

# Diplomats for Equality support the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) 2021

We – the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Diplomatic Missions of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay as well as the Diplomatische Akademie Wien-Vienna School of International Studies, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), UN-GLOBE, Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna – all welcome 17 May as the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, as a celebration of diversity and inclusion around the world.

This year, in line with the IDAHOBIT theme, we stand “Together: Resisting, Supporting, Healing!” – a powerful message as we continue to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased the vulnerability of LGBTIQ+ persons. COVID-19 has exposed existing gaps of equality and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, including bias and social stigma, discrimination, economic impact, the risk of violence and domestic parental violence, and it has reduced access to gender-affirming health services. We will continue to shed light on these and other injustices, and will continue advocating for everyone, regardless of who they are or whom they love, to be protected and included in the global response to the pandemic. We hope that you will join our efforts, throughout the year, to make Vienna’s diplomatic community a more inclusive community for all. We must stand united in celebrating diversity and the resilience of the LGBTIQ+ community and in defending human rights, inclusiveness and justice.

In many countries, LGBTIQ+ persons continue to suffer bullying, discrimination, and violence, often with deadly consequences. In 70 countries, there are laws that criminalise private, consensual relations between adults of the same sex. We remain alarmed at these severely inhumane measures. It is our belief that nobody should face discrimination because of who they are or who they love. We all benefit from living in more tolerant and inclusive societies..

We are committed to promoting and protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons. They must be accorded the same dignity, respect, and rights as all other citizens. We will continue to work through our Embassies and through International Organisations, including, where relevant, the UN, Council of Europe, European Institutions, the OSCE, the Organization of American States (OAS), Mercosur (Reunion de Altas Autoridades sobre Derechos Humanos) and the

Commonwealth, to promote tolerance and non-discrimination against LGBTIQ+ persons and to address discriminatory laws, including those that criminalise homosexuality.

We also wish to pay homage to the courageous advocacy efforts carried out by human rights defenders, activists, journalists, media workers and civil society organisations to raise awareness about the issues affecting LGBTIQ+ persons and human rights violations they may face.

We invite you to support our goals, and to follow our social media coverage on Twitter and Instagram via #DiplomatsForEquality.

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## [Collision between RRVs at Ramsden Bellhouse](#)

News story

Investigation into a collision between two road rail vehicles at Ramsden Bellhouse, between Billericay and Wickford, Essex on 2 May 2021.



A MEWP similar to that the one involved

At around 07:00 hrs on 2 May 2021, two road rail vehicles (RRV) collided at Ramsden Bellhouse, while travelling in a worksite between Billericay and Wickford stations in Essex.

The RRVs had been used to replace overhead electrification equipment and were on the same line, travelling towards Wickford at the end of a night shift. The leading RRV was a Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) and this was being followed by a long reach mobile crane. The two people travelling in the MEWP basket were injured, one seriously.

RAIB's preliminary examination found no evidence of a fault in either of the machines. Our investigation will determine the sequence of events that led to

the accident and include consideration of:

- the processes for ensuring that vehicles travel safely within worksites
- the processes that govern the hours trackworkers are on duty, the identification of fatigue and how rest periods are managed
- any relevant underlying factors.

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry or by the industry's regulator, the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of our investigation. This report will be available on our website.

You can [subscribe](#) to automated emails notifying you when we publish our reports.

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## [UK NSC consultations](#)



The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) runs several types of public consultations.

### **Condition recommendation consultations**

These relate to whether to screen for a certain condition. They are the most common type of consultation. The UK NSC reviews conditions every 3 years to determine whether it can recommend a screening programme. You can find these conditions in the UK NSC's [recommendations list](#).

There are slightly different review processes depending on whether the condition is [currently recommended](#) or [not currently recommended](#) for screening.

There are no current screening programme consultations.

## Programme change consultations

For conditions where there is already a population screening programme, the UK NSC carries out [programme change reviews](#). They relate to how to screen, rather than whether to screen. They are to make recommendations on changing an existing programme, for instance to introduce a new type of screening test.

