

The UCLMS EDI committee's response to UCL's decision to cut ties with Stonewall

UCLMS EDI Committee are disappointed that UCL, as an institution, has decided it will not re-join Stonewall's Diversity Champions scheme or make a submission to their Workplace Equality index.

We are concerned that this decision, made contrary to the advice of the UCL EDI committee and the LGBTQ+ Equality Steering Group, has the potential to create an environment:

- where academic freedom is used to justify prejudice and discrimination, particularly transphobia, and
- in which LGBTQ+ people, particularly trans people, feel excluded.

In solidarity with LGBTQ+ students and staff, the UCLMS EDI Committee is committed to all measures to identify and tackle homo/trans/bi phobia and will continue in its endeavours to make UCLMS a safe and welcoming environment for all LGBTQ+ students and staff.

We hope UCL's senior management plans to establish an LGBTQ+ equality group and action plan is expedited as soon as possible. This must be given the necessary resources to ensure a robust plan "to tackle all forms of inequality, marginalisation, and discrimination experienced by LGBTQ+ colleagues and students" as promised.

We will be closely monitoring the process and its progress in building on the success of the Stonewall programme so that every LGBTQ+ student and member of staff is able to be their authentic self at UCL and feels welcomed and valued by the institution.