

LBGTQ+ Services

April 2024

LBGTQ+

NEWSLETTER

Check out our visual [newsletter!](#)

Follow us on social media!

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#)

///WELCOME

2024 RISE AWARDS

Save the date! The 2024 MIT RISE Awards - Recognizing Individuals Supporting Equity - is happening Tuesday, April 23. Join us 11:30-1pm in Morss Hall to celebrate MIT faculty, staff and students on their work with diversity, inclusion and social justice on and off campus.

Use this link to RSVP: linktr.ee/lbgtmit

Award Nominations

Intercultural Engagement (i.e), LBGTQ+, Women and Gender Services (WXGS), the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO), the Office of Graduate Education (OGE) and the Office of Minority Education (OME) warmly invite you to the 2024 RISE Awards ceremony.

Any MIT affiliate can nominate a fellow student, faculty, and/or staff member they believe emulates the qualities of what it means to uphold the vision of equity for all marginalized people across the institution

Submission Deadline: Wed., April 3

- **Nomination Form**
- **Award Descriptions**

Rainbow Lounge Hours

Open Everyday via Tap Access 6 am - 2 am the following day

Email: lbgt@mit.edu

///LAVENDER GRADUATION

Lavender Graduation

Deadline to RSVPs for the 2024 Lavender Graduation ceremony, celebrating the achievements of the LBGTQ+ MIT community is Monday April 22nd.

The event will be held on May 3rd at 4:00 pm US Eastern Time at the MIT Welcome Center. Whether attending in person or virtually, all are welcome to join in honoring the remarkable accomplishments of the graduating class of 2024. The ceremony will be inclusive, featuring music, speeches, graduate recognitions, and more.

Please RSVP soon and share this invitation. Zoom links will be provided closer to the date. For inquiries, contact LGBTQ+ Services at lbgt@mit.edu. We eagerly anticipate your presence at this memorable event.

/// **LGBTQ+ SPOTLIGHT**

Queerly Beloved

A small group for those at the intersection of queerness and Christianity! The group meets in the back room of the Rainbow Lounge (50-250) every Monday at 4pm.

Sponsored by LGBTQ+ Services and the Office of Religious, Spiritual & Ethical Life at MIT.

Hosted by Rev. Kevin Vetiac, MDiv (He/They), Advisor, LGBTQ+ Affairs & Episcopal Chaplain, Office of Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life

/// **MEET THE TEAM**

Jeremy Torres

Assistant Director of LGBTQ+ Services

Pronouns: He/They

Phone: 617-253-8792

E-mail: ejtorres@mit.edu

Office: T, W, F (10am - 6pm)

Work From Home: Mondays & Wednesdays

Audrey Leopold

Graduate Assistant to LGBTQ+ Services

Pronouns: They/She

E-mail: aleopold@mit.edu

Office: M, T, TR

Lauryn McNair

Assistant Dean of LBGTQ+, WXGS

Pronouns: She/They

Phone: 617-253-8792

E-mail: lmcnair@mit.edu

Office: By appointment

Rainbow Lounge Student Workers

Lauren, she/they

Calvin, he/him

Maize, they/she

Heidi, she/her

Gabi, she/they

Sharon, she/her

///Follow Us on Social Media

Facebook: @rainbowloungemit

Instagram: @rainbow_lounge_mit

///UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MONTHLY LBGTQ+ BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Check out our books at: <https://lbgtqmit.libib.com/>

We have always been here: A Queer Muslim Memoir

TAGS: Lesbian, Muslim, Queer Women

A triumphant memoir of forgiveness and family, both chosen and not, *We Have Always Been Here* is a rallying cry for anyone who has ever felt out of place and a testament to the power of fearlessly inhabiting one's truest self. This book is an exploration of faith, art, love, and queer sexuality.

Under the Udala Tree

TAGS: Black, Lesbian, Queer Women

Inspired by Nigeria's folktales and its war, *Under the Udala Trees* is a deeply searching, powerful debut about the dangers of living and loving openly. Sent away to safety during the civil war in Nigeria, Ijeoma meets another displaced child and they, star-crossed, fall in love.

///**LGBTQ+ Services April**

MUTUAL AID BAZAAR & OPEN MIC WITH QUEER MUSLIMS OF BOSTON

Bring your gently used goods to our Mutual Aid Bazaar. Swap, trade and take home as much as you like, for free! After browsing, join us for a community open mic. There will be light snacks and refreshments. Limited spots available!

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Friday, April 5

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 pm

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/4n76tept>

TRAUMA-INFORMED SELF-DEFENSE CLASS

FREE trauma-informed self defense class taught by trained instructors from IMPACT Boston. This class will center the experiences of all women and non-binary folks, LGBTQ+ communities, and intersectional marginalized identities - all MIT students are welcome to attend. Limited spots available!

When and Where Is This?

