

**21-22
FEB
2025**

Ledra
Palace
Hotel

CONFERENCE INVITE

LGBTQIA+ Equality in Cyprus: Health & Education

You're invited to a two-day conference dedicated to advancing LGBTQIA+ equality in Cyprus through improved health and education practices.

Join us as experts from the UK and Cyprus share their insights on critical topics such as HIV prevention and LGBTQIA+ inclusion in education.

Participate in insightful discussions and collaborative workshops aimed at creating a more inclusive society.

Both days of the event will take place from 09:00 – 16:00 including a coffee break and lunch.

Organisers



 **QUEER**
COLLECTIVE



Supported by



British
High Commission
Nicosia

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 (February 21) HEALTH PRACTICES:

09:00 – 09:30:	Welcome and registration
09:30 – 09:45:	Opening Remarks
09:45 – 10:45:	Panel Session: “Health Equity & Community Needs” Discussion exploring how LGBTQ+ health policies and practices also benefit non-queer members of society. Speakers: Dr. Michael Brady Dr. Danny Alon Ellenbogen Dr. Nesil Bayraktar
10:45 – 11:00:	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:00:	Workshop: “HIV in the Office, how to spot it, how to catch it” In small groups, attendees will discuss their perceptions/concepts of working with an HIV+ person.
12:00 – 13:00:	Lunch
13:00 – 14:00:	Panel Session: Trans and Intersex Health” Panel discussing trans and intersex health topics including the benefits, research, and practices developed. How these affect the wider population and how disconnecting sex characteristics from expected medical procedures contribute to a more progressive, inclusive, and effective health system. Speakers: Surya Monro Nicos Skordis, MD, PhD Berna Denizal
14:00 – 14:15:	Coffee Break
14:15 – 15:15:	Workshop: “Access to health rights” Attendees break into small groups to discuss the gender reaffirmation process, legal gender recognition, enforced sterilisation, access to hormone therapy, and puberty blockers.
15:15 – 16:00:	Wrap up and Connecting Session

DAY 2 (February 22) EDUCATION PRACTICES:

09:00 – 09:30:	Welcome and registration
09:30 – 09:45:	Opening Remarks
09:45 – 10:45:	Panel Session: “LGBTIQ+ Inclusive curriculum and sex education” Experts discuss what benefits an educational environment gains when LGBTQ+ topics are included and discussed in detail in education curricula. Speakers: Lindsey Parr Dr. Nayia Kamenou Salih Sarpten, PhD
10:45 – 11:00:	Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00: Workshop: “Sex Education in Practice”

Activity where attendees are broken into small groups. Participants are assigned roles at random and act out scenarios relevant to topics normally covered in sex education programs.

12:00 – 13:00: Lunch**13:00 – 14:00: Panel Session: “Developing guidelines for professionals to mainstream LGBTIQ+ rights and deconstruct the myths”**

Panel discussion on good and bad practices to develop guidelines for workplace and educational environments. Collecting data from work colleagues or peers and presenting it to superiors or employers.

Speakers:

Yvonne 'Vonni' Hardman

Dr. Ahmet Güneyli

14:00 – 14:15: Coffee Break**14:15 – 15:15: Workshop: “How Cypriot Trade Unions of Education and Educational Professionals Can Become Effective Allies”**

Attendees break into small groups to discuss a scenario and develop a guideline or guidelines on specific topics to resolve the conflict in the scenario.

15:15 – 16:00: Wrap up and Connecting Session

Ledra
Palace
Hotel

**21-22
FEB
2025**

BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPERTS ON HEALTH**Dr. Michael Brady**

**National Health Service England – National Advisor for LGBT Health /
Kings College London – Consultant in Sexual Health and HIV**

Dr Brady was appointed as the National Advisor for LGBT Health at NHS England in April 2019. In this new role, Dr Brady works across NHS England and NHS Improvement, with the Government Equalities Office and a wide range of stakeholders, partner organisations, and the LGBT community to address health inequalities for LGBT individuals and improve experience in the NHS. Michael is also an HIV and Sexual Health consultant at Kings College Hospital in London and the Medical Director of the Terrence Higgins Trust.

Surya Monro

Loughborough University, UK – Professor in Sociology and Social Policy

Surya Monro is a Professor in Sociology and Social Policy based at Loughborough University, UK. Surya has published substantially in the fields of gender, sex and sexuality, notably on LGBT and on Intersex issues. She is the author of *Gender Politics: Citizenship, Activism, and Sexual Diversity* (Pluto Press 2005) co-author of *Sexuality, Equality and Diversity* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2012), author of *Bisexuality* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015), co-author of *Intersex, Variations in Sex Characteristics and DSD: The Need for Change* (University of Huddersfield 2017) and co-editor of *Queer in Africa* (Routledge 2018). She leads the Intersex: New Interdisciplinary Approaches project (INIA) in collaboration with intersex activists and academics. Surya is a Visiting Researcher at the University of the Free State (South Africa).

