Wolfenden at 70: Legal, Historic and Social Legacies of the Wolfenden Report

Friday 20th November 2026
Passmore Centre
London South Bank University
Borough Road, London, SE1 0AN

2026-2027 marks the 70th anniversary of the final year of work of the Departmental Committee on Homosexuality Offences and Prostitution which was published in the "Wolfenden Report" of 1957. The Wolfenden Report would prove influential to campaigns and political developments which would, a decade later, see homosexuality partially decriminalised through the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

With generous support from the Society of Legal Scholars, this one-day conference explores the contemporary significance of the Wolfenden Report and the Sexual Offences Act 1967 as they approach their 70th and 60th anniversaries. You will find a schedule for the day overleaf. In person attendees will join speakers in the Passmore Centre at London South Bank University and those joining online will receive an MS Teams link to follow each of the panels online.

Cameron Giles
UEA Law School
University of East Anglia

Ozan Kamiloglu
School of Law, Arts and Education
London South Bank University

Time	Session
0930-1015	Registration
1015-1025	Welcome
1025-1215	**Panel 1: Wolfenden's history and legacies** *Chair: Cameron Giles, University of East Anglia* A 1950s Culture War? Liberalism, Populism and the Wolfenden Report (Collins) Decriminalisation and Divorce on Film: The Tenacity of Family (Monk) Wolfenden in Wales: Tracing an Understudied History and Legacy (Correia-Hopkins and Shopland) A Report on Wolfenden (Lee)
1215-1230	Mini-Screening: *The BBC's First Homosexual*
1230-1315	Lunch Served
1315-1505	**Panel 2: Gender within and beyond Wolfenden** *Chair: TBC* Wolfenden and Gender Nonconformity (Catterall) Let the Dolls Play! A critical analysis of the FA decision to ban trans women from football following the Supreme Court judgment of For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers [2025] UKSC 16 (Boulton) After the Pinnacle: Wolfenden's Unfinished Arc and the Trans Rights Rollback as Warning, Not Exception (Gray) The Wolfenden Report and the sexual double standard (Derry)
1505-1525	The National Archives: Wolfenden and Accessing the Collection (Iglikowski-Broad)
1525-1540	Coffee Break
1540-1730	**Panel 3: Wolfenden and the Private** *Chair: Ozan Kamiloglu, London South Bank University* No Place to Be Private: Wolfenden, Displacement, and Queer Criminalisation in Lebanon (Diab) The Ghost of Wolfenden In India: Protecting Private Lives, Producing Public Exclusions (Balaji) Wolfenden and Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (Saxena) Public Disgust, Privatised Queerness: Contesting the Emotional Grammar of the Wolfenden Report (Raj)
1730-1740	Closing Remarks

Speakers

Jwalika Balaji, 'The Ghost of Wolfenden In India: Protecting Private Lives, Producing Public Exclusions'

Jwalika Balaji is a lawyer and Senior Resident Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, India's foremost think-tank assisting the Central and State Governments with legislative drafting. At Vidhi, she researches on gender and sexuality policy in India; she was a part of the team that engaged with the government committee set up post the Supreme Court's judgement in Supriyo v. Union of India to redress issues of discrimination against queer individuals. She read for the Bachelor of Civil Law at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom and holds a BA LLB (Hons) from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. She is published in the areas of equality law, queer rights, and family law in the Medical Law Review, Amicus Curiae, Journal of Human Rights, and Oxford Human Rights Hub. She is also a regular contributor to print media. She is on the Board of Directors at OutLawed India, a not-for-profit working to improve access to justice for underserved communities.

Serena Boulton, 'Let the Dolls Play! A critical analysis of the FA decision to ban trans women from football following the Supreme Court judgment in For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers [2025] UKSC 16'

Serena Boulton is a Lecturer of Law at De Montfort University. Their research and teaching interests centre on Gender, Sexuality and LGBTQIA+ rights, with a particular focus on the rights, freedoms and lived experiences of transgender individuals. They take an interdisciplinary approach to their research, considering the relationship between law, policy, institutions and the everyday experiences of trans people. Their work has focused specifically on trans freedoms in healthcare, sport and the rights of trans children, exploring questions of equality, inclusion, autonomy and access within these often contested areas. Their work seeks to contribute to wider debates around LGBTQIA+ equality while critically examining the barriers transgender individuals continue to encounter across different areas of social and public life. Alongside their research, they have developed five academic years of experience in higher education teaching. Their academic work is driven by a commitment to advancing nuanced and evidence-based discussions of gender, sexuality and LGBTQIA+ rights, and examining how legal and institutional frameworks can better recognise, support and protect the freedoms of transgender people and other marginalised communities.

Pippa Caterall, 'Wolfenden and Gener Nonconformity'

Pippa Catterall is Professor of History and Policy at the University of Westminster and editor of National Identities. She is also co-chair of Westminster LGBT+ Forum and served on the Royal Historical Society steering group that produced the report on LGBT+ Histories and Historians (2020). She has published extensively on British political and cultural history and her recent publications include the co-authored reports Queering Public Space (2021) and Queer Perspectives on Public Space (2024).

