



**FIVE
FILMS
FOR
FREEDOM**



About the programme

Five Films For Freedom is the world's widest-reaching LGBTQIA+ digital programme. This year's programme runs from 19-30 March 2025.

Now in its eleventh year, the British Council, in partnership with BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival, has made five LGBTQIA+ themed short films available for the world to watch online for free, over a 12 day period each year.

This exclusive programme, which features work by filmmakers from across the world, is selected from and coincides with BFI Flare.

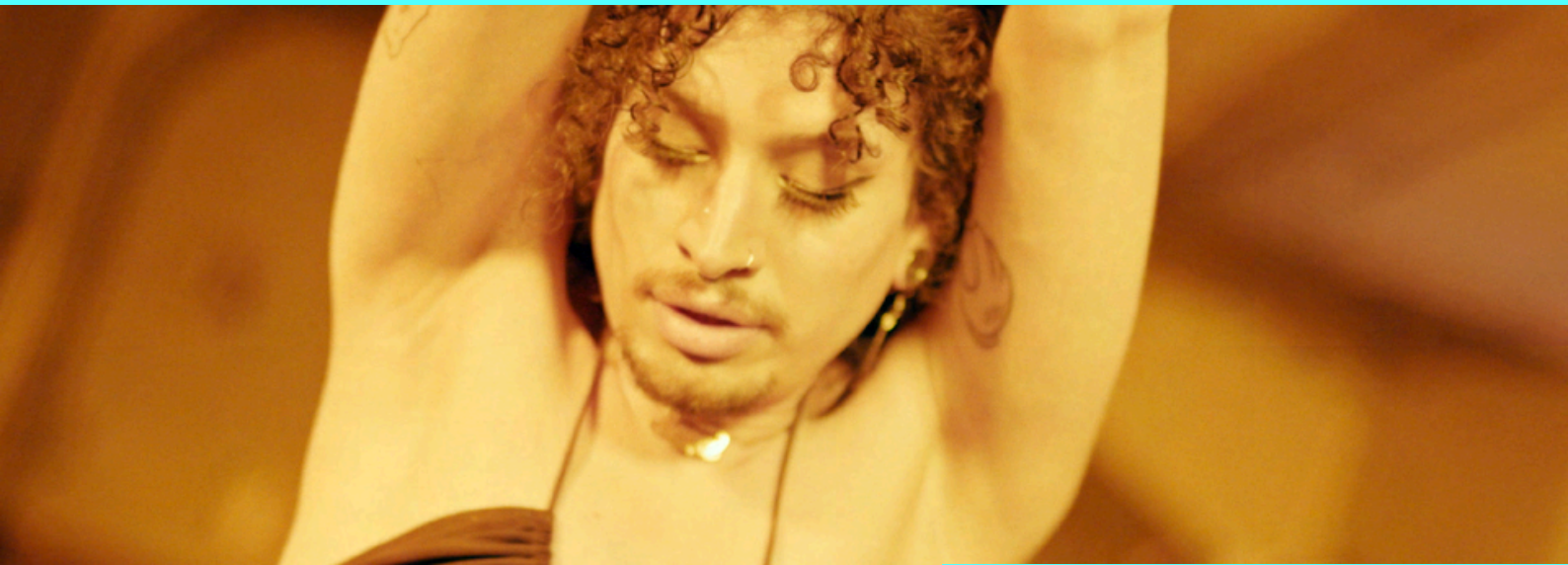
Over the 12 days, we encourage everyone, everywhere to watch the films in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ communities.

Running since 2015, the programme has received over 26 million views in more than 200 countries and principalities.

There are lots of ways to get involved in this year's programme:

- Let us know how your school is getting involved via social media
- Organise a discussion about your responses to the films and LGBTQIA+ issues in your school and community
- Share your thoughts with your partner schools overseas and with us using #FiveFilmsForFreedom
- Use the Glossary and Case Studies in this pack to help your conversations
- Watch the films: www.britishcouncil.org/five-films

Glossary



Compton's 22, dir. Drew de Pinto

It is important to ask how a person identifies, and to respect their answer.

Identities can be fluid and as life goes on, people often realise new things about themselves, and so the words that someone uses at one point in their life, may not be words that they will always identify with – and that's totally ok!

