Moving Forward: Some Starting Points

There is no all-encompassing tick-list for how to be inclusive of and meet the needs of LGBT+ people of faith. We recommend groups speak with their members, clients or users, and their local community, and consider what would be helpful in their specific context. It is important to remember that there are LGBT+ people in all faiths and cultures.

If you are unsure where to begin, the following questions can start you off:

1   What kind of narratives do you hear about faith in your group? Are positive stories and experiences recognised as well as challenging and difficult ones?

2   Are Islamophobic and Antisemitic comments, and sweeping statements against people of faith, named and challenged? Is this seen as a shared responsibility or does it fall to people of faith to call it out?

3   Is a recognition of the diversity of beliefs and backgrounds included in your Safe Space or Group Agreement, laying the groundwork for positive engagement?

4   Do your members feel comfortable talking about faith, race and culture in your spaces?

5   Do you have good relationships with local faith groups who are also working towards inclusivity? Do you partner with them on projects for LGBT+ people of faith?

6   Does your group recognise and celebrate festivals from different faiths, beliefs and cultures throughout the year? Is it done in a meaningful way?

7   Are team members who run events trained on practical considerations like dietary requirements, attitudes towards alcohol, prayer spaces and times, and the importance of meaningful representation for people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures?

8   Are there opportunities for LGBT+ people of faith to meet each other and share common experiences?

9   Are there multiple avenues for people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures to raise concerns or needs? Do they know about them?

10 Are team members equipped with a list of local and national faith, ethnic and cultural LGBT+ groups to signpost to if needed?