

**RADICAL**

**QUEER**

**BRISTOLIAN**

IF MY PRIDE  
DOESN'T INCLUDE

BI WOMEN  
SEX WORKERS  
DISABLED ENBIES  
ASEXUAL PEOPLE  
QUEER MIGRANTS  
ISLAMIC GAY MEN  
BLACK TRANS WOMEN  
WORKING CLASS LESBIANS  
AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO  
IS UNDER OUR RAINBOWS

THEN IT IS NOT MINE

AND IT DOESN'T SOUND  
LIKE PRIDE



By Loki Gwynbleidd  
[lokivintagepropaganda.com/en/](http://lokivintagepropaganda.com/en/)



The imagery is based on my experiences of Pride marches, with a militancy influenced by other protests and direct action movements. Pride should be an act of resistance, continuing the tradition of the Compton cafeteria and Stonewall riots of the 1960s.

The centrepiece is a blue, pink and white trans pride flag with the black halved triangle common to anarchist movements....

Read more at [remember68dfr.wordpress.com](http://remember68dfr.wordpress.com)

- Keira James Art

Adrift, my brain and I,  
capsized, splayed and gouged,  
with no one to share in the spoils.  
These grisly new pearls, spliced  
and run aground against the salty marsh

Prised, here,  
For you!

(towering under a reach of dark red stone, they limber  
a wild smirk winking down across a lustful plain, my innards and I offered  
with a slink onto the prairie sands)

Love me gorgeous gargoyles,  
pickle us in your menagerie,  
with your puckish flint grins you,  
foxy gremlins, arise

