services-**
  - i) I will continue our relationship with Peer Support and Student Services to safely meet the needs of **Closeted and Questioning students**.
  - ii) This year, the committee collaborated with Peer Support to set up a **secure Facebook group** for Closeted and Questioning students which I will continue to support.
  - iii) I will also work with my committee to **better publicise** the secure Closeted Facebook group to ensure we reach all students who may need it.
  - iv) I will ensure Student Services follows through on its commitment to set up a **support referral service to Pink Saltire** for students wanting LGBT+-specific support.
  - v) I will make sure that this referral service and all other LGBT+ resources are **as well publicised as possible**, including working with the Sabbs and Student Services.
  
- **Support for Trans and Non-binary students-**
  - i) I will work with my Marketing and Trans/Non-binary Officer to publicise resources and support available to Trans and Non-binary students.
  - ii) I will specifically work to highlight the **trans clothing drive** and **changing of names and pronouns** on University systems.
  - iii) I will work with my Trans/Non-binary Officer as well as the Member for Gender Equality to collect feedback from staff and students on the **Pronoun Guidance and Training** and its implementation across campus to identify and address any issues.
  - iv) I will hold the Athletic Union responsible for setting up non-gendered **changing facilities and sports club** options, so that all students have access to sport.
  - v) I will run a full **calendar of events** of all kinds for trans and non-binary students, with meetups at least once a month, fun activities, and jam-packed Transfests.
  
- **Got Consent and SGBV-**
  - i) I will continue working with and formalising our relationship with Got Consent by ensuring regular contact between the committees, particularly with the Wellbeing & Policy Officer.
  - ii) I will ensure we collaborate on events related to LGBT+ issues.
  - iii) I will use our relationship with Got Consent to collaborate on strategies to **combat** the disproportionate level of **sexual and gender-based violence** (SGBV) experienced by LGBT+ students.

### 3. Reaching Out-

Involving students and groups in St Andrews as well as third-sector organisations in our events and discussions to extend the reach and impact of Saints LGBT+.

- **LGBT+ Halls Groups-**
  - i) This year the committee began arranging groups for **LGBT+ students in halls** of residence. I will finalise and publicise these groups, especially in Fresher's Week, to make sure everyone who needs them knows about them.
  - ii) These groups will help coordinate the **Welcome events** for Freshers and other students in halls.
  - iii) These groups will also be used to coordinate other LGBT+ **events in halls** throughout the year.
  - iv) This is part of my focus on outreach to 2020/21 Freshers, 2021/22 Freshers and students who have not yet felt comfortable attending Saints LGBT+ events.
  
- **Saints LGBT+ Radio Show-**
  - i) I will work to continue the **LGBT+ STAR** show and would love to remain personally involved as a host.
  - ii) The primary goal has been **outreach** and we encourage involvement by listening in, requesting music and discussion topics or joining the show.
  - iii) I will ensure we continue reaching out to **as many students as possible**, including Closeted students and those who have not yet been involved in Saints LGBT+.
  
- **Local drag and other LGBT+ artists-**
  - i) I will work with the Marketing and Social Officers to reach out and better **showcase the work** of local drag and other LGBT+ artists at events and on our social media pages.
  - ii) This will also increase anticipation for large **events featuring LGBT+ performers** such as Glitterball, Drag Walk and Queer Rooms.
  
- **University webpages –**
  - i) This year the committee identified **changes to be made** to University webpages featuring LGBT+-related content.
  - ii) I will continue to review University webpages to ensure LGBT+ information is up-to-date, organised, and publicised and uses **appropriate language and messaging**.
  
- **Sport and Athletic Union-** I will work with the AU to increase the involvement of LGBT+ students in sport and to address the concerns of LGBT+ students.

- **Other groups on campus-**
  - i) I will **review LGBT+-related University policy** and formalise relationships with other groups advocating for change on LGBT+ issues, allowing us to combine our efforts and work together towards our common goals.
  - ii) In particular, I will make a focused effort to work with the new **Rector's Committee**.

#### 4. Saints LGBT+ Wellbeing Subcommittee-

This is a new subcommittee organised by the Saints LGBT+ President and I this year. As Wellbeing & Policy Officer, I worked with representatives from Trans/Non-binary, Bi/Pan, WLW, MLM, PoC, Ace/Aro and Disabilities communities to host meetup events for their respective communities. These representatives have a profound understanding of the concerns of the communities they represent, and I see potential for this subcommittee beyond hosting events; to actively engage with other committees and improve LGBT+ experience in St Andrews.

- **Expanding the role of the subcommittee-**
  - i) I will ensure representatives take on a **more active role** in communicating with their respective communities.
  - ii) I will work with Peer Support to ensure that everyone who runs a wellbeing event is **Peer Support Trained**.
  - iii) Representatives will host monthly meetups and **gather information** on the issues and concerns of their respective communities.
  - iv) I will then have representatives regularly **report issues** to the Wellbeing & Policy Officer and myself.
  - v) I will then use this information to **inform the policy change** we seek as a subcommittee.
  
- **Addressing the concerns of students-**
  - i) I will identify any **immediate actions** Saints LGBT+ can take to address these issues.
  - ii) I will also contact **Student Services and Peer Support** when appropriate to help reach solutions.
  - iii) I will work with the Wellbeing & Policy Officer to address LGBT+-related **University policy** which could be either changed or put in place to address wellbeing issues.

- **Working with other Union subcommittees-**
  - i) I will ensure direct contact between representatives and relevant Union subcommittees, for example the PoC representative in contact with the **BAME Students' Network** and Disabilities representative in contact with the **Disabled Students' Network**.
  - ii) This will involve representatives attending meetings of these subcommittees to remain updated on their work and progress.
  - iii) This will ensure representatives are **aware of the issues** being addressed by these subcommittees and their relevance to LGBT+ wellbeing issues.
  - iv) I will ensure representatives also **report the concerns of their communities** to these subcommittees so we can **combine our efforts** in working toward solutions.

## 5. Advocacy & Activism-

The international nature of the St Andrews community presents an opportunity to improve LGBT+ experience here and beyond. Many students will be aware of specific LGBT+ issues in their own countries and communities. Last summer I became aware of the impact of conversion therapy on the LGBT+ community in Northern Ireland, and went on to organise a campaign in summer 2020 to pressure the local government to address this issue. I want to encourage all students to tackle issues in their own communities in the same way, with support from Saints LGBT+.

- **Awareness of global LGBT+ issues-**
  - i) I will carry out a **survey** of students to identify specific LGBT+ issues in their own communities at home so we are aware of more specific and less well-known issues.
  - ii) I will then work with the Campaigns Officer to **publicise these issues**, using Saints LGBT+'s large platform to **raise awareness**.
  - iii) I will also contact relevant organisations and other LGBT+ societies to collaborate and **coordinate our efforts** in tackling a wide range of issues.
- **Student Activism-**
  - i) I will contact relevant groups and societies on campus and work with my Campaigns Officer to identify steps students can take to **create change in their communities** at home.
  - ii) I will collaborate with these groups and societies on an **activism and advocacy skills workshop** to deliver this information and give students the skills they need to engage in activism at home.



iii) Students engaging in LGBT+-related activism will then report their progress to myself and the Campaigns Officer. We can then use Saints LGBT+ as a platform to publicise their issues and **assist students in their efforts.**