Marcus Collins, ‘A 1950s Culture War? Liberalism, Populism and the Wolfenden Report’.

Marcus Collins is Professor of British History at Loughborough University. He is the author of The Beatles and Sixties Britain (2020) and Modern Love (2003), co-author with Peter N. Stearns of Why Study History? (2020) and editor of The Permissive Society and Its Enemies (2007). He served as AHRC BBC Centenary Fellow and is currently completing a book entitled Arrested Development: Broadcasting and Homosexuality from Wolfenden to AIDS and running a related AHRC-funded public engagement project on ‘Re-viewing LGBTQ+ Lives through Broadcasting in Postwar Britain’. Projects underway include The Beatles’ World, a study of broadcasting and popular imperialism, providing the underpinning research for Stephen M. Hornby's play The BBC's First Homosexual based on his research, and collaborating with Ben Clements on using polling data to reassess classic models of social change and national identity in mid twentieth century Britain.

Sara Correia-Hopkins, ‘Wolfenden in Wales: Tracing an Understudied History and Legacy’

Sara Correia-Hopkins is a Senior Lecturer in Law at Swansea University’s School of Law, where her research interests include social justice, equality and human rights. She is a Co-Convener of the AHRC-funded Centre for People’s Justice, an interdisciplinary research centre that seeks to reimagine justice through community-engaged and values-driven methods. In this role, she has played a leading part the Centre’s emerging social justice methodology, combining academic inquiry with meaningful public participation. Sara has also recently secured an AHRC Catalyst Award for Archive 28, a collaborative project with Amgueddfa Cymru–Museum Wales and other partners, to collect and preserve oral histories of experiences of Section 28 in Wales. Through this work, she examines the relationship between law, memory, identity, and social change, with particular emphasis on LGBTQ+ histories and the lasting impact of legal regulation on communities. Within Swansea University, Sara serves as the School of Law’s Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB) Lead, supporting initiatives that promote equality and inclusive practice across teaching, research, and institutional governance. She also represents Swansea University on Swansea Council’s Public Services Board, contributing to scrutiny and discussion of local commitments to equality, human rights, and community wellbeing.

Caroline Derry, ‘The Wolfenden Report and the sexual double standard’

Caroline is Professor of Feminism, Law and History at The Open University, a former practising barrister and solicitor, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Her research interests include gender, sexuality and the criminal law, both historically and in the present, and feminist legal biography. She has published widely in these areas including her monographs Lesbianism and the Criminal Law (2020) and Legal Temporalities of Sexual Consent (2025).

Jasmin Lilian Diab, 'No Place to Be Private: Wolfenden, Displacement, and Queer Criminalisation in Lebanon'

Dr. Jasmin Lilian Diab (she/هي) is the Director of the Institute for Migration Studies at the Lebanese American University, where she also serves as an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Migration Studies at the Department of Communication, Mobility and Identity. In 2025, her research was awarded the Lisa Gilad Prize from the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), as well as the School of Arts and Sciences' Distinguished Achievement Award. In 2026, her research received the 'Best Paper Award' from the Gender and Sexuality in Migration Research Standing Committee at IMISCOE, the largest interdisciplinary network of scholars in the field of migration. Dr. Diab is a Global Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights at Harvard University, a Research Affiliate at the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University, and an Affiliated Scholar at the Center for International Gender Studies at the University of Münster.

Carolynn Gray, 'After the Pinnacle: Wolfenden's Unfinished Arc and the Trans Rights Rollback as Warning, Not Exception'

Dr Carolynn Gray is Head of Law and Faculty Lead for Digital Innovation and Data Analytics at the University of the West of Scotland. With over twenty years of experience in legal education, Dr Gray's research critically explores the intersection of law, gender identity, and bodily autonomy, specialising in transgender and non-binary legal recognition. Her work examines how legal and medical authority combine to construct and regulate trans and queer identities, drawing on queer theory, critical race theory, and socio-legal analysis, with particular attention to the relationship between rights recognition and new forms of regulation and surveillance. Dr Gray's scholarship is informed by Butler, Foucault, and Ahmed, and engages closely with contemporary debates on legal recognition and personhood in law. Recent publications include contributions to Queer Judgments (2025) and Justice after Stonewall (2023). Alongside her critical legal scholarship Dr Gray's role leading Digital Innovation and Data Analytics reflects a growing strand of work applying computational and data-driven methods, including corpus construction and automated discourse analysis, to socio-legal research, such as large-scale analysis of parliamentary debates on trans rights. Her scholarship sits at the intersection of critical legal theory and digital methods, challenging legal frameworks that reinforce systemic inequality while advancing equality and human rights.