-anon

~~~~~

### **The Queer Pay Gap**

It's June, and rainbow flags are everywhere. For one month only, every jailer, death dealer and sweatshop owner wants to be an ally.

This pride month, us queer workers are looking at our bosses. We see their rainbow flags, and we do not buy the act.

Our bosses kill us, force us into poverty, and sexually harass us. They steal our time, the best parts of our minds, our bodies and lives. They waste our very selves on shit that doesn't matter, just to make us earn the right to live. As queer workers, we feel a special kind of fury when the boot on our throats has a rainbow sticker on it.

And if we're queer, they pay us less. The UK has a queer pay gap. Queer workers in the UK earn on average £6,700 less than straight workers- about 16% of our pay. These numbers come from research done by LinkedIn, hardly a progressive source. The real figures are unknown.

A pay gap is not the same as pay discrimination; pay discrimination is when someone is paid less than someone else for doing the same work. Pay discrimination is illegal, although still widespread. A pay gap is when employees from an oppressed group earn less on average than the rest of the workforce in the same company.

When we talk about pay gaps, we normally talk about the gender pay gap. In the UK as a whole, in 2023, the gender pay gap is 31.2%, meaning that women in the UK on the whole spend about a third of their working lives working for free. This varies across sectors and businesses. For example, at Boux Avenue, the underwear shop owned by Dragon's Den chair-filler Theo Paphitis, women on average earn 75.7% less than male workers. This is discrimination, pure and simple. But it is legal, nebulous, harder to prove, and easier for the bosses to deny or make excuses for.

The queer pay gap is often ignored. Like the gender pay gap, it is hard to understand, and probably has lots of overlapping causes, most of which boil down to bigotry in one form or another.

The queer pay gap is not necessarily a good way of looking at queer poverty, because a huge chunk of queer

folks can't even get jobs to begin with. Trans folks in the UK are twice as likely to be unemployed as the general population. In 2018, a third of UK employers reported they are "less likely" to hire a trans worker, and 43% said they were "unsure" if they would ever hire a trans worker. And of course, discrimination is not just about pay. A third of queer workers say they have been harassed or bullied at work. A quarter of queer workers say they are not even out at work. A horrifying 70% of queer workers have been sexually harassed at work. Workplaces are not safe spaces for queer folk, whether or not there is a rainbow flag above the door.

So next time your boss puts a rainbow on their logo, ask them about these issues. Do they have a queer pay gap in their company? Do they even know? How many of their workers have been sexually harassed at work? How many trans folks have they turned away at the door? And how many workers don't feel safe to come out at work?

This pride month, let's remember what ally-ship means.

Fuck your rainbows. Give us our £6k back.

By Bristol Solidarity Federation  
[solfed.org.uk](http://solfed.org.uk)

# USING DIY ART?



Dandelion is a harm reduction information centre and needle exchange for trans+ people self-medicating with hormone therapy.

We offer confidential, non-judgemental support.

Open 6-8PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month.

Upstairs at BASE

14 Robertson Road,  
Easton, Bristol, BS5 6JY

Contact us:

✉ [dandeliondiy@riseup.net](mailto:dandeliondiy@riseup.net)  
social media: @dandeliondiy

## **Climbing Queers Sport**

As an enby who struggled a long time to find a sport that was genuinely comfortable, I feel pretty passionately about getting queer folk introduced to climbing. Not only is the sport good general exercise and a great excuse to get out into nature, but I believe that rock climbing transgresses sporting culture in a way that aligns uniquely with queer ideals.

I've often found it difficult to rationalise my queer politics with competitive team sports. Although they are undoubtedly a great way to meet and collaborate with people, they ultimately require an opposing group of 'the other'. This othering doesn't sit right with me, and seems regularly to lead to boisterous and aggressive behaviours.

It is certainly possible to play these games more casually and extract the good parts from the bad, but queer sport should not need to be synonymous with casual sport, and such confinement would further harm the representation of queerness in high-level sport.

Getting involved in individual sports as a group also presents its own challenges. Whilst it is possible, and for some perfectly fulfilling, to join a local running group, it can be hard for many to shake the concern that one might not be fit enough to keep up with the group, adding to the reasonable anxieties a queer person might feel approaching any new social situation. Moreover, because these activities are difficult to perform as a mixed-skilled group, the variety of people you can exercise with becomes limited.

I will give an honourable mention to badminton groups (and possibly other doubles racket sports), where rotating pairs are the norm. They still suffer to some extent the issues above, but as you change your teammates and opponents regularly, the type of relationship built with other players rarely comes down to which side of the net you are on. It is however not uncommon to hear people discussing players they don't think are very good once out of earshot; it's understandable, given that it affects the quality of their experience, but still leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

Rock climbing avoids these limitations, and the queer climbing community should seek to leverage that to develop it into a truly accepting and progressive sport. I will not tell you that climbing is already completely safe for queer people. While the staff and patrons of the gyms I climb at are incredibly accepting and open, there will always be bad apples in any space. The point is rather that despite there still being work needed, climbing is particularly well-situated to become a bastion of queer sport.

