

## Cathryn Wright



I had three attempted careers before I came to Stonewall five years ago. I started out in science academia, then trained to be a wine buyer, and finally qualified as an accountant working for a range of commercial organisations in financial and operational management. But more and more I saw the impact of LGBT discrimination in the workplace and beyond, and felt drawn to make a shift to work that aligned more closely with my values.

My current role with Stonewall has afforded

me the privilege of working for an organisation whose mission and output I care about on a personal level. It has allowed me to understand the issues that LGBT people face in a more thoughtful way, one that made me appreciate the depth and complexity of true equality. The personal journey I've been on has been as powerful and important as the skills and knowledge I've developed working alongside the incredible Stonewall team. I love working in an environment where my day to day work contributes to a world where everyone is accepted without exception.

While my experience in the corporate world was very different from the voluntary sector, the skills in business management that I developed are crucial to my role. Stonewall has a strong infrastructure, and I'm proud to be the current custodian of its successful model of growth.

Stonewall is unique. We have developed a diverse portfolio of income streams and activity – which is vital to voluntary sector organisations. Without this, the work we do and independence we enjoy would be vulnerable in such a challenging external market.

Business tactics help us to be sustainable, but we also add in a strategic layer. Everyone we work with – from corporates to individuals – goes on a journey. They become not only sponsors of LGBT equality, but active and passionate advocates. Watching that transformation in someone, or in an organisation, is one of the things I love most about my job

‘P’



P was the applicant in *P vs S and Cornwall County Council*, European Court of Justice, 1 May 1996.

Before the *Forbes* case trans people were equal. We had our birth certificates corrected and lived our lives like everyone else. But Ewan Forbes was a trans man who inherited a baronetcy that only passed down the male line. It seems to have generated a constitutional crisis: until 2013 the UK monarchy was also limited by primogeniture, and if Ewan could inherit a baronetcy, then a trans man could become king, and royal succession would no longer be secure.

Ewan was the last trans person to have equality. After *Forbes*, we weren't allowed to correct our birth certificates and our civil rights evaporated. Without parliamentary debate or legislation, we were reclassified as mentally ill, had no right to employment,

could not marry or adopt, and could be sent to the wrong sex prison, and raped there, if we couldn't pay parking fines. All records of *Forbes* were removed, so there was no way of challenging it,

and when trans activists took cases to the European Court of Human Rights they were beasted by the media.

My case was the first piece of case law to come into existence, anywhere in the world, that prevented discrimination because someone is trans. It was about the right to work – really, the right to live – and we also won the right for anonymity so fellow trans activists could seek legal help without fear of abuse.

Twenty years later, although being trans is not a mental illness, we are still forced, without consent, into a degrading

psychiatric regime, where we are refused essential treatment, coerced into sterilisation, and humiliated literally for years. We are then segregated by keeping our names on a central register, and giving us a Gender Identity Certificate that identifies us as trans.

For fifty years we seem to have been subject to a eugenic project to protect male aristocratic inheritance. So, I must look away to protect our right to anonymity and must look to the future for my equal citizenship.

## Nina Nasim



Nina is a transgender activist born in Suffolk. Nina met her now husband who is from Afghanistan whilst she was presenting as male back when they were 19. They married the year same sex marriage was legal in 2014. She came out to him as transgender one month before the wedding and he supported her throughout. They now live together in London.

Her relationship sparked her interest in experiences of being LGBTI as a migrant, the importance of intersectionality within the LGBTI community and to be more welcoming of LGBTI people from other countries

and cultures. She is now the LGBTI Asylum Seeker Support Worker at UKLGIG.

Founded in 1993, UKLGIG is a unique charity which supports in excess of 1,500 lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people every year many of whom are survivors of human rights abuses. It provides emotional and legal support to LGBTI people fleeing persecution on account of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Nina runs the men's Asylum Support Group and the Women's Asylum Support Group. She also works helping LGBTI people find solicitors to represent them in their asylum case and supports them one on one throughout the process of claiming asylum. Last year 85 of its clients were granted asylum on the basis of sexuality and gender identity.

