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## **Embracing Community this International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia**

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia recognises the strength and community spirit of LGBTIQ+ people, allows for broader community support, while at the same time acknowledging the stigma, discrimination and violence faced by LGBTIQ+ individuals.

A sense of community can contribute to self-worth and acceptance as well as address isolation. A safe and welcoming community for LGBTIQ+ people provides essential support. This is especially true given that sexuality, gender identity and intersex status aren't necessarily visible. Having a community provides a voice to ensure that LGBTIQ+ people's needs and concerns are being heard.

In this time of social distancing for all of us, it's more important than ever to maintain a sense of community. For many LGBTIQ+ people the current environment makes it difficult to physically connect with their communities, which is especially important if individuals are in isolation with unsupportive people.

For those that identify as LGBTIQ+, there are many groups and spaces available to stay connected with communities in South Australia. Some of the online spaces and services include:

- [qsOnline](#), a discord based social space for LGBTQIA+ people ran by The Queer Society. It has a range of different channels allowing people to talk about any and all of their interests.
- [Trans Femme SHINE SA](#) and [TransMascSA](#), private Facebook groups for transgender people to socialize and discuss their personal experience.
- [Moolagoo Mob & Blak Lemons](#), a social space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who identify as LGBTIQ+, including sistergirls and brotherboys.
- SHINE SA's [Gender Wellbeing Service](#) and [Gender Connect Country SA](#) provide free peer-based support over the phone and can help provide connections through groups and other safe spaces for those that identify as trans, gender diverse or gender questioning.

Awareness and support for LGBTIQ+ people should also extend into our workplace. LGBTIQ+ training is key to providing an inclusive workplace, to learn more you can visit SHINE SA's [LGBTI Inclusion Training](#) page.

SHINE SA celebrates International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia and recognises the particular strengths LGBTIQ+ people bring to all of our communities.

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