For those who do not know climbing (or whose experience is limited to the odd birthday party as a child), gyms generally support two disciplines: sport climbing and bouldering. Sport climbing loosely encompasses climbing with a rope, moving up a long wall. Bouldering involves shorter walls, climbed without a rope, at a higher intensity. Whilst they both require similar skills, the popularity of bouldering has exploded in recent years.

Climbing is, for a sport with a thriving competition scene, strikingly non-competitive. There is a strong culture of

celebrating individual improvement, rather than establishing universal targets (I personally think this is a large part of why speed climbing has failed to capture wide interest in the climbing community). Due to the huge variations in personal strengths, even the most talented climbers can't be objectively compared, and no two climbers have the same set of skills. Climbers understand that if you found something hard, it was hard, and that's all that matters.

Open bouldering competitions do happen, but are more akin to conventions with a concluding showcase. Competitors will cheer for each other in earnest, even at the highest level of competition.

Climbing is also intensely collaborative. People will commonly discuss the moves they are struggling with and start workshoping alternative strategies. If you ever announce "I'm just not sure how to..." you can guarantee someone nearby will be eager to contribute their ideas, even if they have a different skill set or level to you. The problem-solving nature of climbing means that one can simply achieve a lot more when working as a group, and through this process, individual achievements become group achievements. Climbers take great joy when they, as a group, have been working on a boulder, and each person completes it one after the other, dubbed 'the send train'.

Bouldering in particular has a lot of downtime, where you sit at the edge of the safety mats while your body recovers a little steam. This, in many cases, leads to friendly chat with neighbours, from which an impromptu group may form. Not every boulderer engages in this

culture, but for those who do it is a huge part of what makes the format appealing. Often, this chat will be about climbing, but many friendships have been formed between regular climbers that have extended beyond sport. Bouldering is an opportunity to engage with a diversity of people because friendly conversation feels so natural within its structure. Of course, as a new climber it may take some time to get comfortable talking to strangers at the gym (especially the intimidating shirtless men), but the vast majority of the climbers I know actively try to be friendly and supportive to new climbers.

I don't necessarily have a call to action to end on, other than to keep climbing and being friendly to everyone you find at the gym. Cheer when people push themselves through a boulder, and offer help when asked. If you are feeling inspired to try out climbing, the Queer Climbing Club organises bouldering sessions at Flashpoint and Mothership on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month respectively, and can be found on Instagram, @queerclimbersbristol.



A little on Anarchism...

Anarchism is the belief that we can live our best lives when we work cooperative. That neighbours, communities, factories, villages, offices and everywhere else we gather are better when we plan and decide things **together** as **equals**.

It a desire for a world where we don't sacrifice our health, happiness and planet to line the pockets of billionaires.

It is cynicism whenever we are told that the right boss, cop or politician will solve our problems.

It is optimism when we think of a world with out them.

See it in practice at BASE – [basebristol.org](http://basebristol.org)

help change the world with us - [afed.org.uk](http://afed.org.uk)



Tickets available on headfirst

[Two Pages from ATTACK COLLECTIVE]

# ACAB AND AKAB

## Why are we against Cops and Kings?

Because it's a silly backronym, okay? Cops and Kings stands in for "authority" but here is an inexhaustive list of grievances against both figurative and literal cops and kings.



### Literal Cops

- The police state is a primary tool of oppression used to assault our community.
- All laws are imposed through violence and the threat of violence.
- The police defend our enemies and punish our protectors.
- There is no 'innocent' means by which to engage with the police. All police uphold a system of injustice, even 'the good ones'.
- Borders and their enforcement keep our kin across the world in states which are even more dangerous to them than the ones most of us writing this experience.
- Anti-cop, anti-state action is therefore *self defense*. *There can be no space which is safe for the police which is also safe for us.*

### Figurative Cops

- The most dangerous cop is the one in your head; the one which stops you from being free through fear of the consequences.
- The arbiter of a person's self-identity is that individual themself; no label cops.
- Respectability politics is the means by which the community determines which members are acceptable to sacrifice for cishet comfort. We say that there is no acceptable sacrifice.
- Except cops. Live as a cop, die by the cops.

### Literal Kings

- Are you fucking kidding me? It's 2023. This shit is embarrassing.

### Figurative Kings

- Even outside literal monarchies there are plenty of 'kings'. From the obvious billionaires and presidents to local 'kings'. Landlords, managers, doctors etc.
- Kings are those imbued with authority because of who they are rather than what they do.
- All authority must always be challenged. Even deserved power legitimately gained corrupts, and most power in the world is not granted legitimately.
