Stonewall

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY TRUST

Citizenship/PHSE Lesson (Secondary/Post 16)

Laws: Then and there - now and here

The Mosaic of Victims of Nazi Hatred (http://education.hmd.org.uk/case-studies/a-mosaic-of-victims/read) outlines the many different groups victimised by the Nazi regime, including Gay men, Lesbians and Bisexual people. Please make sure you have read this case study before teaching this lesson.

The Legacy of Hope for HMD 2010 provides the opportunity to explore the legacy of institutionalised homophobia which existed in Germany during the Nazi regime and to contrast and compare it with the situation of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people in Britain and other countries in the past and present.

The case study also invites reflection on the hopes of those who suffered during the Holocaust and discussion of how far we have come to realise these hopes in present day society, as well as considering what there is still left to do.

Preparing Your Resources

You can download the PowerPoint slides (LINK) and also visit the Stonewall website on the history of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual equality.
http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_home/history_of_lesbian_gay_and_bisexual_equality/default.asp#post_2000)

To begin **set the context** for research. **Provide** students with information on the treatment of Gay people from the Mosaic of Victims case study (http://education.hmd.org.uk/case-studies/a-mosaic-of-victims/read). **Talk** about Gay culture thriving in Germany in the 1920s despite Paragraph 175 which criminalised homosexuality. **Talk about** the persecution of Gay men through the Nazi regime and the effect students think this might have had on the situation of Lesbians and Bisexual people. **Ask** what did their exclusion from public life mean.

Now, with the whole class, **thought shower** laws which brought greater equality for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people in Britain. **Present** students with a list of these laws, you will find this on Power Point Slide 1. **Ask** everyone to consider what the laws are about and to guess year they were passed. If you click on the slide the years will appear.

Introduce a research task

Show everyone the list of laws passed since 2000, you will find these on PowerPoint slide 2.

Divide students into groups and **ask** each group to research two pieces of legislation, considering when they came into force, what they were about, whether they were controversial and if so why.

Presentation: Allow each group five minutes to presents their findings to the whole class.

After all the presentations **discuss** whether anything researched surprised anyone. Talk about the impact of each of the laws on the daily lives of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people and their families. Are they affected in different ways? **Ask s**tudents whether they think that to have legal protection is enough or whether we need to do anything else to make our society more inclusive.

Finally **ask** everyone to think about your own school community and consider the following situations and questions. What about Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual members of this school/college community; do students feel everyone can be themselves here? Does homophobic bullying happen here? Do some people use homophobic language such as 'That's so gay' or 'You're so gay'? Are there any resources about Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual issues in our library? **Tell** everyone that they can make a contribution to the **Legacy of Hope** and challenge Nazi messages of hatred by working hard to make this community an inclusive environment.

For more teaching resources and information about homophobic bullying visit
www.stonewall.org.uk/at_school