



**GREYSEN
BRALEY**

FOR

**LGBT+
OFFICER**



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Hi There!

I'm so happy you decided to stop by and take a look at my manifesto! My experience as a queer non-binary person has in many ways moulded my university experience. Before coming out in my second-year, gender diversity was something I was aware of but felt I could not claim for myself, in the way that residents of the U.K. know sunshine exists but rarely see it on their own doorstep. The support and friendships I made through the LGBT+ community on campus were what eventually gave me the confidence to acknowledge what I had felt for so long— that I was agender. This past year I discovered that I had the voice and power to support and help other LGBT+ people in the way I was helped; I could stand up for LGBT+ rights publicly, I could get involved in hosting events and creating new ones, and I could have the honour of sharing experiences about being LGBT+ with so many wonderful people. I am running for the Association LGBT+ Officer because I have the skill-set and confidence in my abilities to spear-head institutional changes, improve current support materials, and continue to help foster community for LGBT+ students at St. Andrews.

Gender Inclusivity & Access

The university experience for transgender, non-binary, and otherwise gender-diverse students is inherently different from that of cis-gendered students. Gender-diverse students experience an alternate set of issues, including social, bureaucratic, and legal aspects of transitioning and navigating a cisnormative world. In this role I will use my experience as the Saints LGBT+ Trans/Nonbinary Officer and Sexpression St. Andrews LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Officer, as well as personal experience, to improve inclusivity and trans-specific support at the university.

Action:

I will...

- Lobby to make the inclusion of workplace pronouns in email signatures and classroom introductions a requirement for lecturers, tutorial-leaders, and seminar-leaders
- Highlight transfeminine voices and issues of transmisogyny through thematic events (e.g. transfeminine-focused film & panel discussions)
- Lobby for more accessible gender neutral bathrooms in university buildings
- Publish a Transgender support form to communicate all support needed to Student Services (e.g. name change)
- Have IT add an option to specify personal pronouns on MMS and MySaint
- Make 'Transcend,' the upcoming by-trans-for-trans zine, an annual Saints LGBT+ publication
- Maintain the Click & Collect Trans Clothing Drive throughout and following the pandemic

Community Wellbeing 3 & Inclusivity

Essential to many LGBT+ people's experience is finding community and understanding among chosen friends and family. University can be both a great and terrifying time to do this. Further, increasing public awareness of intersectional identity must be reflected in LGBT+ community action. I will actively make room for the voices and experiences of BAME, disabled, neurodivergent, transfeminine, and religious LGBT+ students to be heard.

Action:

I will...

- Bring an open and honest attitude to committee meetings, events, and councils
- Have a designated Wellbeing Subcommittee with BAME, disabilities, neurodivergence, transgender, wlw (women loving women), mlm (men loving men), bisexual/pansexual, and asexual/aromantic representatives
- Identity-specific events for all identities represented by the Wellbeing Subcommittee
- Diversify media recommended by Saints LGBT+ to include identity-specific support, resources, and recommended books/films
- Hold online events at various times to accommodate those living in different time zones
- Continue to hold non-alcoholic, accessible, and online events post-pandemic
- Collaborate with the chaplain to hold themed Queer Faith Community meetings (e.g. Trans Day of Remembrance gathering)

Support & Education

LGBT+ students require and deserve specialised support to accommodate and address differences in LGBT+ student experience. Current publicity, accessibility, and variety of resources for LGBT+ students leaves much to be desired. To address this I will improve the quality and quantity of LGBT+ specific resources and ensure these materials are easily accessible for all students and staff.

Action:

I will...

- Make all current and future Saints LGBT+ support resources easy-read friendly
- Lobby for LGBT+ specific counsellors in Student Services
- Create an LGBT+ support training module for Peer Support
- Have LGBT+ support trained Peer Supporters who can accompany questioning or otherwise nervous students to events
- Heighten publicity of LGBT+ support and health materials through Saints LGBT+ social media platforms and Student Services
- Have LGBT+ specific consent and sexual health education events held in collaboration with Sex and Gender Based Violence and sex positive societies.
- Be a listening ear for LGBT+ students seeking advice and/or direction to relevant support materials
- Represent LGBT+ interests and inclusion on councils

Events

The fostering of community requires space for communal gathering. During the Covid-19 pandemic, holding events and space for community has become both more challenging and more crucial to combat feelings of loneliness, isolation, and anxiety. Additionally, it has drawn attention to previously overlooked access-issues for disabled and commuting students. I plan to address both present issues of social-distancing guidelines and continuing issues of accessibility in the calendar of events.

Action:

I will...

- Hold online events at various times to accommodate students in other time-zones
- Offer more accessible events by continuing to host some events online following the pandemic
- Bring back Queer Rooms as an LGBT+ club night each semester
- Establish a bimonthly LGBT+ bar night
- Make Transfest a biannual event for observing Trans Day of Remembrance in Autumn and trans joy/excellence in the Spring
- Hold more identity-specific meet-ups each semester
- Collaborate with a variety of societies to capture the multi-faceted interests of the LGBT+ community at St Andrews

Relevant Experience

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Saints LGBT+ Trans/Non-binary Officer:

- Oversaw the organisation of the Transfest Subcommittee and week of events
- Organised the first biannual Transfest
- Initiated and organised the launch of an annual by-trans-for-trans zine
- Launched the 'Click and Collect Trans Clothing Drive'
- Have drafted and gotten approved a template for a Transgender Support Form to go through Student Services and the Registrar
- Made and got approved inclusivity edits to a mandatory 'Diversity in the Workplace' pre-teacher course for staff and postgraduates
- Offered specific support and resources to gender-diverse students

Sexpression St Andrews LGBTQ+ Inclusivity Officer:

- Organised and hosted educational panels on LGBT+ specific topics (i.e. asexuality and gender dysphoria)
- Created and reviewed educational materials to ensure they were LGBT+ inclusive and accessibility friendly
- Cooperated with a team to host sex-positive and educational events

The Healing Collective Founding Member:

- Collaborated with a team to launch a support service by and for victims of Sex and Gender Based Violence
- Offered specific LGBT+ inclusivity advising in the creation and maintenance of the organisation

Barista at Zest, a Social Enterprise:

- Trained in easy-read, accessibility, leadership, cooperation, and effective communication
- Worked on a diverse team of people who face employment barriers

School of English Second-Year Class Representative:

- Collected, collated, interpreted, and presented data on class satisfaction
- Represented queries and concerns of classmates
- Proposed solutions and action to address student issues