Vicky Iglikowski-Broad, 'The National Archives: Wolfenden and Accessing the Collection'

Vicky Iglikowski-Broad is Principal Records Specialist for Diverse Histories at The National Archives, where she leads work to improve access to and understanding of underrepresented histories within the collection. Among her recent projects, Vicky curated Love Letters at The National Archives, an exhibition showcasing the power of personal correspondence to reveal intimate histories surprisingly found in the records of government. Vicky's research interests include the history of British society and culture,

gender and sexuality, and 20th-century social change and protest. Recent work includes original research on the registration of LGBT+ Switchboard as a charity, exploring the chancery records of Anne Lister and Ann Walker and analysing the will of Sophie Jex-Blake. She has also pioneered consultation on inclusive research guidance and the ethics of using queer state records in public engagement.

Simon Lee, 'A Report on Wolfenden'

Emeritus Professor of Jurisprudence, QUB. Author of works on the Wolfenden Report from Law & Morals (Oxford University Press, 1986) to Uneasy Ethics (Random House, 2003) to an essay on 'Radio, The Listener & The Times: lessons from the 1950s in the public understanding of law' in Fiona Cownie & Rosemary Auchmuty (editors), Law & Justice in the 1950s: Case Studies from a Neglected Decade (University of London Press, 2026). Chair of the William Temple Foundation and the Everton Library Trust. Previously Brackenbury Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, Harkness Fellow at Yale, a Fellow of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, a vice-chancellor and a member of the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights in Northern Ireland.

Daniel Monk, 'Decriminalisation and Divorce on Film: The Tenacity of Family'

Daniel Monk is a Professor of Law at Birkbeck, University of London, a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and an Editor of Child and Family Law Quarterly. Drawing on a variety of methods he has explored a wide range of questions about education, inheritance, sexuality and families.

Senthorun Raj, 'Public Disgust, Privatised Queerness: Contesting the Emotional Grammar of the Wolfenden Report'

Professor Senthorun Raj is a Chair in Legal Humanities and Human Rights at Manchester Law School, Manchester Metropolitan University and Leverhulme Research Fellow. His academic work takes a critical interdisciplinary approach to examining the relationship between emotion, culture, race, migration, gender, sexuality, law, and text across different jurisdictions. He has published extensively on the relationship between queerness, emotion, and refugee law in the United Kingdom, Australia, and United States. He is the author of Feeling Queer Jurisprudence: Injury, Intimacy, Identity (Routledge, 2020), and co-editor of The Queer Outside in Law: Recognising LGBTIQ People in the United Kingdom (Palgrave, 2020) and Queer Judgments (Counterpress, 2025). He currently serves on the editorial board of Feminist Legal Studies and Palgrave's Socio-Legal Studies Book Series. He is also the former chair of Amnesty International UK. His most recent book, The Emotions of LGBT Rights and Reforms: Repairing Law (Edinburgh University Press, 2025), explores how emotions structure socio-legal conflicts relating to LGBT people in Australia, the UK, and US with a focus on religious exemptions to equality laws, legal gender recognition, bans on conversion practices, and sex education in schools.

Mini Saxena, 'Queerness in the Indian Judicial Imaginary: Who is Left Behind?'

Mini has studied law and worked as a lawyer across multiple jurisdictions. She obtained her first law degree from India, after which she started her career at a law firm in London, subsequently moving to a nonprofit in rural north India, and finally transitioning into academia by leading an empirical study on legal barriers to abortion. More recently, she has completed LLMs from SOAS and Harvard Law School. She submitted her PhD, pursued at SOAS, on 7 September 2026 and is now awaiting viva while also working as a Teaching Fellow. Her work focuses on the intersections of gender and the law, and feminist legal theory(ies).

Norena Shopland, 'Wolfenden in Wales: Tracing an Understudied History and Legacy'

Norena Shopland is a Welsh author/historian, specialising in diversity in history. 'Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales' is the first work on Welsh sexual orientation and gender identity history, and 'A History of Women in Men's Clothes: from cross-dressing to empowerment' explores how women throughout history escaped the confines of social expectations by cross-dressing. Due to the difficulties of researching hidden lives, she has become an expert in research methodologies, co-authoring 'Queering Glamorgan' and writing 'A Practical Guide to Searching LGBTQIA Historical Records' (Routledge, 2021), both internationally popular toolkits. Norena was commissioned by the Welsh Government to provide training for local libraries, museums and archives across Wales. These methodologies have been expanded to search other diversities, such as 'A Research Guide to Sources for the Study of Minority Ethnic History'. Norena also writes a monthly column for the online newspaper, 'Nation Cymru', on Welsh history, and more details can be found on her Wikipedia page. Norena's latest book is a biography of a female British Civil War poet and her extraordinary love for two women, 'My love all Love excels: The Remarkable Life and Times of 17th-Century Poet, Katherine Philips' (Parthian Books, 2026). 'Queer Wales on this Day' (Calon Books, 2027) will be published in February 2027.