

Press Release:

## National Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Women's Health Week 2018 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018

#LBTWomensHealth18 <https://nationallgbtpartnership.org/lbtwh/lbtwh-18>

The logo for National Lesbian, Bisexual & Trans Women's Health Week 2018. It features the title in large blue font, the National LGBT Partnership logo (a stylized rainbow flag with the text 'The National LGBT Partnership'), the slogan 'FAIR ACCESS FOR BETTER HEALTH' in pink, the dates '12-17 MARCH 2018' in blue, and the hashtag '#LBTWOMENSHEALTH18' in white on a purple background with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

The [National LGBT Partnership](#), working with partners across the country from both within and outside the LGBT sector, have organised the second annual [National Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Women's Health Week](#), which will take place from 12th to 17th March 2018.

The week will raise awareness nationally about lesbian, bisexual and trans women's health inequalities. The aim is to make it simple for service providers to address the needs of LBT women and to encourage organisations to consider what they do for LBT women service users. Organisations who want to better support LBT women can attend [Webinars](#) or ask questions as part of a [Twitter Q&A](#).

The week is also an opportunity to celebrate, highlight and learn from the work of groups and services which provide dedicated support to lesbian, bisexual and trans women. Organisers can [submit their events](#) via the National LGBT Partnership website and have their events publicised on an [interactive map](#).

The focus of the 2018 week is on fair access for better outcomes. Sarah Humphreys, Chair of LGBT Charity ELOP, and convenor of the group working on LBT Women's Health Week 2018 at The National LGBT Partnership said:

*"There is growing evidence that there are underlying access concerns that prevent LBT women receiving appropriate health care. This leads to LBT women seeking health care late or not at all, which is part of the reason why for some health conditions, for example some cancers, there is inequity of outcomes."*

Recent research shows some perhaps surprising findings. For example, prevalence of cancer in lesbian women (4.4%) and bisexual women (4.2%) has been found to be higher than in heterosexual women (3.9%)<sup>1</sup>, and teenage conception has also been found to be higher for lesbian and bisexual adolescents than their heterosexual counterparts<sup>2</sup>, pointing to the need for fully inclusive sex and relationships education in schools. Data which focuses specifically on the health of trans women in England or the UK has been hard to identify, as trans people have tended to be grouped together as one cohort, but The National LGBT Partnership have recently been working with Public Health England on the largest piece of

<sup>1</sup> Saunders CL, Mendonca S, Lyrtzopoulos Y, Abel GA, Meads C. Cancer epidemiology among sexual minorities in England: evidence from secondary-analysis of two population-based cross-sectional surveys. University of Cambridge. Manuscript 2016

<sup>2</sup> Lesbian and bisexual women's likelihood of becoming pregnant: a systematic review and meta-analysis K Hodson, C Meads, S Bewley. BJOG. 2017 Feb; 124(3): 393-402. Published online 2016 Dec 15

research to date on trans people's reproductive and sexual health, the results of which will be disaggregated by gender.

National LBT Women's Health Week is built around three types of activity: celebrating existing activity to improve LBT women's health; creating new activity to improve LBT women's health; and sharing facts, understanding and expertise to raise awareness of the issues that affect LBT women's health.

The National LGB&T Partnership are convening two [Webinars](#), a [Twitter Q&A](#) session, and have been working with women in LGBTQ communities to create an [online bank of LBT women's experiences](#) of health care, which you can [still add to](#). You can also have your events added to an interactive map [here](#).

National LBT Women's Health Week takes place nationwide from 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018. For more information, visit: <https://nationallgbtpartnership.org/lbtwh/lbtwh-18> or contact [Jess Wynn](#) (project support) or [Harri Weeks](#) (Stakeholder Engagement Manager).