Location: MAC Court W35-375

Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 11:00 - 2:00 pm

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/impact-registration>

UNDERSTANDING INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Intimate partner violence is much more complicated than how it is commonly portrayed in media. Join VPR, WXGS, and LGBTQ+ Services in a discussion that debunks common myths about IPV, its relation to sexual assault, as well as the disproportionate impacts it has on minoritized groups of people.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Monday, April 8

Time: 4:30 - 6:00 pm

TRAUMA AND THE BODY

Learn about the ways that trauma shows up in our daily lives and its impacts on the body. Learn to identify our bodies' own signals, practice different nervous system regulation skills, and engage in discussion with peers

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Tuesday, April 16

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 pm

NOT ONE OF THE OTHER: EMBRACING QUEER AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES

Discover the intricate intersection of queer and religious identities at our panel discussion featuring MIT staff, alumx, and students who openly identify as both queer and religious/spiritual. Open to all MIT affiliates.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Monday, April 22

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 pm

RAINBOW SEDER WITH MIT HILLEL

Join LGBTQ+ Services and MIT Hillel for a Rainbow Seder, where we will immerse ourselves in the retelling of Exodus and celebrate stories of freedom and resilience. This unique event blends the traditions of the Jewish Passover Seder with a focus on LGBTQ+ experiences, highlighting the journey toward freedom and acceptance. All are welcome to attend.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Rainbow Lounge 50-250

Date: Wednesday, April 24

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

///HAPPENING FOR ALL****

UPLIFTING TRANSGENDER & GENDER NON-CONFORMING VOICES

Join WXGS and Jesse Freidin (He/Him), a queer-identified photographer, author, and educator, for a conversation on elevating the experience of the trans and gender non-conforming community through portraiture and interviews in his current project “Are You OK?”. Open to all MIT students.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Cheney Room, 3-308

Date: Wednesday, April 3

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 pm

SPRING 2024 MIT VALUES WORKSHOP

What do Excellence and Curiosity, Openness and Respect, and Belonging and Community mean at MIT? What do they mean to you? MindHandHeart invites you to sit down with other members of the MIT community to explore the answers to those questions and learn more about the MIT Value Statement. Lunch provided!

When and Where Is This?

Location: The Nexus, Hayden Library

Date: Thursday, April 4

Time: 11:30 - 1:00 pm

Link: <https://calendar.mit.edu/event/spring-2024-mit-values-workshop>

CELEBRATING TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY - POP UP EXHIBIT

WXGS is delighted to collaborate with MIT Open Spaces to show a digital, outdoor display of “Are You OK?“, featuring portraits of trans and non-binary youth by queer-identifying photographer Jesse Freidin (He/His), to continue to celebrate Trans Day of Visibility.

When and Where Is This?

Location: Kendall/MIT Open Space

Date: Thursday, April 4

Time: 11:00 - 2:00 pm

LET'S CHAT

This event is part of a multi-series that is aimed to help YOU and your mental wellbeing. There is no obligation to return and attend reoccurring meetings. BUT! If that's what you want, there are ways to make that happen too! This resource is FREE and open to both undergrads and grads!!

When and Where Is This?

Date: Friday, April 5, and Tuesday, April 30

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 pm, and 4:00-6:00 pm

Location: SPXCE (W31-110)

FETISHIZ-ASIAN

A dialogue intensive event focusing on the fetishization of Asian people and culture with a specific focus on its effects on sexual violence towards this community to raise awareness about Sexual Assault Awareness month. Content warning: sexual violence, the 2021 Atlanta shooting + other similar topics. Food provided!

When and Where Is This?

Date: Friday, April 12

Time: 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Location: SPXCE (W31-110)

SPILLING THE TEA

In this unique "Spilling the Tea" mentorship event, come talk with Whitney Lohmeyer SM '13, PhD '15 (AeroAstro) and hear her advice on research careers in academia and industry. Learn more about how she balances her passions for research, teaching, and service. Space limited! Registration required!

When and Where Is This?

Date: Monday, April 22

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Location: SPXCE (W31-110)

Registration: https://mit.joinhandshake.com/events/1515405/share_preview

///HAPPENING FOR ALL (OUTSIDE MIT)

FRUITS BY THE FOOT COMEDY

Fruits by the Foot at Distraction Brewing in Roslindale will be a night guaranteed to make you laugh, featuring Boston's funniest LGBTQ+ comics and their friends, Lizzie Sivitz and Zach Stewart host featuring Evan Valentine, Steph Dalwin, Bel Stone, and Liam McGurk . So enjoy a beer and have a gay ol' time on April 6th at 8pm!

When and Where Is This?

Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 8:00 - 10:00 pm

Location: Distraction Brewing Co.

Tickets: \$15

SCREENING: GAY USA

A special screening of GAY USA (1977) in collaboration with the Wicked Queer Film Festival! Shot on one day by 25 different cameramen across the USA under the co-ordination of Arthur J. Bressan Jr. this film documents Gay Pride parades across the United States in the late 70s.

When and Where Is This?

Date: Tuesday, April 9

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: George Sherman Union, second floor, Boston University

///Acronyms In Our Newsletters

There's a lot of acronyms at MIT and we use a lot of them for character length in our newsletter. However, you might not be familiar with every one. One of our readers had a great suggestion of including a key at the end of the newsletter and here it is so folks can know what everything means.

If you have any suggestions for our newsletter then don't hesitate to reach out at: lbgt@mit.edu.

- LBGTQ+ - Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender, Queer Plus
- BWA: Black Women's Alliance
- SSAW: Student Support and Wellbeing
- ORSEL - Office of Religious, Spiritual and Ethical Life
- QTPHD - Queer and Trans PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)
- QTPoC - Queer and Trans People of Color
- VPR - Violence Prevention & Response
- SAAM - Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- WXGS - Women and Gender Services
- WGS - Women and Gender Studies
- I.E.- Intercultural Engagement
- RL: Rainbow Lounge WXGS: Women and Gender Services
- SPXCE - Social Justice Programming & Cross Cultural Engagement

///**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**

The SPXCE Intercultural Center
W31-110 (duPont Athletic Center)

MIT Rainbow Lounge
Walker Memorial 2nd Floor (50-250)

[Spxce.mit.edu](http://spxce.mit.edu)
[Lbgtq.mit.edu](http://lbgtq.mit.edu)
[Trans.mit.edu](http://trans.mit.edu)