- Above anything else: we refuse to bend the knee.
- Except when it is hot.



## What Are We For?

Here's this writer's top three. Feel free to add your own at home so long as you stay angry.

### Liberation

Most important part. What united Cops and Kings is a shared desire to oppress. We are for liberation before anything else.

- We shout so that others can speak. By being the loudest, brashest voices in the room we open space for more 'reasonable' voices to be heard.
- Cops and Kings work hard to convince us that we have to listen to them; we shout them down to remind everyone that without our submission they have nothing.
- Until the last cell is emptied and the last throne vacant the world cannot be free.



### Swagger

Our enemies try to keep us afraid and, more importantly, quiet. If we don't take up space, if we can be convinced to make ourselves non-threatening, if we internalise the lie that we need their approval, we are neutralised as a threat to the status quo.

- We do not apologise for who we are.
- We speak loudly. Hyperbolically. We are fucking invincible, nothing they have can touch us, we cannot be silenced.
- We speak plainly. It should not be difficult to understand our message.
- We speak sincerely. The style might be over the top but the message must be one that we stand behind.
- We do not compromise. Compromise has gotten us cops at Pride and the military flashing queer cred. Compromise doesn't work. We deserve it all. We will take it all.



### Inclusivity

Our fight is not ours alone. Our enemies touch everything and everyone; we therefore welcome all to unite against them. ATACK is a queer publication but it stands with all people fighting cops and kings, everywhere.

- 'IT' is really shorthand for 'Queers' but AQACK would make us sound like we are ducks.
- Don't identify with a label? We're not applying it to you. All terms used in ATACK are opt-in.



***[and now back to your regularly scheduled zine]***



east coast it notes





It is almost exactly a year to the day that Taylor died. Suicide is the wrong word - he was murdered by a system that kept him inside indefinitely – 14 years and counting on a 4 year sentence – one that is from the ground up abusive, homophobic and transphobic.

I can't possibly do his story justice in a few pages of a zine. Instead I tell you to read the full statement from Bristol Anarchist Black Cross  
[bristolabc.org/riptaylor](http://bristolabc.org/riptaylor)

but do more than read, ACT. Write to prisoners, support them, fight for them, and help ABC with the essential work they do.

## STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF PRIDE

In the decades since the first pride marches took place in 1970 there have undoubtedly been massive gains made in the fight against our persecution. Pride is, and should always be a celebration. A celebration of diversity, of power and of the gains we have made. It seems however that many of those in positions of power would rather we forgot HOW we've made it this far – and how far we have left to go.

The first pride was the anniversary of an anti-police riot. We should never forget this. It was lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer people (and many of them people of colour) out in the streets of New York fighting for the right to exist. Every step we've made since then has been no less of a struggle. We've fought the government, we've fought major corporations, we've fought the worlds largest religions. We've clashed with homophobes and transphobes on the streets, in our work places, even within our own families. We've proved beyond all doubt that we are powerful, and that we can change the world without any help from on high.

This is what a lot of politicians, CEOs and advertising agencies want us to forget.

They would rather that we don't make a fuss. That we formed an orderly queue to act like a harmless tourist attraction, rather than act like a movement fighting for justice. They want us to feel like the battle is over. Like they aren't still KILLING US for being queer. That LGBTQ people aren't on the receiving end of far more brutality and cold indifference from the state than our straight and cis neighbours. That trans women aren't forced into

men's prisons, we are never stripped and beaten by the cops. "The struggle is over!" they say, "Buy your vodka, dance for an evening and then life can return to normal". They've forgotten one key thing though – we've spent our whole lives fighting against normal.

In Bristol we are lucky that our pride, more than most, REMEMBERS what it is for. That while we can and will party in celebration of who we are, that without protest pride just isn't pride any more. On second thoughts, I shouldn't say luck. It is because in Bristol committed radical queer folk outside of the Pride organisation are willing to kick up a fuss. It is because of people within the Pride organisation willing to listen and to make a stand. It is because of so many of us in our city, that, for example, our pride no longer accepts sponsorship from arms companies. A big deal for a city where arms companies are everywhere (including in our universities and schools). It is because of so many of us that Pride stood up to every single political party this year, and told them they aren't welcome at our protest 'till they actually stand with us. It is because of tireless work behind the scenes that Pride isn't just a one off party, but a year round act of education.

There is still so much more it could be, it is like all of us flawed and full of compromise. If we remember our roots, and recognise our true friends amongst the downtrodden, Pride will continue to get more radical each year, and with luck the rest of Bristol will follow.

-One Bristol AFed Member

Mourn the Dead. Fight Like Hell For The Living  
Party Like There Is No Tomorrow. Protest Like There Is.

A FREE/DONATION ZINE PUT  
TOGETHER FOR 2023 BY  
SOME BRISTOL ANARCHIST  
FEDERATION MEMBERS,  
WITH SUBMISSIONS OF  
WORDS AND PICTURES FROM  
FOLKS IN THE CITY AND  
OUR FRIENDS ON THE  
INTERNET.