

QUEER(IN) SPACES



A GUIDE
TO LGBTQ+
FRIENDLY
SPACES IN
SINGAPORE



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This booklet was produced by Inter-University LGBT Network's (IULN) Research and Advocacy arm, which aims to develop relevant resources for LGBTQ+ youths in Singapore.

This project would not have been possible without the help of many wonderful folks.

To the people who had taken part in our survey, focus group discussions/interviews, and/or submitted your personal thoughts queer spaces, thank you so much for taking out precious time to let us know how you feel, this handbook would not have existed without your contributions. Thank you for sharing your time with us so kindly, graciously and generously. We appreciate you all with all our hearts.

To the researchers involved in this project in one way or another – Mandy, Megan, Murphy, M, Pam, Becky, Rachel – thank you for making this handbook a reality. I would also like to thank Chloe for very kindly volunteering to design this handbook.

Finally, on behalf of Inter-University LGBT Network (IULN) and all who benefit from this resource, I would sincerely like to thank ALERT for very generously sponsoring the prints for this handbook.

The information in this booklet has been verified to the best of our ability, and is accurate at the time of printing. We do understand that spaces change, spaces evolve and spaces transform constantly. You can always find the most updated version of this resource on our website.

We aim to keep the information in this resource fresh. Do not hesitate to get in touch with us at interunilgbt@gmail.com if you know something we don't!

Tiffany Gwee (she/her)
Research & Advocacy Director 2018-2019
Inter-University LGBT Network

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FB: @InterUniLGBTNetwork

IG: @interunilgbt

Website: <http://InterUniLGBT.wix.com/InterUniLGBT>

Telegram: t.me/stayintouchwithiuln

01 /INTRODUCTION

We wanted to know where young LGBTQ+ persons were spending their time. Where are they socialising and finding community? Where do they go to be alone? Where do they feel most at home?

Think of this resource as an opportunity for you to learn what makes a queer-friendly space. This is more than just a list of nightspots and F&B establishments. It is a collection of queer narratives and voices, and a glimpse into the fraught relationship between LGBT persons and mainstream spaces.

We hope this handbook will start conversations about inclusivity and acceptance. We hope it ends up in a random coffee shop somewhere in the heartlands. In a Kopitiam. In a quiet bookstore. In a waiting room.

In a world where queer voices and spaces are marginalised, we believe the physical existence of these mini handbooks — crafted purely from the invaluable contributions of young LGBTQ+ folks — is powerful in and of itself.

Finally, as many of these spaces are not visibly queer spaces, we hope you pick out a new space or two that you might want to visit or engage with!

** The guide is not only available in print, but also will be available online on our website*





HOW DID THIS GUIDEBOOK COME ABOUT?

We began conceptualising this resource in late 2018, when we came to the realisation that many youths could only think of clubs or watering holes when asked to name queer-friendly spaces.

Prior to compiling a list of spaces, we sent out a preliminary survey aimed at understanding what queer students think about where queer spaces are concerned. We also wanted to know how often they visit such spaces.

After studying the data, we felt that more in-depth information was needed. Thus, we conducted two focus group discussions (in two universities) where participants were free to elaborate on their thoughts and feelings towards queer spaces.

We then opened up submissions for mini reflection pieces (<300 words), where LGBTQ+ youths could write in about some of their favourite queer spaces and their reasons for choosing them.

The four categories represented here, while not exhaustive, are a good representation of the types of queer-friendly spaces that exist in our city.

02 / DEFINITION & TERMINOLOGY

How do we define a queer-friendly or queer space? In this handbook, we make reference to two types of spaces: queer and queer-friendly spaces. But what does it mean for a place to be “queer”, or “queer-friendly”? We understand how confusing this might be. This section aims to illuminate the differences between the two.

“QUEER” is a umbrella term for non-heterosexual and non-cisgender identities. In a society where cisheterosexuality is considered to be the norm, queer individuals may feel out of place at best, or discriminated against at worst.

“QUEER SPACES” are unique places in which queerness, as opposed to cisheterosexuality, is perceived to be the norm amongst those who occupy the space. These are places frequented mainly by queer individuals. In such places, queer people may thus escape the feeling of being “different”. Such places are ideally free of discrimination against queer-identifying individuals. Pride parades or gay bars, clubs, and cafes are examples of such spaces.

“QUEER-FRIENDLY SPACES” are places that are perceived to be prejudice- and discrimination-free zones for those who identify as queer. Unlike queer spaces, queer-friendly spaces may still be cisheteronormative in that they are frequented mainly by cisheterosexual individuals. However, such spaces seek to assure queer individuals that they will not face prejudice or discrimination within its walls.

Queer and queer-friendly spaces can be public spaces, such as pride parades; commercial spaces, such as bars and clubs; non-profit spaces, such government- or NGO-run shelters; or even be located online. They can also be set up for various reasons. Some are intended as social spaces where queer people can mingle and feel at ease, while others offer important healthcare services for queer individuals.

In this handbook, we list social, health, religious, and online spaces that are queer and/or queer-friendly.



03 /SOCIAL SPACES

The pursuit of safe social spaces stems from threats to our personal comfort and safety. Many of us yearn for comfort and ease, and the permission to exist as we are — authentically and freely. Queer and queer-friendly social spaces allow us to feel affirmed and empowered, and to engage with each other, without worrying about discrimination, harm or harassment.

LGBTQ+ bars and clubs have historically been one of the few places where queer and trans people can socialise and express themselves. However, for those of us who don't drink for a variety of reasons, there is a real need for alcohol-free social spaces which are welcoming and supportive.

The establishments detailed below made it to our list because they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Has hosted queer-related events
- Is queer-owned
- Have been, or are, Pink Dot sponsors
- Spaces suggested by LGBTQ+ youths

LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY BARS/CLUBS:

[Backstage Bar](#)

80 Neil Rd, Singapore 088842
f: @BackstageBarSingapore
W: [www.homeofthebluespin.com/
backstagebar](http://www.homeofthebluespin.com/backstagebar)

[Dorothy's Bar](#)

3A Trengganu St, Singapore 058467
f: @DorothysSingapore | ig: @dorothysbar
W: www.dorothysbar.com

[Flavours Bar](#)

80A Neil Rd, Singapore 088842
W: [www.homeofthebluespin.com/
flavoursbar](http://www.homeofthebluespin.com/flavoursbar)

[Fry Rooftop Bistro & Bar](#)

96B Club St, Singapore 069464
f: @FRYBistro
W: www.fly.com.sg/fly-group/fry-bistro

[Good Luck Beerhouse](#)

9 Haji Ln, Singapore 189202
f: @Goodluckbeerhouse

[Intermission Bar @ The Projector](#)

6001 Beach Rd, #05-00,
Singapore 199589
f: @Intermissionbarsg
W: www.theprojector.sg/cafe

[Lluvia Cafe and Bar](#)

145 Telok Ayer St, Singapore 068605

[Lime House Carribean](#)

2 Jiak Chuan Rd, Singapore 089260
ig: @limehouseasia
W: www.limehouse.asia

[May Wong's Cafe](#)

78A Neil Rd, Singapore 088841
W: [www.homeofthebluespin.com/
maywongscave](http://www.homeofthebluespin.com/maywongscave)