There are no current programme change consultations.

## Closed programme change consultations

Find details of [all closed UK NSC programme change consultations](#).

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Last updated 31 October 2022 [+ show all updates](#)

1. 31 October 2022

End of pre-eclampsia consultation

2. 7 October 2022

End of HTLV consultation

3. 9 August 2022

End of iron deficiency anaemia consultation

4. 8 August 2022

opening of consultation on pre-eclampsia

5. 6 July 2022

Consultation opened for human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV) type 1

6. 5 July 2022

End of autism consultation

7. 9 June 2022

Consultation on lung cancer screening has closed.

8. 11 May 2022

Consultation closed on screening for primary hypertension in children and young people

9. 5 May 2022

Opening consultation on screening for iron deficiency anaemia in children.

10. 11 April 2022

Consultation opened on screening for autism.

11. 14 March 2022

End of consultation on tyrosinaemia.

12. 11 March 2022

Added details that the population screening programme consultation for lung cancer is now open.

13. 21 February 2022

Opening of public consultation on screening for primary hypertension in children and young people.

14. 19 January 2022

Consultation closed for cytomegalovirus.

15. 14 January 2022

End of thyroid disease consultation period

16. 14 December 2021

UK NSC consultation on tyrosinaemia now open.

17. 28 October 2021

Consultation opened into screening for cytomegalovirus (CMV).

18. 18 October 2021

Updated list of current UK NSC consultations to include consultation on thyroid disease.

19. 12 October 2021

Updated the list of current UK NSC consultations.

20. 13 July 2021

Added alcohol misuse and Duchenne muscular dystrophy to the current consultations.

21. 18 May 2021

The UK NSC has started consultations on screening for congenital adrenal hyperplasia, automated grading in diabetic eye screening and the use of AI in breast cancer screening.

22. 14 May 2021

First published.

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## [DBS has created faith-specific guidance around DBS checks](#)

News story

The guidance, created with SFI and the Charity Commission, covers DBS checks and eligibility, tailored to a number of different faiths.



The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) recently worked with Strengthening Faith Institutions (SFI) and the Charity Commission to support faith organisations, by producing [guidance](#) around DBS checks and eligibility which is tailored to different faiths.

As part of producing this guidance, we spoke with members of various faith communities to understand the roles within each individual faith group, and then drafted faith-specific eligibility guidance in collaboration with SFI and the Charity Commission.

The guidance then underwent review by a number of prominent organisations within the following faiths:

- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism
- Christianity
- Hinduism

- Buddhism

This was a great opportunity to help improve understanding of the role that DBS plays, and how faith organisations can access information to support safer recruitment within their faith centres. SFI and the Charity Commission will remain in contact with DBS, as we continue to build effective relationships in this area, and support the faith sector with safer recruitment in mind.

We also learned a lot about these different faith groups, and the ways in which they support their communities, which helped us to understand what works for them, and how they function.

As detailed in [DBS' 2020-25 strategy](#), keeping people informed and increasing public understanding of the work we do at DBS is one of DBS' strategic objectives, and this type of work is a key part of meeting this objective over the next five years.

DBS is looking forward to continuing this work in collaboration with SFI, and the wider faiths community.

The guidance can be accessed via the [SFI website](#), and we have also produced a DBS guidance leaflet on the same subject: [DBS checks for working with children in places of worship](#).

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## [Child Safeguarding Practice Review](#) [Panel: first national review](#)

The ministerial letter from the Department for Education, Home Office and Department for Health and Social Care is a government response to the findings of the review.

Letters between Chair of the independent Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel Edward Timpson and Secretary of State for Education Damian Hinds.

Edward Timpson's letter announces the first national child safeguarding practice review into adolescents in need of state protection from criminal exploitation. It also gives further details about the review including:

Damian Hinds letter welcomes the announcement of the review.