

# Central Line East

 **unity is strength** 



## LGBT History Month

What is LGBT+ History Month ?

LGBT+ History Month is a month-long, annual celebration and remembrance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender history. It looks at the history of gay rights, which is also related to the civil rights movements. The main and overall aims of the month are to promote both Equality and Diversity.

In the UK, LGBT+ History Month has been an annual event since 2005. Every year there is a theme and a well-publicised launch event at a high-profile location to try and get the message out to lots of people. Since 2011, LGBT+ History Month has been linked to a different school subject, this year "Body, Mind, Spirit" links to PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education).

LGBT+ History Month was started in the USA in 1994 as a result of Black History Month. It was started by a school teacher named Rodney Wilson. While teaching about the Nazis, Wilson revealed to his class he was gay and told them this was something that he could have been killed for.

How Does LGBT+ History Month promote Equality and Diversity ?

In order to promote equality and diversity in the UK, LGBT+ History Month raises awareness and educates the wider population all over the world about matters that affect the LGBT+ community. They work towards improving institutions and educational facilities so that all are safe places for LGBT+ people.

Why do we have LGBT+ History Month ?

LGBT+ History Month aims to put LGBT+ people back in the history books by showing how they have always been present in society and have been vital contributors to human progress .

## Stand Up and Be Counted

Why do we need LGBT History Month?

A look back at a Historical Article featured on the RMT website titled, "Gays off the Railway" is an example of the Homophobia some face and encourages us to campaign for more inclusive human rights. [Click here for the article](#)

Homophobia within the European Union:

In the last few years Eastern Europe has seen a rise in Homophobia. Within Poland participants at Pride marches have been violently attacked. Bottles and stones have been used as missiles by Far Right groups. Newspapers have issued stickers declaring, "LGBT free Zones". During this period approximately one hundred municipalities have declared themselves LGBT free zones. These zones are depicted with a crossed out Pride flag. These are particularly worrying times. History has shown us that if these far right thugs can proceed unchecked and are allowed to dehumanise members of the community we could yet witness a harrowing human tragedy.

Within this climate of intolerance Woman's Rights have been challenged. This has been challenged by the Polish Black protest. These protest have been seen as a positive development for women, however during these uprisings on occasion LGBT groups have been marginalised. It would be beneficial if the discourse surrounding feminist issues could progress from cultural issues to social issues such as equality within the labour market.

RMT union have committed to work with Jarek Kubiak of Polish Rainbow and the Polish campaign against homophobia.

To address injustice in countries such as Poland and Hungary. I urge you all too, join the campaign below and make a difference:

[Click here for Polish Campaign Against Homophobia \(Kampania Przeciw Homofobii\)](#)

[Jarak Kubiak, \(Polish Rainbow UK\) Facebook](#)

### COVID-19 in the Workplace

London Underground has adopted a COVID-19 Safe working practice. Employees should distance where possible.

### Engineering work

Your hard working representatives have secured Staff Tax- is or Dial a Ride single occupancy travel from the depot to the place of work. This is a vast improvement from what was initially proposed by the employer. However our representatives are in the process of ensuring that the accommodation during the works are acceptable. Employees are reminded that they can invoke the individual refusal to work policy if applicable. See below.

[Click here to Section 44 Employments Rights Act 1996.](#)

[Click here to see Refusal to Work Policy.](#)

### Stations & Covid

Our Members on stations are experiencing issues where they can't adequately socially distance in their messrooms, members are reminded to keep the 2 meter rule in the workplace and always wear your face coverings when dealing with the customers .

Furthermore your representatives are asking management for information on risk factors for those that test positive. These risk factors are gender, age, underlying health conditions and ethnicity.

We will report back to our members when we have correlated this information.

**Transport for London recently created, the "Transport Support and Enforcement" grade (TSEO).** They have been using force against our members on the combine. The TSEOs are supposed to be working on the unpaid side on the station. When challenged as to why the TSEOs were on the paid side, the TSEOs physically restrained the member of staff and forcibly removed them from the station premises. When the member of staff attempted to re-enter the station the same officers tried to restrain the member of staff using force. This a matter of concern insofar that these officers are prepared to use force against us in our place of work. We will keep you updated. .

### Pensions Under Attack:

During this unprecedented Covid-19 Pandemic, our members have been working hard to keep the network running, as a thanks our London underground employee pension scheme is coming under attack.

The RMT will fight any and all attacks upon our pensions.

"The Independent Review states that the TfL Pension Fund is expensive, outdated and must be reformed. While its important to note that no firm proposals are yet to be made the Review recommends that considerations should be given to; closing the scheme to new entrants, changing the way member's pensions are calculated from Final Salary to a Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) and changing the indexation method from RPI to CPI.

A recent case study found that an employee around 25 years old would expect to receive a £30000 year pension at 65 with a contribution of £2880 annually. The same annuity purchased privately would incur a cost of £9000

The RMT will not allow any changes that increase the burden on our members .

A pension scheme needs new members to keep the fund healthy, therefore all new LUL recruits must have access to the pension scheme or we will see black hole in the years to come.

All members of the RMT need to; prepare for any assault on our conditions, put away some money, prepare to fight, fight, fight.

[Click to here to join the RMT.](#)

Join us on [Facebook](#)

**Branch Meetings to take place on the 2nd Thursday of the Month at 1600. Contact your local Representative for details.**