[My Awesome Cafe](#)

202 Telok Ayer St, Singapore 068639
f: @myawesomecafesingapore
W: www.myawesomecafe.com

[Out Bar](#)

43 Neil Rd, Singapore 088825
f: @OutBarSingapore

[Taboo Club](#)

65/67 Neil Road, Singapore 088897
ig: @taboo_club_sg | W: www.taboo.sg

[Tantric Bar](#)

78 Neil Road, Singapore 088842
f: @TantricBarSingapore
W: [www.homeofthebluespin.com/
tantric](http://www.homeofthebluespin.com/tantric)

LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY PARTY ORGANISERS:

[Herstory](#)

Organises parties for LBTQ women,
every first Saturday of each month
f: @herstory.asia | ig: @herstorysg
W: www.herstory.asia

[Hypertainment](#)

Gay-cis-men focused/drag wars
f: @hyper.com.sg | W: www.hyper.com.sg

[Man About Town](#)

Gay-cis-men focused
f: @IAmManAboutTown

[Two Queens](#)

Parties for LBTQ women, long-time
sponsor of Pink Dot
f/ig: @twoqueensasia

LGBTQ+/QUEER-FRIENDLY SOCIAL SPACES:

Libraries, Events, Bookstores

BooksActually

LGBTQ+-friendly bookstore
9 Yong Siak St, Singapore 168645
f: @booksactually

City Book Room

LGBTQ+-friendly chinese bookstore
420 North Bridge Road, #03-10,
North Bridge Centre, 188727
f: @citybookroomsingapore

Grassroots Book Room

LGBTQ+-friendly chinese bookstore
25 Bukit Pasoh Rd, Singapore 089839
f: @grassrootsbookroom

IndigNation

An annual month long festival of events
by and for the LGBTQ+ community
f: @IndigNationSG

OBJECTIFS

LGBTIQ-friendly non-profit arts space
dedicated to photography and film
155 Middle Rd, Singapore 188977
f: objectifscentre
W: www.objectifs.com.sg
*"They showcase a lot of queer stuff and by
queer artists." - NUS focus groups*

Pink Dot

LGBTQ+ rally
f: @pinkdotsg | W: www.pinkdot.sg
*If it's socialising outside of your circle
I think Pink Dot is a great place to start
because everyone is pretty chill mostly."*
— NUS focus groups

Pink Fest

LGBTQ+ community-led platform for
events and initiatives that promote a
more inclusive Singapore
f: @pinkfestsg | W: www.pinkfest.sg

Pelanggi Pride Centre

LGBT community space and resource
centre, open every Saturday 2pm – 6pm
1 Commonwealth Lane, #02-02,
One Commonwealth, Singapore 149544
f: @pelangpridecentre
W: www.pelangipridecentre.org
*"I found it because I was looking for spaces in
Singapore to borrow queer books. I found that
all the books there were queer [...] You don't
actually have to interact with anybody if you
don't want to." — SMU focus group*

Queer Book and Movie Club

Monthly book club, 3rd Thurs of month
Focus on queer literature. Also meets for
LGBT movies every two months.
f: @qbmcsq (closed facebook group)
W: www.queerbookclub.wordpress.com

Queer Zinefest

They organise zinemaking sessions and
socials
f: @queerzinefestsg

soft/WALL/studs

Queer-friendly library space shared with
waresnotwarehouses, open Wed, Fri
and Sun 5-11 pm (timings vary)
No.11, Lorong 21A Geylang, Level 8,
Singapore 388429
f/ig: @softwallstuds
f: @waresnotwarehouses

Skrrrt Central

Organises events for queer artists to
showcase their talent
ig: @skrrrt.central
W: www.skrrrtcentral.com

The Projector

Independent cinema & creative platform
6001 Beach Road, #05-00,
Golden Mile Tower, Singapore 199589
f: @theprojectorsg
W: www.theprojector.sg
*"People there are totally cool with gender
and sexual identity." - NUS focus groups*

LGBTIQ/QUEER-FRIENDLY CAFES/RESTAURANTS:

Aloha Poké

Multiple locations, info available online
f: @alohapoke | ig: @alohapokesg
Cuisine: Poké bowls

Bochinche

f: @bochinchesg
Cuisine: Argentinian

Bollywood Veggies

100 Neo Tiew Road, Singapore 719026
f: @BollywoodVeggies
W: www.bollywoodveggies.com
Cuisine: Vegetarian

Camp Kilo Charcoal Club

66 Kampong Bugis, #01-01,
Singapore 338987
f: @campkilosg | ig: @camp_kilo
Cuisine: Fusion, specializing in
roast meats

Ding Dong

f: @dingdongsingapore | ig: @dingdongsg
Cuisine: modern Southeast Asian

Epiphyte Bar

47 Neil Rd, Singapore 088827
f: @Epiphyte.sg

Open Farm Community

130E Minden Road Singapore 248819
W: www.openfarmcommunity.com
f: @openfarmcommunity
Cuisine: Fusion

OverEasy

One Fullerton: 1 Fullerton Road
#01-06, Singapore 049213,
Liat Towers: 541 Orchard Road,
#01-01, Singapore 238881
f: @OverEasySG | ig: @shakeembuns
Cuisine: American

P.S. Cafe

Multiple locations, info available online
f: @PS.Cafe | ig: @pscafe
Cuisine: Western

Peppermint Park

76 Neil Rd, Singapore 088840
W: [www.homeofthebluespin.com/
peppermintpark](http://www.homeofthebluespin.com/peppermintpark)
Cuisine: Western

Pho Stop

6A Shenton Way #02-28
Downtown Gallery
f: @PhoStop
Cuisine: Vietnamese

The Backyard Bakers

BUNDT by The Backyard Bakers
2 Havelock Rd #01-22
Singapore 059763
GRAZE by The Backyard Bakers
#01-109 NeWest, 1 West Coast Drive
Singapore 128020
f: @thebackyardbakers
Cuisine: Western

The Butcher's Wife

f: @thebutcherswifesg
Cuisine: European

The Clan Café

31 Bukit Pasoh Road, Singapore 089845
W: www.straitsclan.com
f: @clancafesg | ig: @clancafe
Cuisine: Asian fusion

The Daily Cut

Multiple locations, info available online
f: @thedailycut | ig: @thedailycut.sg
Cuisine: Salad bowls

The Fabulous Baker Boy

70 River Valley Rd, #01-15,
Singapore 179037
f: @Thefabakerboy
W: www.thefabulousbakerboy.com
Cuisine: Western breakfast & brunch

The Garden Slug

Bright Centre, 55 Lorong L Telok Kurau,
#01-59/61, Singapore 425500
f | ig: @thegardenslug
Cuisine: Western

The Moon

Queer-friendly bookstore and cafe
37 Mosque Street, Singapore 059515
f | ig: @themoonsg
W: www.themoon.com.sg
Cuisine: Cafe with vegan and gluten-free options