Nicos Skordis, MD, PhD

Professor of Paediatrics – School of Medicine, University of Nicosia

Nicos Skordis, MD, PhD is a Professor of Paediatrics at the School of Medicine, University of Nicosia. He served as the director of the department of Paediatrics at Makarios Hospital in Nicosia and is currently the director of the division of Paediatric and Adolescent Endocrinology at the Paedi Center for specialised Paediatrics in Nicosia.

He received his MD degree from the Medical School of Athens University and his specialty in Paediatrics from the Aghia Sophia Children's University Hospital in Athens. He is certified as specialist in Paediatrics and Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism. Prof Skordis has a strong publication record (citation index:3912, h-index: 33, i10-index: 93) in the area of Paediatric Endocrinology and has participated as a guest speaker in various international and national conferences. He has been involved in many national and international research projects and has been selected as reviewer in a large selection of journals. His research work on endocrinopathies in Thalassaemia, genetics of endocrine disorders, disorders of sexual development, epidemiology of congenital hypothyroidism, immunogenetics of Diabetes Mellitus type 1 and genetics of precocious and late puberty has been presented in numerous national and international conferences and published in peer reviewed journals and books.

BIOGRAPHIES OF EXPERTS ON EDUCATION

Lindsey Parr

Diversity Role Models – Project Manager and Education Manager (Greater North)

Lindsey is Project Manager and Education Manager for the charity Diversity Role Models, a dynamic charity whose vision is a world where everyone embraces diversity and can thrive. Previously a secondary school teacher and pastoral lead of 16 years, Lindsey has worked for Diversity Role Models for the last 3 years, managing their recent DfE funded project 'Embracing Difference, Ending Bullying'. This project worked with over 300 schools in the UK, delivering valuable staff training and pupil workshops to support schools in creating inclusive learning environments where all young people feel valued and supported regardless of their differences.

Yvonne 'Vonni' Hardman

Teacher, National Education Union (NEU) – Equalities Officer and Regional Chair

Vonni Hardman (she/her) is a teacher and NEU Activist from the North East of England. She is also the Equalities Officer for County Durham NEU, the current NEU Regional Chair and one of the northern representatives on the Women's Organising Forum. Vonni grew up in the town of Consett where she currently lives with her wife and 21-year-old child and their cat. She passionately believes that inclusive education is the key to empowering our young people and that our LGBTQI+ educators should be equally empowered in both their workplaces and trade unions. She believes that promoting equality is the responsibility of all and campaigns both within the trade union movement and the community around these issues. In recognition of her work and efforts Vonni was awarded National Education Union Officer of the Year for 2021/22.

Dr. Nayia Kamenou

University of Cyprus – Lecturer, Department of Social and Political Sciences

Nayia Kamenou is a Lecturer in the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Cyprus. She completed a joint BA (Hons) in Political Science – Thomas Hunter Honors Program Degree at Hunter College, City University of New York, an MSc in Human Rights at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a Ph.D. in European Studies at King's College London. Prior to joining the University of Cyprus as a Lecturer, she worked as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Applied Sciences at De Montfort University Leicester, where she served as the Deputy Director of the Media Discourse Centre. She also worked as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of European and International Studies at King's College London. In 2021, Dr Kamenou received the International Political Science Association "Wilma Rule" Award for the Best Research on Gender and Politics. Her work has appeared in the European Journal of Politics and Gender, European Journal of Women's Studies, Sexualities, International Feminist Journal of Politics, Women's Studies International Forum, Social Sciences and in edited volumes. She has also authored/co-authored several NGO publications.

Dr. Ahmet Güneyli

Academic, Expert on Curriculum Development

Dr. Güneyli completed his undergraduate education at the Teachers' Training Academy in Cyprus. He completed his master's and doctoral education at Ankara University, Faculty of Educational Sciences. His fields of study are educational sciences, curriculum development and teacher education. Since 2004, he has been working as an academic. Currently, he is a lecturer and head of the department at the Faculty of Education at the European University of Lefke. In addition to teaching at the university, Güneyli is also involved in curriculum development, textbook writing and teacher training in Northern Cyprus. He has been involved in projects related to education in the north of Cyprus and the European Union and has articles and books on educational sciences published at national and international level.

Salih Sarpten, PhD

Teacher, Member of the Board of Education and Discipline

Born in 1970, in Limassol. After completing primary, secondary, and high school education, he graduated from the Physics Department of the Faculty of Science at Istanbul University in 1992. During this period, he served as the Istanbul University representative in ÜTK, one of the leading higher education youth organizations. He worked as a Physics Teacher for 15 years. During this time, he was a member of the Executive Board and served as Education Secretary of KTOEÖS. In 2008, he served as a Member of the Board of Education and Discipline, General Secretary of the 5th National Education Council, and between 2018-2020, as Chairman of the Board of Education and Discipline. He has a master's degree in Curriculum Development in Education, doctoral studies in Educational Administration, Supervision, Planning, and Financing, numerous scientific research and articles, and a book titled 'Council Decisions and Education Policy' published in 2020. He is currently a member of the Board of Education and Discipline.

CONFERENCE

LGBTQIA+ Equality in Cyprus: Health & Education

Organisers



QUEER
COLLECTIVE



Supported by



British
High Commission
Nicosia



Ledra
Palace
Hotel

**21-22
FEB
2025**