



Youth Worker

Background information

The Rainbow Project was founded in 1994 in response to the HIV and Aids epidemic. Since then the organisation has developed into a leading LGBTQIA+ organisation working across Northern Ireland. We provide support services to mitigate the impacts of inequality and work to deliver full social and legal equality for LGBTQIA+ people.

We currently have 25 staff located at our offices in Belfast and Derry, and work across Northern Ireland. We also have a number of sessional workers and volunteers. We work in partnership with a number of LGBTQIA+ organisations including Cara-Friend and HERe NI on our shared objectives.

The Rainbow Project is a value led organisation and all our work is underpinned by these values.

Volunteer Led: The Rainbow Project values the individual contributions made by each of our volunteers and recognises the key role of volunteers in developing and delivering the strategic aims of the organisation.

LGBTQIA+ Affirmative: The Rainbow Project values all sexual orientations and believes that no one sexual orientation is better or worse than any other. We believe that all sexual orientations should be celebrated equally and that no person should face prejudice or inequality based on their sexual orientation.

Holistic: The Rainbow Project values a holistic approach to addressing the inequalities faced by LGBTQIA+ people. Our work is led by the treatment of the whole person, taking into account the impact of social factors, rather than just the individual's physical or mental health.

Innovative: The Rainbow Project values new and innovative approaches to addressing the inequalities experienced by LGBTQIA+ people.

Expert: The Rainbow Project strives to be a valued leading expert on LGBTQIA+ issues in Northern Ireland. Through continual study, research and consultation we work to increase our knowledge around issues relating to sexual orientation and gender identity and provide expert services to LGBTQIA+ people and those working with this group.

Rights Based: At its core, The Rainbow Project values the individual human rights of all within society. We believe that to ensure the rights of one you must ensure the rights of all and consequently, our work is carried out from a rights-based perspective.

Needs led: The Rainbow Project values the opinions and experiences of our community and society. We ensure that all our work aimed at addressing the inequalities experienced by LGBTQIA+ people is clearly evidence led and in response to the needs of our community.

Sex positive: The Rainbow Project values sex, and sexuality, as an important part of who we all are. We believe that understanding our sexuality and promoting openness in our relationships leads to better sex lives, better health and well-being and better relationships.

Gender aware: The Rainbow Project values the diverse representations of gender within our society. We believe that people should not have to fit in with the gender roles assigned to us by society and we actively encourage free presentation of gender as a representation of our uniqueness.

Our commitments:

- We will be a passionate advocate for positive change which improves the lives of LGBTQIA+ people
- We will provide high quality services that meet the needs of LGBTQIA+ people and their families
- We will engage with and listen to LGBTQIA+ voices
- We will be a financially sustainable organisation demonstrating good governance and efficiency
- We will work in partnership and support the development of a strong, rights based and sustainable LGBTQIA+ Sector
- We will work collectively with statutory, community, voluntary and private sector organisations to promote the visibility and inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people and their families

Rainbow Youth

Rainbow Youth is an LGBTQIA+ youth service which has been operating from our Foyle LGBTQIA+ centre for 15yrs. This new 4-year project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund to support LGBTQIA+ young people aged 12yrs to 25yrs across Derry, Strabane and surrounding areas, to provide safe, affirmative spaces for young LGBTQIA+ people. To offer opportunities for personal and social development through leisure activities, voluntary engagement and non-formal education. Rainbow Youth will promote and ensure LGBTQIA+ young people's democratic and social rights; encourage their social and political participation at all levels in community life; prepare them to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood and achieve their full potential.

The Rainbow Project's Foyle LGBTQIA+ Centre

The Rainbow Project's Foyle LGBTQIA+ Centre offers the same services as the Rainbow Projects Belfast LGBTQIA+ centre but they also offer additional services/activities, such as drop in sessions, LGBTQIA+ women's group and an LGBTQIA+ Men's group.