The Populus

146 Neil Rd, Singapore 088875
f | ig: @thepopuluscafe
W: www.thepopulus.cafe
Cuisine: Western/Fusion/Coffee

The Tiramisu Hero

121 Tyrwhitt Road Singapore 207548
f | ig: @TheTiramisuHero
W: www.thetiramisuhero.com
Cuisine: Western/Dessert

Tiong Bahru Bakery

f | ig: @tiongbahrubakery
Cuisine: French bakery

Well-Dressed Salad Bar

282 South Bridge Rd, Singapore 058831
f | ig: @WellDressedSaladBarSg
Cuisine: Vegetarian/Vegan

QUEER-FRIENDLY CLOTHING SHOPS:

As recommended by queer folks

3eighth

Akin to 3/8" (three eighths of an inch) used as an allowance for garment pattern drafting, 3EIGHTH aims to provide everyone - regardless of their genders or sexualities, an allowance to suit themselves. We dismiss all notions, and welcome all forms. 3EIGHTH produces custom clothing, made-to-measure, and source for well-made accessories and complements for them.
f | ig: @3eighth.co

D'Corselet Singapore

Only shop in Singapore specialising in Corsets. Trans friendly according to some reviews.
f | ig: @DCorselet
W: www.dcorselet.com.sg

New2U Thrift Shop

New2U is a thrift shop that sells pre-loved clothing, accessories, household items, ornaments, books and etc. All goods are donated, and prices start from as low as S\$1.00. Proceeds from the store go towards Star Shelter and the various SCWO Initiatives.
f: @New2UShop | ig: @new2uthriftshop

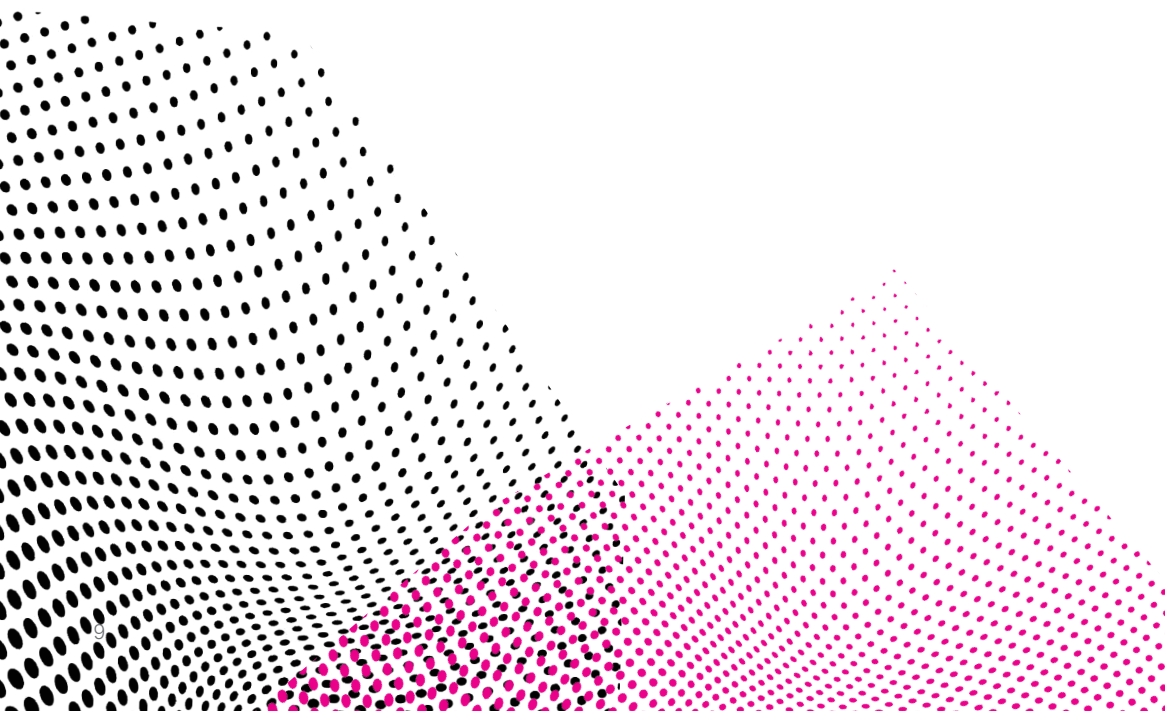
Tomscout

Sells binders, founder is non-binary
f | ig: @tomscout.official
W: www.tomscout.com

04 /HEALTH SPACES

As LGBTQ+ folks, we may have specific needs regarding various aspects of health, such as mental and emotional well-being or sexual health. Considering the scarcity of accessible queer-affirming information in everyday life, the lack of sensitive support from healthcare providers may be harmful for LGBTQ+ individuals, and we may thus face significant obstacles in seeking help and treatment for our healthcare needs.

Healthcare and social services provided by LGBTQ+ or queer-friendly organisations are vital to our survival and our community. We need safe and accepting environments where LGBTQ+ persons would want to seek appropriate and inclusive care, without stigma or prejudice. In this section, we have collated a list of non-profit organisations and private healthcare providers, with services ranging from peer counselling to HIV/STD testing, as well as on-campus counselling services.



LGBTQ+ ORGANIZATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES:

Alicia Community Centre

By The T Project, Peer counselling for transgender and genderqueer persons, and open access library and museum
Currently open on appointment basis

Brave Spaces

Hotline and counselling services
for LBTQI Women

Mon – Fri: 10am to 6pm, excluding PH

T: +65 8788 8817

E: mama@bravespace.org

f: @BraveSpacesSG

ig: @sgbravespaces

Oogachaga

Local LGBT counselling organisation
providing counselling and referrals to
healthcare providers for transgender
clients

f: @oogachaga

“If my friend was struggling with sexual or gender identity issues, and they want to seek professional help, Oogachaga is one of the first few spaces I’d think of and would refer them to.” - NUS focus group

“There’s the issue of cost. Like Oogachaga is like \$80 a session. Oof.”

For LGBTQ+

Hotline & Whatsapp Counselling:

Tues - Thurs: 7pm – 10pm

Sat: 2pm – 5pm

T: +65 6226 2002, +65 8592 0609

(Whatsapp messages only)

Women on Wednesdays

T: +65 6226 6629

Wed: 7pm- 10pm

Gayhealth.sg

Gay and Bi men friendly
sexual health service

Tues – Wed: 6.30pm – 8:15pm

Sat: 1.30pm – 3.15pm

Closed every eve of PH and PH

f | ig: @gayhealth.sg

The Greenhouse SG

Substance addiction recovery centre
for marginalised communities

E: info@thegreenhouse.sg

f: @thegreenhouse.sg

The T Project

Shelter for homeless transgender
women Emergency, Short term and
Long term temporary accommodation

f | ig: @TheTprojectsg

IMH Gender Clinic

Psychiatric assessment and assistance,
referrals to an endocrinologist for
hormone therapy

Private doctors for trans-healthcare:

Dr. Tsoi Wing Foo (Psychiatrist)

Tsoi Clinic, Tanglin Shopping Centre

T: +65 9062 6255

Dr. Alex Fok Chun Kwok (Endocrinologist)

Alex Fok Endocrine Practice,

Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre

T: +65 6734 6116

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (LGBTQ+-FRIENDLY ORGANIZATIONS):

Action for Aids

Anonymous Testing and Mobile Testing Services, and PLHIV Care and Support

T: +65 6254 0212

E: info@afa.org.sg

f: @afa.singapore | ig: @afasingapore

AWARE Women's Care Centre

Women's Helpline: 1800 777 5555

Mon – Fri: 10am – 6 pm

f: @awaresg | ig: @awaresingapore

"AWARE does counselling for women and if you really, really cannot pay, they charge based on your income, on a sliding scale."

