

# Preventing LGBT Youth Homelessness



Because no young person should have to choose between a safe home and being who they are.

# The Albert Kennedy Trust: 'AKT'

The national LGBT youth homelessness charity providing safe homes, mentoring and support to young people facing homelessness, rejection and abuse, just for being brave enough to come out to their families.



# AKT's Offer to Young People at Risk

**PURPLE  
DOOR  
LONDON**

**6 BEDROOM HOUSE  
PROVIDING  
EMERGENCY  
SHELTERED  
ACCOMMODATION**

**PURPLE  
DOOR  
NEWCASTLE**

**8 STUDIO FLATS  
PROVIDING  
AN OPPORTUNITY  
FOR INDEPENDENT  
LIVING**

**inter-  
AKT**

**A NATIONAL  
DIGITAL SERVICE  
PROVIDING  
RESOURCES &  
E-MENTORING**

# Safe Homes, Support & Youth Engagement

## CARERS

A NETWORK OF  
LGBT FRIENDLY  
HOUSEHOLDS  
PROVIDING SAFE  
ACCOMMODATION

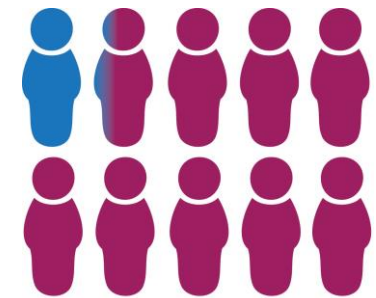
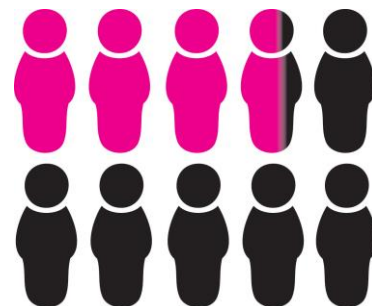
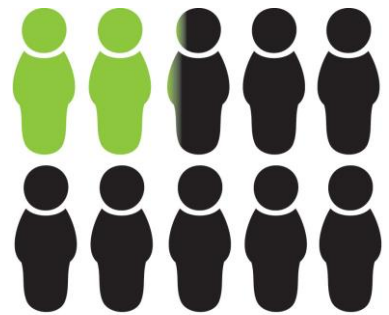
## MENTORING

ONE-TO-ONE  
SUPPORT  
FOR LGBT  
YOUNG PEOPLE

## AKT YOUTH CONFERENCE

A DAY OF  
INSPIRING TALKS  
AND INNOVATIVE  
WORKSHOPS

# The Young People Helped by AKT





# LGBT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

The top five issues presented by homeless LGBT people:

- Family rejection
- Mental health issues
- Substance misuse and addiction
- Homophobic bullying
- Sexual exploitation



# AKT'S WORK – LODIA & GINA'S STORIES



# National Scoping of LGBT Youth Homelessness (AKT, 2015)

- **24%** of young people at risk of homelessness identify as LGBTQ
- with **77%** citing rejection and abuse at home after coming out as the primary cause
- The top three reasons for LGBT youth homelessness: **Parental rejection** (69%), **abuse within the family** - physical, emotional, sexual (69%), **aggression/violence in the family** (62%)



# **National Scoping of LGBT Youth Homelessness (AKT, 2015)**

Homeless LGBT young people are less likely to seek help or support than non-LGBT homeless young people. When they do, a limited understanding of the experience of LGBT homeless youth & an assumption of heterosexuality by some service providers poses further risks of discrimination.

# National Scoping of LGBT Youth Homelessness (AKT, 2015)

Once homeless, LGBT youth are more likely to:

- experience targeted **violence** and **discrimination**
- develop **substance abuse** problems
- be exposed to **sexual exploitation**
- engage in higher levels of **risky sexual behaviour** than their non-LGBT peers
- Experience mental health issues (over 70%)

# AKT - A Prevention and Early Action model

- Limits the impact of homelessness on young lives, society and vital / valuable services;
- provides a low-cost option, limiting the need to address the health and wellbeing impacts; of prolonged periods in hostile environments / homelessness;
- has high impact, by increasing reach and limiting the need for complex and capacity stretching interventions

# A Prevention and Early Action focused model

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# PURPLE DOOR PROJECT

- **Launched in 2012**
- **UK's first safe house specifically for LGBT youth facing immediate threat of homelessness**
- **Co-created with young people**
- **Supported Albanian based project STREHA to replicate in 201**

## Funding Model:

A sustainable and autonomous model which offers an attractive offer to people who want to give

- Housing Association provides a property at an affordable rent as part of their corporate social responsibility commitment;
- corporate partner sponsors a room for which they are offered volunteering and engagement opportunities;
- individual donations (often from LGBT community);
- Young people make a contribution to their rent

# Thank You

## PLEASE SHARE ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA

In the UK 24% of youth facing homelessness identify as LGBT. 77% experience rejection and abuse at home @albertkennedyTr we can help. If you know someone who needs our help please share [www.akt.org.uk](http://www.akt.org.uk)





# Partner with us...

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The Albert Kennedy Trust

Email: [tim@akt.org.uk](mailto:tim@akt.org.uk)

