
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	7 April 2016
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	RMcG/LP/036/16
Contact Officer:	Rona McGhee	Contact No:	01475 712113
Subject:	International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia – Request by Councillor McCabe		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Council to consider a request from Councillor McCabe.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Councillor McCabe has requested that the Council consider the attached letter from Unite the Union asking the Council to show support for International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia and LGBT members of the community.

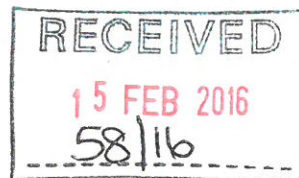
3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Members will recall that the Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee at the meeting on 14 May 2015 agreed, following a request by Provost Moran, to fly a flag on 17 May 2015 to mark International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia and to do so annually.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Council is asked to consider the request by Councillor McCabe.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services



REGION: SCOTLAND

Stephen McCabe
Inverclyde Council
Municipal Buildings
24 Clyde Square
GREENOCK
PA15 1LY

12 February 2016

Dear Cllr. McCabe

I write to you in regards to the upcoming International Day against Homophobia & Transphobia (IDAHOT) due to take place on the 17th of May 2016.

IDAHOT, commemorated on the day that homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (1990), aims to raise awareness of the discrimination and prejudice that LGBT people face in communities around the world.

Within recent years Scotland has made significant progress in removing many legal barriers that have prevented LGBT people from becoming equal members of our society. These successes should be celebrated however there still remain many issues regarding social exclusion and provision of services.

In June 2015 the Equality Network (Scotland's National LGBTI equality and human rights charity) published a report into the experiences of inequality across Scotland. The Report found that 79% of LGBT respondents had witnessed or experienced prejudice or discrimination within the past year (1). Additional to this, 33% of LGBT respondents felt isolated in their communities due to being LGBT(2).

On behalf of our membership, Unite the Union would like to request that Inverclyde Council show its support for IDAHOT and the LGBT members of your community. You can do this via a number of methods; issuing a statement of support, publicising the LGBT services you provide, issuing an internal communication to your employees, donating to an LGBT charity or flying a rainbow flag from your municipal hall.

We hope you will join us in commemorating IDAHOT and striving to ensure that LGBT people may realise their true potential as equal members of our society.

Yours sincerely

Elaine Dougall
Regional Women's and Equalities Officer

1. The Scottish LGBT Equality Report [2015], Pg. 20 Fg.7, Equality Network
2. The Scottish LGBT Equality Report [2015], Pg. 65 Fg.18, Equality Network