Counselling and Care Centre

LGBTIQ-friendly non-governmental, non-profit agency offering counselling services

T: +65 6536 6366

E: info@counsel.org.sg

Heart Knocks Counselling

LGBTIQ-friendly counselling service offering individual, couples and phone counselling

T: +65 6788 1820

E: enquiries@heartknocks.org

f | ig: @heartknockscounselling

Samaritans of Singapore (SOS)

Emotional support to those in crisis, thinking about suicide or affected by suicide

24-hour Hotline: 1800 221 4444

E: befriending_pat@sos.org.sg

f | ig @samaritansofsingapore

Sexual Assault Care Centre

Hotline: +65 6779 0282

Mon – Fri: 10am – 10pm

WhatsApp Chat: +65 9781 4101

Mon – Fri: 10am – 7pm

Drop-in Centre:

5 Dover Crescent, #01-22

Mon – Fri: 10am – 7pm

E: sacc@aware.org.sg

The Relational Counselling Studio

22 Eng Hoon Street

8am – 8pm (by appointment only)

W: www.therelational.com.sg

E: andreamayrhofer@therelational.com.sg

Cost: 60 min session (\$130 – \$180), or work with the centre's "supervised intern" for free

Note: This was listed on transgendersg.com, Singapore's leading online resource for the trans community. They recommend counsellor Andrea Mayrhofer.

REGULAR SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUPS (LGBTQ+ ORGANIZATIONS):

Jejaka

Jejaka is a youth support group by SGRainbow for GBQ Malay, Muslim & Malay-Muslim men from 18 to 35 years old in Singapore that aims to create a safe and brave space for self-acceptance and peer support
f: @JejakaSGR
W: www.sgrainbow.asia/p/jejaka

Lifeline

Lifeline is a Singapore-based Peer-led Support Group for Gay Men in Recovery from Drug Addiction. They run a free social support group (An 8 week, peer-led, non-religious introductory course to recovery for gay, bisexual and questioning men who wish to stop using) and also a chat service through their Facebook page
f: @lifelinegrpsg

She+Pride

She+PRIDE organises regular informal meet-ups and social support groups and caters to womyn who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and other womyn who love womyn
f | ig: @shepluspride
W: sheplusco@gmail.com

The Bi+ Collective Singapore (TBCSG)

TBCSG organises regular socials and small-group discussion sessions where bi+ folks can meet to speak about bi+ specific issues
f: @thebipluscollective
E: thebipluscollective@gmail.com

Note: There are other organisations who also organise social support groups, even if not on a regular basis. Refer to the section on Online Spaces to follow the individual groups on social media to get more up to date information on support groups etc.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ON CAMPUS:

SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (SUSS)

C-three (Counselling)

SUSS, Room A.3.05B, Block A

T: + 65 6248 1600 (general enquiries)

W: www.suss.edu.sg/C-three

E: counsellingservices@suss.edu.sg

Mon – Thurs: 8.30am – 8.30pm

Fri: 8.30am – 5.30pm

Closed on Sat, Sun and PH

Cost: Free for all SUSS students.

Note: IULN has yet to make contact with the counselling centre in SUSS.

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (SIT)

Student Counselling Services

SIT@Dover, University Services Centre

T: + 65 9336 0159 (24 hour)
for psychological emergencies

W: [www.singaporetech.edu.sg/
studentlife/student-support/student-
counselling-services](http://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/studentlife/student-support/student-counselling-services)

E: SITcounselling@SingaporeTech.edu.sg

Mon – Thurs: 8.30am – 6pm

Fri: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Closed Sat, Sun, and PH (Last walk-in
is one hour before closing time)

Cost: Free for all SIT students.

Note: IULN has yet to make contact with the counselling centre in SIT.

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

Mrs Wong Kwok Leong Student Wellness Centre

Li Ka Shing Library, B1-44

T: + 65 6828 0786 (general enquiries)

W: [www.smu.edu.sg/campus-life/
student-wellness](http://www.smu.edu.sg/campus-life/student-wellness)

E: counselling@smu.edu.sg

Mon – Thurs: 9.30am – 5.30pm

Fri: 9.30am – 3.30pm

Closed on Sat, Sun, and PH

Cost: Free for all SMU students

"I always go there to talk about queer-related things. Because I want to talk to adults, but I don't want to talk to any adult. She told me about her queer friends who went through similar situations. That was one good experience that made me realize that a lot of people do have queer friends, even when the person is in their forties to fifties."

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Student Wellbeing Centre

University Health Service, #02-01

T: + 65 6790 4462 (general enquiries)
or 6338 3383 (24 hour) for
psychological emergencies.

W: [www.ntu.edu.sg/studentwellbeing/
pages/index.aspx](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/studentwellbeing/pages/index.aspx)

E: studentwellbeing@ntu.edu.sg

Mon – Thurs: 8.30am – 5.45pm

Fri: 8.30am – 5.15pm.

Closed on Sat, Sun, and PH

Cost: Free for all NTU students

Note: Our researchers tried to set up a meeting with NTU SWC in 2018. However, they were unable to accede to our request due to their schedule. They have, however, assured us that “counselors have gone through training in LGBT issues” and that they “will continue to ensure that our staff’s knowledge and skills remain relevant to best serve our students”.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Counselling and Psychological Services

Kent Ridge Campus, Level 2

University Health Centre

T: + 65 6516 2376 (general enquiries)
or + 65 6516 7777 (24 hour) for
psychological emergencies.

W: [www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/services/
mental-health/student.html](http://www.nus.edu.sg/uhc/services/mental-health/student.html)

E: cps@nus.edu.sg

Mon – Wed: 8.30am – 6pm

Thurs: 8.30am – 5pm

Fri: 8.30am – 5.30pm

Closed on Sat, Sun, and PH.

(Last walk-in appointment is
30mins before closing time).

Cost: Free for all NUS students

Note: NUS CPS is currently undergoing renovation works and will only accept new clients after 10 August 2018. However, the 24 hour lifeline will remain operational. Our researchers met with several CPS counsellors in 2018, and were pleased to find that they were highly receptive to increasing their outreach and support to LGBTQ+ students. We will continue to work with them to ensure that all LGBTQ+ students feel safe and welcome to use CPS’ services.

SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN (SUTD)

Well-being Services

Building 1, Level 5 (Near Lobby C)

W: [www.sutd.edu.sg/Campus-Life/
Well-being-Services/Well-being-
Services](http://www.sutd.edu.sg/Campus-Life/Well-being-Services/Well-being-Services)

E: wellbeing@sutd.edu.sg

Mon – Thurs: 8.30am – 6pm

Fri: 8.30am – 5.30pm

Closed on Sat, Sun and PH

Cost: Free for all SUTD students.

Note: IULN has yet to make contact with the wellness centre in SUTD.