This glossary is not definitive, but here are some of the most common identities and terms used, when talking about sexual orientation (who you're attracted to) and gender identity (how you feel about and see yourself).

Ally

A person who fights for, and supports others in their fight for equality, despite not being a member of the marginalised group, e.g. a heterosexual and/or cisgender person who believes in, and fights for equality, for LGBTQIA+ people.

Asexual

A person of any gender or sexual orientation who experiences little, or no, sexual attraction. Asexual people may still experience other types of attraction, such as physical or romantic attraction.

Bisexual

A person who is sexually or romantically attracted to both men and women, or to more than one sex or gender.

Glossary



A Normal Girl, dir. Aubree Bernier-Clarke

Cis / Cisgender

A person whose gender is the same or mostly the same as they were assigned at birth.

Discrimination

Treating individuals or a particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way than how a person might generally treat others, because they hold negative views about people with certain characteristics – e.g. a person's race, faith, sex assigned at birth, sexual orientation, class.

Gay

A man who is attracted to other men. Sometimes the word 'gay' is used by women who are attracted to women too.

Gender Expression

Refers to how a person externally presents their gender. This may be through choice of clothing, general physical appearance or social behaviour. Gender expression is most commonly/ traditionally measured on a scale of "masculinity" and "femininity", although not always.

Gender Fluid

A person who feels that their gender is not static and that it changes throughout their life, this could be on a daily / weekly / monthly basis.

Glossary



Trans Happiness is Real, dir. Quinton Baker

Gender Identity

How a person feels about and knows themselves to be. This might be as a woman, a man, as both, as neither, or in another way.

Gender Neutral / Agender

A person who does not identify with any gender.

Heterosexual / Straight

A person who is attracted to people of a different gender e.g. a man who is only attracted to women.

Homophobia

Discrimination against and/or fear or dislike of homosexual people. (including those perceived to be homosexual. This also includes the perpetuation of negative myths and stereotypes through jokes and/or through personal negative thoughts about lesbian and gay people.

Homosexual

A person who is sexually or romantically attracted to people of their own sex.

Intersex

A person is assigned intersex, often at birth, when their sex characteristics don't align with the medical definitions of "female" or "male". A person's external and internal body, as well as chromosomes and hormones, can all be factors when assigning sex.

Lesbian

A woman who is attracted to other women.

LGBTQIA+

An umbrella expression and an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex, queer/questioning (plus other related identities), sometimes shortened to LGBT+.

Glossary



Buffer Zone, dir. Savvas Stavrou

Non-binary

An term for gender identities which are not confined by the gender binary of “women” and “men”. Non-binary people may identify with no gender at all or with more than one gender.

Out / Coming Out

LGBTQIA+ people living openly, and telling people about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Pronouns

Words used to refer to someone when their name isn't used. They usually suggest a person's gender, although some people prefer, or identify with, neutral pronouns. Common pronouns include her, she, him, he, they, them. No matter which pronouns people use, it's important to use the ones they ask you to refer to them by.

Queer

Historically this word was used as a negative insult, however many people feel they have reclaimed the word to have a positive meaning. Some people use it as a collective term for LGBTQIA+ people, and some use it to explain their gender, sexual or political identity. Some people still use this word as an insult, this is LGBTQIA+ phobia and should be challenged.

Sex Assigned at Birth

People are assigned a sex at birth, usually based on observation of external genitals. A person may be assigned “female”, “intersex” or “male”. However, this does not necessarily reflect how a person will identify themselves.

Glossary



Wait, Wait, Now!, dir. Ramon Te Wake

Sexual Orientation

The part of a person's identity that describes who they experience attraction to, often but not always based on gender, e.g. lesbian, gay, bisexual, straight, pansexual.

Trans / Transgender

A person whose gender identity is in some way different to the gender they were assigned at birth

Transition

A term that refers to changes a person might make to affirm their gender. These changes might be medical and/or social. E.g. a person might change their name, pronoun or clothing. A person might start to take prescribed hormones or make surgical changes to their bodies. Everyone's transition will be different.

Transphobia

Discrimination against and/or fear or dislike of people whose gender identity does not align with the gender they are assigned at birth, or whose gender identity or expression doesn't appear to align.

