Through a Queer Lens
Portraits of LGBTQ Jews

“a vibrant celebration of LGBTQ Jewish life in the UK” Diva Magazine
Photographer Ajamu,
Exhibition Portrait Subject
Rabbi Lionel Blue and
Project Coordinator
Surat-Shaan Knan
“This exhibition made me feel proud of my religion and my sexuality. Thanks.”

“Very inspiring”

“insightful and uplifting”

“Moving stuff. Great to see.”

“So happy to see us fully visible and proud.”

“Such beautiful pictures, of such beautiful people – KEEP TELLING THESE STORIES – AND LOUDLY”

“amazing”

“It is good to know that I am not alone.”

“eye-opening”

“Stunning”
Sue Shona Kran

I grew up in the 1980s as the lone child of a secular and rather dispersionist Jewish family of mixed atheist heritage. I didn’t know much about being Jewish, or even knew the possibility of being Jewish. I wasn’t raised to be Jewish.

In my teens, I moved from the Midwestival to a bigger city and eventually came out as gay. But even then I couldn’t quite shake off the uncomfortable feeling that my identity was somehow unnatural. I couldn’t quite believe it. I didn’t know the truth then, so I took me almost 20 years to discover the concept of female-to-male transitioning. And, only now, do I begin to explain my non-binary/non-gender identity.

Paul Burton

Although I have been brought up and educated in a Church of England school and family, the Christian faith has had little bearing on my life. In fact, however, there is strong interest in Buddhism, particularly the Theravada tradition, which converts to the age of 12. Buddhism is every bit of a non-denominational faith that admits much of all the other religious traditions. Indeed, secularism is regarded as a form of attachment and clinging which, in turn, leads to suffering and the breakdown of the Middle Way through meditation and mindfulness.

Roberts' spinner

I was born and raised in the Pentecostal movement and believe in Jesus. The Church at the age of 12. I left the church.

Phyllis Cunard-Morow

I was born and raised in the Pentecostal movement and believe in Jesus. The Church at the age of 12. I never joined the church.

Phyllis

Faith and my sexuality have never been an issue.
“If we all had the opportunity to live how we want to live, be who we want to be, have the freedom to express ourselves and follow religion or faith as we are meant to without delving into the negative aspects, what would we do? We would LOVE.”

“I went to Jama’ah for the first time four months ago. It was the first time I’d entered a religious space as trans. It was the first time I was in a place of worship and I was happy within myself. I was so scared, but I was happy.”

“My faith gives me joy, it gives me comfort and strength. So I am quite happy being a gay Hindu and I believe my god loves me as I am.”

“I used to feel being ‘different’ was some sort of a barrier in my life, but now - running projects and being a campaigner - this ‘difference’ is my 'USP' (unique selling point) - or as my icon Kate Bornstein says: my superpower.”
We're proud to be celebrating LGBTQ+ people of faith at lgbtqfaith.tumblr.com. Share your story. #LGBTQ

We're collecting stories of LGBTQ+ people of faith. Take a look and share yours at lgbtqfaith.tumblr.com. @LGBTHM
. @JewishMuseumLDN project is collecting stories of LGBT ppl of all faiths. Read one by @KhakanQureshi > tinyurl.com/zctv2gy @RainbowJews

lgbtqfaith

Khakan Qureshi If we all had the opportunity to live how we want to live, be who we want to be, have the freedom to express ourselves and follow religion or faith a...
“honest and proud stories with the message that you do not have to lose a part of yourself to find the rest”
Lily Loves To Read  2 months ago

I get your comments on the photography series, and 100% agree that we should acknowledge how hard things were for the people who had to fight rights we have today. However, I feel like a lot of lgbt+ awareness campaigns, and art projects, tend to focus more on the hardships of being a part of the queer community, especially where religion is involved. Speaking as a young, closeted queer person who comes from a religious background, I really love to see things like this, because they show you that it’s not the end of the world, and there’s a lot of really wonderful, beautiful things that being lgbt+ can give you. Again, I agree that we need to be appreciative of the struggles of those who came before us, but I think that just celebrating what we have now, and showing how happy we are to have the rights we have is sometimes a pretty good expression of gratitude. Loved the video Hannah, really excited for the new web series! :)

Our Finding A Voice secretary Naazim a.k.a Drag Queen Seemaa B shares her story with the Jewish Museum’s LGBTQ+ Faith project is up online on the blog at http://lgbtfalhumblr.com/.

LGBTQ+ Faith blog launches today at: http://lgbtfalhumblr.com/. We must get more people to share their stories too, via Instagram/Tumblr or by email. Please do send it round to any other contacts who you think may be interested, and encourage them to do the same.

Participants do not have to share everything – only what they feel comfortable with. If they would like to share their story but don’t feel comfortable sharing a photo or even their name, that is absolutely fine! 

Naazim a.k.a Seemaa Butt My real name is Naazim...

Naazim a.k.a Seemaa Butt My real name is Naazim but I’m also known as a drag artist called Seemaa Butt. I was always attracted to glitter, sequins and feathers since I was a child. I used to love...
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The Jewish Museum presents Through a Queer Lens, an exhibition exploring the lives of LGBTQ Jews in the United Kingdom. The portraits by Ajamu resist easy categorization and highlight the diversity of identities within the LGBTQ Jewish community. While some featured identify as Jewish and occupant positions on the inside of the community, and others have a less Jewishness. To the extent that the LGBTQ Jewish community in the UK is a diverse group of individuals. Artists and performers, rabbis, and others. We hope you enjoy the exhibition.
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