05 /RELIGIOUS SPACES

Reconciling one's religion with sexuality is a common challenge faced by LGBTQ+ persons. For many, religious spaces can feel unsafe or exclusive. But faith and sexuality remain to be two important areas of life for many LGBTQ+ folks, and in this handbook we hope to offer a glimpse into some queer-affirming religious spaces.

While there aren't that many available, those that exist provide solace for many religious LGBTQ+ individuals who generally feel unsafe in other religious spaces. These places allow for the exploration of faith in a safe and inclusive environment. They also provide useful resources for queer folks, which are available on their respective websites and linked pages.

Here are some LGBTQ+ or queer-affirmative religious spaces, along with official statements (related to their stance on faith and sexuality) from some of these organisations.

BUDDHISM

Singapore Buddhist Federation

f: @buddhistfellowship

W: www.buddhistfellowship.org

“The Buddha’s teachings of empathy and compassion for all living beings encourage us to develop understanding and care for all communities regardless of race, religion, language or sexual orientation. In this same spirit of care, empathy and compassion, I support the repeal of any law which criminalises, discriminates or marginalises particular groups. We seek to reconcile marginalised communities with society in a way that promotes respect and harmony across different communities in Singapore and the world.” — Lim Phang Hong, President of Buddhist Fellowship Singapore

HINDUISM

Hindu Centre

f: @hinducentresg

W: www.hinducentre.org.sg

“Hinduism does not condemn anyone based on their sexual orientation, and an LGBT person’s orientation is not viewed as a fault of the individual as it is a human condition” — Mr S.Ravenderan, Past vice-president of the Hindu Centre

CHRISTIANITY

Free Community Church

f: @FreeCommunityChurch

W: www.freecomchurch.org

The Free Community Church is a congregation of diverse individuals and families gathering to worship and grow as a Christian community. We desire to develop a vibrant heart relationship with God and a thinking-mind relationship with the Bible. We do not believe in easy answers to life’s challenging questions but in the wisdom of a great and loving God, who surpasses our human understanding. We aim to nurture Christ-centred communities so that members can develop a faith relevant to our times.

The Free Community Church affirms that all individuals, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, are individuals of sacred worth created in God’s image. Our church affirms that same-sex and transgender relationships, when lived out in accord with the love commandments of Jesus, are consistent with Christian faith and teachings. Indeed, we find discrimination based on negative judgment of others, fear of difference, and homophobia inconsistent with Christian teachings. Therefore, we welcome all people regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or economic status to our worship services and activities.

ISLAM

The Healing Circle

f: @thehealingcircle.sg

The Healing Circle is a safe space for queer Muslims to embrace their spirituality. This space also welcome other faiths as we believe in unity and peace in alignment with the cosmos. Our purpose is to find the solidarity with other Muslims, especially those based in Southeast Asia.

Jejaka

W: www.sgrainbow.asia/p/jejaka.html

Jejaka is a youth support group by SGRainbow for GBQ Malay, Muslim & Malay-Muslim men from 18 to 35 years old in Singapore that aims to create a safe and brave space for self-acceptance and peer support.

06 / ONLINE SPACES

Especially in a place where queer people struggle to find offline queer-friendly spaces, online spaces have become an integral part of how LGBTQ+ folks socialise and engage with one another. Online spaces can offer solace for so many, and may at times seem even more safe and inclusive than offline queer spaces. In this handbook we focus on:

- University-based groups
- Online magazines/zines/collectives
- Online platforms for finding out LGBTQ+ events
- Online platforms for interaction
- LGBTQ+ organisations in Singapore

Of course many (almost all, actually!) of these spaces are not exclusively online, and do plan/organise offline events, which can be found on their respective pages. This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all LGBTQ+ groups in Singapore, but a list that focuses on listing down online spaces that are not as prominent in the usual queer narrative in Singapore.



UNIVERSITY-BASED GROUPS:

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Gender Collective by students of University Scholars Program (USP)
f: @gendercollective
E: gendercollective@gmail.com
Note: The group is open to all NUS students, including those not from USP.

Tfreedom
by students of Tembusu College
f: @tembusufreedom/
E: TembusuFreedom@gmail.com
Note: Exclusive to Tembusu residents but occasionally holds events open to all NUS students.

The G-Spot by Yale-NUS college
f: @GSpotSG
W: www.the-gspot.org
E: reach@the-gspot.org
Note: Open to all NUS students

enCAPTsulate by students of College of Alice and Peter Tan
W: None at the moment
E: encaptsulate@gmail.com

QUEERNUS
f | ig: @QueerNUS
E: queernus@gmail.com
Note: Open to all NUS students

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY

Out To Care
f: @OutToCare
W: www.OutToCare.wix.com/OutToCare
E: OutToCare@gmail.com
Note: Open to all SMU students

SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES/ INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

Sim-Suss Gay Straight Alliance
f: @Gay-Straight Alliances
E: None at the moment. Join the group to get in touch.
Note: This is a small, newly-established online community that will welcome any help to get it going!

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Kaleidoscope
f: @NTUkaleidoscope
E: kaleidoscopentu@gmail.com
Note: Open to all NTU students

SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SIT Q-Space
ig: @_q.space
Note: This is a small, newly-established online community that will welcome any help to get it going!

Note: Some of these groups have private group chats you can join. Drop them a message via DM or email to find out more.

ONLINE QUEER/ QUEER-FRIENDLY COLLECTIVES/MAGAZINES/ZINES:

Beyond The Hijab was created by a group of women who were brought together by the simple idea that women should have a platform to share stories about their experiences as women reconciling the demands of their religion and the pressures of the modern world.
f | ig: @beyondhijabsg
W: www.beyondhijab.sg

“Beyond The Hijab is, and will remain, a queer-friendly and -accepting space where we recognise that queer Muslims often face marginalization from both within Muslim communities and LGBTQ+ communities. It is important that queer Muslims have access to spaces and narratives that acknowledge how the tensions in their identities play out in their lives. Their very experiences are proof that both these communities have a long way to go before reaching a more meaningful practice of inclusion, one that is intolerant to queerphobia, racism, islamophobia, and will simply allow a person to healthily explore and be who they wish to be!”

Penawar holds peer-led support group for women and non-men (people who don't identify as men) who were raised in Muslim households. They're based in Singapore.
ig: @penawarsg
W: www.penawarsg.com

Swing Mag SG is an online and print platform dedicated to queer issues in Singapore.
f | ig: @swingmagsg
W: www.swingmagsg.com

“Swing Mag is an online and print platform that showcases alternative queer narratives. We publish zines and articles on our online site that showcase queer content such as art, creative writing, and opinion-editorials

We strive to be a safe space for queer folk, to broadcast their stories and let people know they are not alone in their identities. We believe that documenting our community, in its full kaleidoscopic force, is essential for acceptance, understanding and tolerance, be it by the wider community or within the community. We take in submissions from everyone about queerness in Singapore and Asia, with a slight focus on youth issues”

The Local Rebel is a Singapore-based intersectional feminist collective. Their mission is to educate and empower the local youth, because they believe that change starts from our generation.
f | ig: @thelocalrebel
W: www.thelocalrebel.tumblr.com

“The Local Rebel is an intersectional feminist zine that aims to educate & empower the youth. Most of our members are queer- which is why we started this space to begin with! We wanted to tell our stories, and reach out to other marginalized folks too.”