This also includes the perpetuation of negative myths and stereotypes through jokes and/or through personal negative thoughts about trans people.

London Loves You



I (EG), dir. Hall Tryggvadottir

Back in 2015 we went in to a London secondary school to meet a group of 14-17 year olds discussing how LGBTQIA+ issues affect them and others in their school. Watch London Loves You!

Show your students the film:

<https://vimeo.com/158625035>

Some prompts for discussion:

- Do the young people in the films seem similar or different to young people in your country?
- What, if anything, surprised you about the views of the young people in the film?
- What value does diversity bring to society?
- How can schools help students feel safe and build mutual respect?
- Why do you think diversity is hard to talk about sometimes?
- In your country, do you think that different generations see diversity differently?

Case Studies



Uninvited, dir. Seung Yeob Lee

The following case studies show a series of dilemmas faced by people in different countries. Read about their situations, and consider what you might do in these circumstances.

Sam

You are a 15-year-old school pupil living in the UK. You are questioning your sexual orientation, but you definitely know that you are not straight. You have not felt confident to talk to your friends about this because you've heard them say things like 'that's really gay,' when what they really mean to say is 'that's really rubbish.' You have never heard your friends saying anything positive about lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, so you're unsure how they might react if you spoke to them about it.

You're aware of some groups for LGBTQIA+ young people run by trained organisations and there's one that is a short bus journey away from home.

What would you do?

Case Studies



Crush, dir. Rosie Westhoff

Maysa

You are a 17 year old living in Pakistan. For 11 months, you were in a loving, but secret relationship with Latifa. One night, your parents caught you kissing each other. They were both very angry and have forbidden you from ever seeing Latifa again.

Subsequent to this, your parents have forced you to marry a man who is much older than you are. He is unkind and makes you do things that you do not wish to do. You are very unhappy and fear for your life, especially if your husband ever found out that you were still secretly seeing Latifa.

You have heard that LGBTQIA+ laws are different in other countries and you think that you might be able to seek asylum as a refugee in another country. You can access your husband's money.

What would you do?

Case Studies



We'll Go Down in History, dir. Cameron Richards and Charlie Tidmas

Damba

You are a 55-year-old gay man, born and living in Uganda in Africa. In your country, sexual acts between two people of the same gender are illegal, and may be punished by life imprisonment. Much of the anti-gay law that exists in Africa today, does so as a result of Britain introducing it, whilst colonising these countries and bringing them into the British Empire around the turn of the 20th Century.

When you were a younger man, you travelled to the USA and saw first hand, how LGBTQIA+ Pride rallies and marches were attempting to change people's attitudes and laws, with success. In many Western countries, Pride events began as very political, with people protesting for better treatment and rights. More recently in such countries, Pride events have become a celebration of LGBTQIA+ lives.

You wish for similar legal changes to occur for the people of Uganda, for them to have the freedom to love who they love, without fear. You want to organise a Pride rally in Kampala, the capital. You know if it goes ahead, there is a very good chance that you will be arrested and put into prison.

What would you do?

Case Studies



Heavy Weight, dir. Jonny Ruff

Lukasz

You are a 27-year-old teacher. You are from Poland and you love your home country and family. Five years ago, you met Ben, a 25-year-old computer programmer from Germany. You have fallen deeply in love and are very happy with each other! As free movement of people between EU member countries is allowed, and as Ben can work from anywhere, you decided to buy a house together in Poland. In 2017, Germany announced that same-sex marriage was going to be legalised. Poland does not recognise marriage between people of the same gender.

What would you do?

Case Studies



Dragfox, dir. Lisa Ott

Marsha

It is the summer of 1969, New York, USA. You are a black trans woman. You are enjoying a night out with friends in a pub called The Stonewall Inn, one of the very few establishments at this time that is welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people.

Significant anti-LGBTQIA+ laws exist. People live in fear, often forced to live double lives. Police raids on your favourite bar are becoming more and more frequent, with people being arrested for such 'crimes' as not having ID cards, or not wearing enough clothing that matches their gender assigned at birth.

You are tired of the poor treatment that you and your friends are receiving. This negative attention feels unfair and the police raid that occurs at 1.20am on Saturday 28 June 1969 feels like one too many.

What would you do?

(Have a look online to find out exactly what Marsha P. Johnson did).