



The **LGBT+** Military Charity

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Official Publication

# Fighting With Pride

Proposed Framework Synopsis

## FOREWORDS

**Craig Jones MBE**

Executive Chairman  
Fighting with Pride

**Caroline Paige**

Chief Executive  
Fighting with Pride

## MESSAGES

**The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP**

Prime Minister

**The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps**

Secretary of State for Defence

**The Rt. Hon. Sir Keir Starmer MP**

Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition

**Admiral Sir Ben Key KCB CBE ADC**  
First Sea Lord & Chief of the Naval Staff

**General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO ADC GEN**  
Chief of the General Staff

**Air Chief Marshal Sir Rich Knighton KCB ADC FREng**  
Chief of the Air Staff

**SECTION ONE: LGBT+ and the Armed Forces: From discrimination and abuse to hope and Pride**

This 20-page narrative will focus on:

- the discrimination and abuse experienced by LGBT+ members of the Armed Forces in the decades ahead of the final rescinding of the so-called “Gay Ban” on 12 January 2000;
- the slow pace of required cultural and systemic change by the Armed Forces in the wake of the lifting of the ban;
- the lack of support for those who suffered due to the Ban – and how, in many cases, their suffering has continued long after they left the Services;
- in more recent years, the gathering pace and intensity of the campaign to get more support in place for victims of the Ban, and usher in a new era of transformational LGBT+ inclusivity, diversity and equality;
- introducing Fighting With Pride The LGBT+ military charity formed in January 2020 on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the lifting of the Ban.
- the Government’s Independent Review by **Lord Etherton** into the service and experience of LGBT Veterans who served in HM Armed Forces between 1967 and 2000 which reported in July

2023. Described by its author as “a unique record of what, to the modern eye, is an incomprehensible policy of homophobic bigotry” it lists a swathe of recommendations, including reparations and many non-financial restitutions;

- the official apology by **Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** and the responding statement by Leader of the Opposition Sir Keir Starmer;
- the official apology on behalf of the Armed Forces by former Secretary of State for Defence **Rt.Hon. Ben Wallace MP**.

Featuring interviews with or articles by:

- **Rt. Hon. Johnny Mercer MP**, Minister of State for Veterans Affairs;
- **Rt.Hon. Andrew Murrison**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, People, Veterans and Service Families
- **Admiral Sir Tony Radakin KCB ADC**, Chief of the Defence Staff;
- **Lord Etherton**, author of the Independent Review;

## **SECTION TWO: Fighting With Pride - foundation, role, achievements**

This 20-page section will cover:

- profiles of those whose bravery and courage led to the creation of FWP and how the charity’s operational ethos and support programmes fundamentally reflect the “lived experience” of its founders and leaders, and many of its backers;
- FWP’s national organisation and how serving LGBT+ members of the Armed Forces, Veterans and their families can engage with the charity and its support programmes;
- the different types of support offered directly by FWP and indirectly by other charities and organisations with the latter featuring in greater detail in Section Three;

- the drive to maximise the scope and size of reparations and the adoption of as many as possible of the Independent Review's recommendations in a timely manner;
- the launch of The Pride in Veterans Standard (PiVS) programme open to any organisation providing Veterans' support or services who are committed to inclusively welcoming LGBT+ Veterans, serving personnel and their families;
- Continued pressure to integrate LGBT+ Veterans fully and fairly in to the Armed Forces Community;
- FWP tributes and awards.

### **SECTION THREE: Fighting With Pride's Directory of Support**

#### **Military & other charities: profiles, services, contacts including:**

- SSAFA
- RBL
- ABF -The Soldiers Charity
- Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity
- Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund
- Forces Employment Charity
- X-FORCES
- Forces Pension Society
- Combat Stress
- Walking With The Wounded
- Help4Heroes
- Veterans' Foundation
- Greenwich Hospital
- Help The Aged
- Seafarers UK
- Others

Featuring interviews with/articles by charity leaders including:

- **Alistair Halliday**, CEO Forces Employment Charity
- **Lt Gen Sir Andrew Gregory KBE, CB, DL**, CEO SSAFA
- **Ren Kapur**, CEO, X-Forces Enterprise
- **Paul Butterworth**, Chair of the General Council of The Seafarers' Charity
- **Deirdre Mills**, Director, Greenwich Hospital
- **Adrian Bell**, CEO, Blind Veterans UK
- Others

#### **Government:**

- Summary LGBT+ Veterans: support and next steps with links;
- Summary of LGBT+ Veterans Independent Review with links;

#### **NHS:**

- NHS Operation Courage Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Service – where and how to connect;

#### **Signatories of the PIVS:**

- List of members;
- Short commentary highlighting types of organisation and support they can offer, geographical spread from national to local etc.

### **SECTION FOUR: Further accounts of “lived experiences”**

Compilation of further accounts of the lived experiences of LGBT+ members of the Armed Forces and Veterans prior to and after the lifting of the Ban. Broken careers and lives. Unmet expectations of change. Breakthroughs. Hope...and Pride.

**SECTION FIVE: The campaign in poetry, prose, art, music - and photography.**

Those seeking further information about the publication, its content and opportunities to demonstrate their support for Fighting With Pride and its work, please contact:

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