* Descriptions (sections quoted) were supplied by the respective collectives.

ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR FINDING OUT LGBTQ+ EVENTS:

Your Head Lah! is a mental health collective that aims to amplify marginalised voices in Singapore.
f | ig: @yourheadlahmagazine
W: www.yourheadlah.com

“Each of us faces different forms of oppression and injustice based on race, gender, sexuality, class, ability, and so on. We take an intersectional approach to understanding oppression, and we believe that mental health is the most precarious when you live in these intersections.

YHL is a queer-affirming space where we get to define ourselves and our own complex and very human narratives. We give people a space to share their narratives and we publish these stories on our website regularly (yourheadlah.com). We are also working on creating offline spaces to unpack our assumptions about mental health and to build community. We believe that the foundation of queer liberation is to build community and creating healing spaces for ourselves.”

Dear Straight People is an online LGBT publication that publishes many LGBTQ+ related resources such as listicles and interviews etc.
f: @dearstraightppl
W: www.dearstraightpeople.com

Fomohomo

A resource for LGBTQ+ friendly events and activities. Updates regularly!
f: @fomohmo | ig: @fomohomo.sg
W: fomohomo.sg

Inter-University LGBT Network

f: @InterUniLGBTNetwork
ig: @Interunilgbt
W: www.interunilgbt.wixsite.com/interunilgbt
Telegram: @stayintouchwithiuln
IULN Telegram channel provides you with the latest university-based LGBTQ+ friendly events and activities

Meetup.com

Meetup.com has a good compilation of queer-friendly/queer social groups of Singapore, many of them plan community-based events. Large variety of activities and events as well.
W: www.meetup.com/cities/sg/singapore/lgbtq/

Prout

A meetup and support platform for LGBTQs to find their local community, receive relevant events and group recommendations, and get support from resources, experts and helplines. Updates regularly.
f | ig: @proutapp
W: www.proutapp.strikingly.com
Telegram channel: @proutapp

ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR INTERACTION

There are not many LGBTQ+ forums that are currently active in Singapore, but these were some platforms recommended to us by LGBTQ+ youths:

Reddit www.reddit.com

Reddit is an American social news aggregation, web content rating, and discussion website. Registered members submit content to the site such as links, text posts, and images, which are then voted up or down by other members.

Reddit is a place, when treaded on carefully (just as with any online forum site), can be of great help to a lot of LGBTQ+ youths. While these are not Singapore-based threads, they can be of great resource for many queer folks. Some of these subreddits are more fun (memes + sharing of pop culture etc.), some are more for serious sociopolitical discussions, and some are more like support groups (and some are all at once!). Here are some subreddits that have been suggested by the community:

r/lgbt
r/ainbow
r/LGBTeens
r/bisexual
r/traaaaaaannnnnnnnns
r/transSpace
r/LesbianActually

Discord www.discordapp.com

Discord is a digital distribution platform—designed initially for the video gaming community—that specializes in text, image, video and audio communication between users in a chat channel.

There are some Singapore-based LGBTQ+ discord groups that currently exists in Singapore. For safety and privacy reasons we cannot reveal them publicly in this handbook, but they are searchable through the Discord page.

FACEBOOK GROUPS:

There are plenty of closed Facebook groups that one can join. Many of these groups offer a safe space where queer folks can connect with other LGBTQ+ folks from Singapore and/or other parts of the world. Once again there are not many Singapore-based LGBTQ+ specific closed groups on Facebook, but these were some recommendations from queer youths (these FB groups are closed, so you would have to search them and answer questions before being able to view their content).

Note: This list is of course not complete, and there are many groups that you can join on Facebook. Just be mindful that since Facebook is technically not quite anonymous, others in the group can see who joins and you can be searched up (especially if you do put down that you are from Singapore etc).



SQUAD

Subtle Queer Asian Dating: From auctioning off your fellow queer asian friends to gay memes, this is the place for any queer asian! There are also subgroups from this group, including a chat for LGBTQ+ folks living in Singapore and Malaysia and also a group for queer asian sapphics.

Daughters of Abusive Mothers

This group is specifically for daughters of mothers who are/were abusive or caused trauma to their children. Some LGBTQ+ folks have suggested this page as a useful resource for anyone who has strained relationships with their mothers. Also very useful for social support. They are also queer friendly, and many in the group identify as LGBTQ+.

Sounds bi, I'm in

A group for anyone who identifies as bi/bi+

LGBTQ+ ORGANISATIONS IN SINGAPORE:

Note: This list is non-exhaustive.

Action for Aids @afa.singapore

The organisation focuses on its AIDS commitment through the promotion of prevention education, and advocating for and providing care to benefit the welfare of persons living with HIV/AIDS

Brave Spaces @bravespacesSG

To be the catalyst of positive change for LBTQ+ women through services, research and advocacy

Break The Binary @breakthebinary

A privately-supported informative resource with focus on enhancing the lives of transmen (FtM) in Singapore

Dear Straight People @dearstraightppl

Dear Straight People is an online LGBT publication that publishes many LGBTQ+ related resources such as listicles, interviews etc

Gayhealth.sg @gayhealth.sg

gayhealth.sg is part of AFA and aims to provide up-to-date information and facts about Sexual Health

GLBT Voices @GLBTvoices

Features an ever growing collection of community-submitted stories, recounts and memories by LGBTQ+ individuals anonymously

MOVE Community

@MoveCommunity.org

MOVE is a LGBT friendly social & community club in Singapore formed in 2013

My Queer Story SG @myqueerstorysg

My Queer Story SG is a platform that posts stories of LGBTQ+ individuals (anonymously or otherwise)

Oogachaga @oogachaga

Community-based, non-profit professional organization working with LGBTQ+ individuals, couples & families in Singapore since 1999.

Pelangi Pride Centre

@pelangpridecentre

Pelangi Pride Centre (PPC) is Singapore's only LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer) Resource Centre

Project X Singapore @theprojectxsg

Project X is a sex workers' rights group in Singapore advocating for a fair & safe sex industry and human rights for all

Prout @proutapp

A meetup and support platform for LGBTQs to find their local community

Queer Book and Movie Club

Closed FB group (which should be searchable), A Monthly book club (3rd Thursday of every month) for everyone in Singapore focusing on queer literature

Queer Zinefest SG @queerzinefestsg

Queer Zinefest SG is Singapore's first-ever zinefest dedicated to LGBTQA+ voices. Holds zine making workshops

SAFE Singapore @SAFESingapore

For family and friends of LGBTQ persons in Singapore who are looking for information or support

Sayoni @fbSAYONI

Sayoni is a community-oriented organisation committed to making the lives of lesbian, bisexual, queer and transgender women better

She+Pride @shepluspride

She+Pride organises regular informal meet-ups and social support groups. It caters to LGBTQ womyn

SG Rainbow @SGRainbow

SGRainbow is a non-profit community social group for GBQ men aged 18 to 35 in Singapore

Transgender SG

www.transgendersg.com

Singapore's leading web resource for the Singaporean transgender community. There's information on things like travel, national service and career planning.

