



Call for Abstracts

LGBTQIA+ Perspectives: Symposium on Equality, Dignity and Wellbeing

The Symposium on Equality, Dignity and Wellbeing: LGBTQIA+ Perspectives, being jointly organised by Young Queer Alliance and Middlesex University and funded by The Other Foundation, is scheduled to take place at Middlesex University in Mauritius on 6th February 2026.

The symposium will consist of panel discussions, presentation of latest LGBTQIA+ research and initiatives in the region. Local and regional scholars from South-East African countries as well as community leaders are invited to submit their research abstracts or reports for community-driven outputs. Regional scholars selected to present their research at the conference will have to make their own flight arrangements. Accommodation and transport arrangement to the symposium will be covered for regional scholars coming from outside of Mauritius.

Dates & Venue

Symposium:	6 February 2026
Venue:	Middlesex University Mauritius campus
Abstract submission deadline:	28 November 2025
Notification of outcome:	12 December 2025
Registration close:	1 December 2025

Themes

Human Rights, Advocacy and Social Justice

- National and international laws protecting LGBTQIA+ rights.
- Lessons from LGBTQIA+ advocacy movements and initiations.
- Collective action, marriage equality and legal recognition for trans persons.

LGBTQIA+ Identity and Intersectionality

- Intersectional experiences of gender, sexuality, race, class, and disability.
- Concealable vs Non-Concealable identities: lived experiences and resilience.
- Opportunities and challenges within diverse regional communities.

Health and Wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ Persons

- Mental health challenges and healthcare access for LGBTQIA+ communities.
- Reality of gender-affirming care in a South-East African Context.
- Strengths and gaps in regional health services and strategies for improvement.

Public Attitudes on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression

- Societal perceptions of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Workplace policies, inclusion practices, risk management and safety of LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Translation of legal reforms to LGBTQIA+ experiences: Benefits and Challenges.

Decolonizing Queerness

- Indigenous, precolonial, and postcolonial queer perspectives.
- Reclaim regional queer histories and narratives.
- Inform inclusive practices rooted in local and regional contexts.

All abstracts received will be published in the Book of Abstracts, which will be available on the conference webpage and mailed to all participants shortly after the conference.

Guidelines for submissions

1. Abstracts

The abstract should include the following elements:

- Introduction and background
- Research question/objective/aim/purpose
- Methodology
- Findings
- Contribution
- The abstract should not exceed 500 words

2. Project Report presentation (for community-driven initiatives)

This can be a work in progress. The 500-word summary should include:

- Topic
- Purpose for the project/initiative
- Methodology/Execution Process
- (Preliminary) Findings
- Recommendations

For general enquiries, information about registration, submission of abstracts and reports, visit the conference website at:

Kind regards
Scientific Committee