The Bear Project

@thebearprojectpage

TheBearProject (TBP), a social networking group for LGBTQ+ folks and allies, was founded in 2007

The Bi+ Collective Singapore

@thebipluscollectiveSG

TBCSG is a growing community that hopes to make bi+ identities more visible and accepted in Singapore

The Greenhouse SG

@thegreenhouse.sg

The Greenhouse is a substance addiction recovery centre for marginalised communities that find it hard to seek help out of shame or fear of discrimination

The Healing Circle

@thehealingcircle.sg

The Healing Circle is a safe space for queer Muslims to embrace their spirituality

The Purple Alliance

@ThePurpleAlliance

The Purple Alliance is made up of a group of young Singaporeans committed towards supporting LGBTQA individuals. Also runs Trans*it, a support group for support trans* identified individuals

The T Project @theTprojectsg

The T Project is committed to empowering Singapore's trans community

Young Out Here @youngouthere

YOH is a youth community group, run by queer youths, for queer youths and their allies!

07 /NARRATIVES & VOICES

We asked young queer folks in the community what queer spaces mean to them. In a world where queer-friendly spaces are mostly overlooked, the voices of LGBTQ+ folks are often lost and hidden. This handbook hopes to bring to light some of these narratives through extracts from these mini reflection pieces (some of which were edited due to length constraints), and we hope that these narratives can spark important conversations, discussions and thoughts about queer-friendly and queer spaces in Singapore. Here are some of their responses:

Ezra, 24

Bi/Queer,
cis female

“

I always struggled with queer spaces and how exclusive many of them seemed at first, and how intimidating it was as someone who wanted to get to know other queer people. In Singapore especially queer spaces often are associated with alcohol and parties, which frightened me a bit (or a lot) as someone who didn't really know anyone. I find queer spaces difficult to navigate especially being bisexual, because I have always felt uncomfortably in-between, and many times not “gay enough” to be part of a queer space. One of my favourite queer-friendly space would be Well Dressed Salad Bar! I love vegetarian/vegan food (the food there is incredible!) and Zenna (the owner) is so friendly and sweet, and she really makes it a point to be super inclusive, which really makes me feel at home. Listening to queer musicians and artists in public (even on my headphones) also make me feel safe in public spaces.

Although it would be nice to have visible representation of queerness (rainbow flags) and other things like that, I appreciate spaces that are willing to lend their space to LGBTQ+ organisations, it really shows that they want to support the community, given how physical space is a struggle for so many queer related events and groups.

**Narratives submitted as part of the handbook are not representative of the views of IULN.
All full length narratives will be posted on our IULN Facebook page.*

“

Ashley, 22

Pansexual female

I only know of HERSTORY and Dorothy's bar, which I guess are social queer spaces [...] Knowing that such places exist make me feel like I have a place in society as a queer woman. I feel confident bringing a same gender date to Dorothy's because I know I won't be judged if I were to show physical affection there [...] I wish we had queer cafes, hairdressers, and doctors. Queer everything :) at least until society catches up and realizes that queers are everywhere.

“

Jonathan, 21

Gay male

This is for LGBT youths who are Christians and are facing difficulties in reconciling their faith and sexuality [...] I would like to make mention of Free Community Church (FCC)'s Living Water sessions conducted by Pastor Miak, the executive Pastor of FCC. Living Waters is a support group for gay men to rediscover the Bible, and speak about issues pertaining to their sexuality, faith, relationships and addictions [...] Many youths think of FCC as simply a "gay church" where only gay people attend. I thought of that initially, but it is completely different of that I thought in reality. The church also has members who are straight, and even has parents who bring their children along. They also hold a very balanced view on homosexuality, as well as diversity [...] There are rules and regulations set out before the run of the sessions, which includes confidentiality and prohibition of dating, so participants can be affirmed that the session is a safe place to speak about issues, their sexuality/identity and know that the sessions are taken very seriously.

“

Sad dancer, 25

Trans female

I always say that I am glad I started dancing before I started transitioning, because I would have never started dancing if it had been the other way around. Although I praise most street dance schools in Singapore for being inclusive of (cis) gender nonconformity, allowing and encouraging men to learn "girl-style" dance genres like street jazz and heels to express themselves (which means many street dance schools have a sizeable sub-community of cis gay men), unfortunately I can't say the same about their trans-inclusiveness [...] Trans women already find it extremely difficult to exercise in public because "gender-neutral" [...] I was once proud of the street dance scene as a "queer-inclusive" space where I could express myself, but the more I transitioned, the more I no longer fit not just within binary narratives of "masculine" or "feminine" but also "male" or "female," the more I felt that I no longer belonged.

Alicia, 26
Bi+/queer
non-binary

“

Amidst the hubbub of the airports, a safe space that I feel at ease at is the viewing gallery/observation decks (in any terminal) where people hang around to watch the planes or mull about their lives [...] Despite the constant patrolling by the police, most people are often left to their own business (assuming there are no suspicious activities around) [...] it is easy to blend in as a foreigner who is whiling away their time at the airport. In that sense, even if outwardly queer individuals were to be seen at these spaces, there is a higher chance that locals (be it police or random unkind strangers) would perceive them/us to be foreigners and have a lesser chance of coming up to us to share their unsolicited, narrow minded, conservative views [...] (The airport) still remains a necessary refuge that I hope more queer individuals can find some sense of belonging or momentary peace within.

Additionally, fandoms have reliably been a great space for queer individuals to congregate and share their thoughts and feelings about queer/wlw/mlm characters and pairings. In a time before positive queer representation, many have turned to fanfiction and fanart to quell the exasperation that one faces when watching canon. This, of course, has led to the flourishing of many great fanworks that exist on sites like archiveofourown.org. Thanks to the growing representation of queer people in media (e.g. Glee, Wynonna Earp, Carmilla, Supergirl, etc.), more individuals are growing more comfortable in expressing their views on certain portrayals of such characters. The impacts of fandom are far-reaching beyond the limits of the internet, since many online communities have led to local meet ups (e.g. a Have a Hart Day meet up event in Singapore where fans of YouTuber Hannah Hart would come together to volunteer at foodbanks) [...] However, it is cautioned that despite the immersive attraction that fandoms have, one should always remain level headed when interacting with fellow online users and stay away from unnecessary conflicts that may arise.

“

Joan, 25
Non-binary

I suppose something I feel queer-friendly social spaces could be better at is them being more widely known and readily accessible. It's nice that we have Pink Dot but I wish there were more visible social spaces where LGBTQIA people can freely and safely express themselves without fear of repercussions or judgment. Queer-friendly online spaces are great, though!! They really helped me figure things out, I feel safe talking about my identity in them, and I'm so glad they exist. I'm also grateful my doctor at IMH made my regular visits there (for unrelated mental health issues) a safe opportunity to talk about my gender.

Ming, 24
Bisexual/
Pansexual
female

“ Queer spaces held the many first times of my queer journey. The first time where I kissed a girl under a rainbow flag. The first time I see her face light up as she snuck her hands under my arms. The first time I ever felt empowered to love the same-sex. The first time I heard the trembling words of “I wish I were a guy, then, maybe I can hold your hand on the streets”. The first time I introduced the queer community to my straight friends over beers. The first time I experience bi-phobia in the form of a “being bisexual is just wrong” response. The first time I ever felt safe talking about my dreams to start a family with a same-sex partner. The first time, I felt that my love can be free, real and bittersweet.

[...] I tend to think that the queer community in Singapore is like wizards and witches because we have to hide our identities from the straight world. You know, like students in the Hogwarts universe having to hide their magic away in the Muggle world. So to those reading this, you don't have to be out to be magical, you are already magical with your capacity to stay resilient as a queer individual.

Rainie, 25
Pansexual
female

“

The Moon bookshop/café allows LGBT organisations to hold queer events there. It's not explicitly a LGBT bookstore but it's definitely queer-affirming – a lot of the literary, artsy type folks who as we know tend to be more LGBT-friendly. Nice coffee! Only problem is the seating area isn't huge and most people go there to do work/reading so you might not be able to find a spot.

Lune, 22
Lesbian
transgender
queer female

“

Sing Lit Station (Workstation), The Moon (Bookstore/Cafe), Booksactually (Bookstore), Miss Chinatown (Restaurant/Bar), The Merry Lion (Bar) are queer-affirming social spaces to work, eat, live, play, relax, and hang out! All these spaces have queer-related events and workshops happening all the time and the community should check them out :)

I don't trust medical institutions and psychiatry/psychology, but I would recommend AWARE's helpline as good for queer/transgender/non-binary people, Oogachaga's counselling service for gay/lesbian/bi/pan/etc. cisgender/queer people! Would definitely recommend LGBTQ people in NUS to join the Inter-Uni LGBT Network (haha) and QueerNUS :D Transgender/Non-Binary people in NUS should join all the above if possible, and especially TransNUS (currently based in a Telegram chat)!!! <3

Belle, 25
Queer

“

Having grown up in a religious household, I'm still trying to unwind my internalized homophobia and with that presents some challenges (anxiety) in navigating LGBTQ+ spaces. Events hosted by two queens provide an inclusive and safe space alongside with refreshing entertainment such as drag performances. In terms of an inclusive space, it's important to be patient and empathetic towards individuals who are new to the LGBT community. Patience in the sense of explaining LGBTQ+ terminologies which might not be accessible to the heteronormative society that most of us have grown up in, educating individuals about the guidelines of the space and introduction with proper pronouns. In my late teens, I often found it difficult to discuss my sexuality with my friends as most of them are straight and religious and I did not have the emotional bandwidth, proper vocabulary to articulate my thoughts [...] I turned towards online spaces such as forums like subreddits, well known Youtube Vloggers, Tumblr, and found some solace in people in the LGBT community who have faced similar experiences in being confused in their sexuality and navigating through it. I've found that it takes a lot more courage to attend in person queer spaces be it counselling or queer uni spaces as you are a lot more visible, and there is a fear of being seen by others who could potentially out you to family. Overall, there needs to be more accessible queer spaces and educational resources available for teens in their formative years.

“

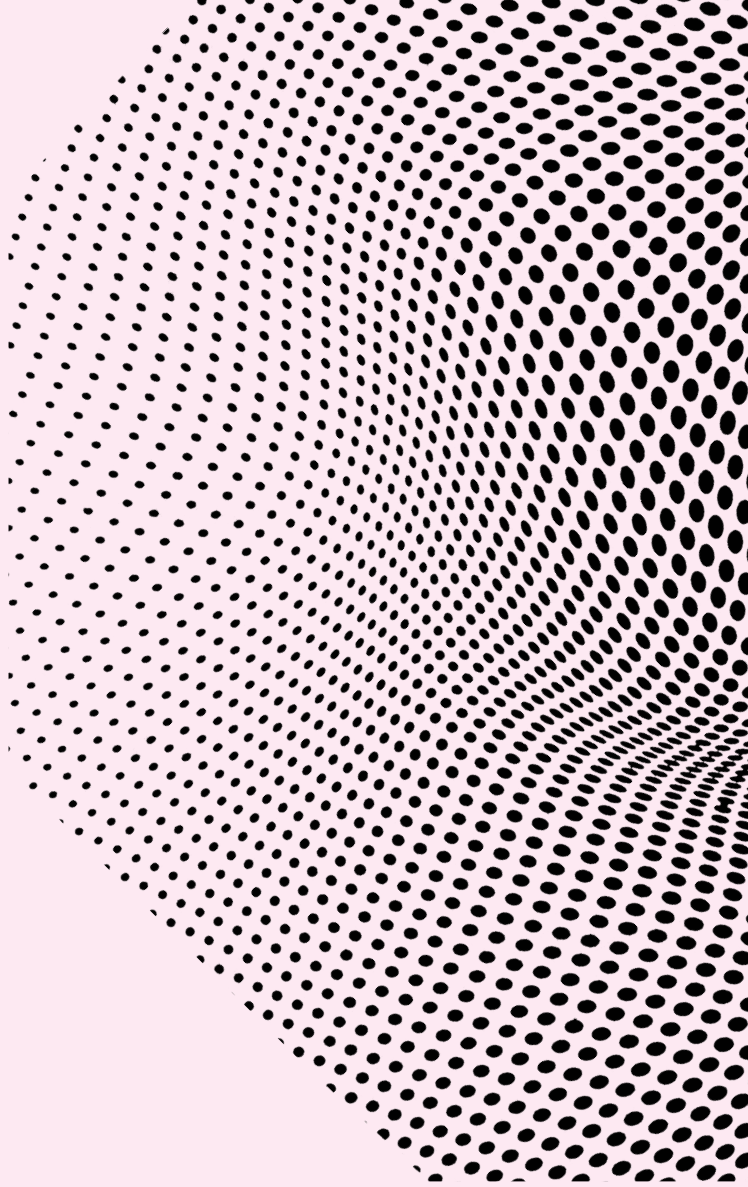
P, 23
Gay male

Museums are great urban establishments to catch up with friends or have a date without any disturbances! It's a pretty nice place to chill or just another excuse to take an #ootd. There's no need to step atas and appreciate every piece, it's just pretty nice to enjoy the ambience it has to offer. The best thing is it's free!

“

Serlinpita, 18
Ace-spectrum
and non-binary

The Free Community Church has really been of great help as a community resource. Pastor Pauline is a great person and even helped us as someone to vent to outside of church [...] We're not Christian, but we attend mass there because they speak of gay and queer voices and with the Pelangi Pride Center there's also a LGBTQ+ library there. Oogachaga has also been great and we're close with Yangfa who has been one of our Therapists in our journey of discovering our identities and mental health issues (those two are not directly correlated but for us it's been a process). We're also a system (multiple people in one body here, though we don't have dissociative identity disorder) which is why we refer to ourselves as "we" and "us".





The Inter-University LGBT Network (IULN) is a network for organisations in Singapore universities to collaborate in fostering safer and more inclusive school communities for everyone regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression.

We aim to foster safe and more inclusive school communities through:

Outreach: Raising awareness and promoting understanding of gender and sexual diversity on campus

Support: Supporting gender and sexually diverse students through creating safe and inclusive spaces for networking, peer support and social engagement

Research & Advocacy: Conducting relevant and incisive research to effectively advocate for safer and more inclusive institutional policies and practices in the interest of gender and sexually diverse students.

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