Nina also established UKLGIG's Trans Asylum Support Group in 2016, the first of its kind in Europe. The group provides a safe and inclusive space for trans people fleeing persecution and seeking refugee protection. Since beginning the group last year, the group has since seen a rapid increase in people accessing the group and 3 trans and non-binary people from the group have gone on to be granted asylum.

## Crispin Blunt MP



Coming out aged 50, after a decade of growing realisation that there wasn't something wrong with me that had to be suppressed and managed, I enjoyed, and still do, the euphoria of finally being myself. Whilst it was, and is, qualified by the responsibility

towards those disrupted by my unintended path through life, that responsibility has been more easily borne by sharing the stories of fellow GayDads. That we GayDads have the freedom to come out and share our stories in today's Britain is down to the sacrifice of careers, freedom and sometimes the lives of previous generations of LGBT rights campaigners in Britain.

In 2012 I found myself with the freedom of the back benches. So at the invitation of Lance Price, and under the Presidency of Speaker John Bercow, I created the Parliamentary Friends of the Kaleidoscope Trust. Seeing countless LGBT people facing serious violations of their civil, political and economic rights overseas, who follow in the footsteps of the British activists to whom I owe my freedom to be myself, it seemed the least I could do was support them.

In 2015 this group became a full All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Global LGBT Rights, chaired by Nick Herbert, whilst I started chairing

the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, monitoring the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), not least on advancing human rights globally.

Part of that official agenda is promoting LGBT rights, a relatively recent western liberal consensus that the APPG helps sustain that is very far from universal across the world, not least in the Commonwealth, with the dubious inheritance of British Victorian-era sodomy laws and an unforgiving Protestantism in many Commonwealth societies.

There is a vast amount of work to do to reverse the less attractive parts of that legacy, and advance what now seem obvious universal individual freedoms in today's Britain.

I'm pleased that Boris Johnson's FCO accepted the Committee's recommendation to reinstate the flying of the Rainbow Flag in London and at missions on Pride Day, making visible our commitment to LGBT rights globally. Symbols matter, and if my path can encourage and help others to be free, then I hope that gives satisfaction to those who blazed the path for me.

## Stewart McDonald MP



I am very proud to be part of the “gayest group in Westminster” and one of the most diverse parliaments in history.

I’ve made some amazing friends over the past couple of years and have had some incredible times as a result.

I have met a family of LGBT people who share experiences of how difficult it was to grow up and to be “out” at a very grand place of work – the House of Commons.

Above all, I feel incredibly lucky to be part of something bigger – a community.

For me, it didn’t start out this way. I can remember the crunching nerves in my stomach like it was only yesterday. The first time I joined my community in a gay bar I felt a range of anxieties and excitement.

I wasn't sure what to expect. I had watched *Queer as Folk* and expected it to be something like that – but this was Glasgow, my home city. Could it really be that, well, camp and racy?

Since then, I have never looked back.

It is fantastic that many of us are out of the closet now – and even better that we may have encouraged and inspired others to come 'out'. No longer do people, including MPs, feel they should live quietly and in shame about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The LGBT community is all too aware what it is like to live in silent non-existence. Our spaces, be they bars, clubs or community centres, were once deemed illegal. We've lived underground for too long but equally too much time has passed to go back to those days. It feels great to be at the point of no return.

## Bisi Alimi



I usually call myself the lucky one that got away – but the reality is I'm not sure I ever did.

When in 2004 I came out on national television in Nigeria (the idea was to create visibility for a community that was seen as non-existent), it was also my way of starting my own healing process of forgiving and accepting myself.

While my coming out shocked my country, it liberated me and many others like me. However it led to me fleeing my country and

coming to the UK.

In the UK I faced a different reality – the reality of being black. While my gayness was accepted, celebrated and welcomed, I could hardly find a space where my expression of blackness was not seen as an affront to others: angry, loud, assertive, threatening or oppositional.

The desire to find a space within my blackness for my sexuality and within my sexuality for my blackness has made me determined to create that space.

As Britain celebrates 50 years of decriminalization of homosexuality, it makes me understand the joy of standing firm in what you believe and that change is the most constant thing in life. However, change will not happen if we are indifferent, docile, or excuse the reason to have it.

That reason must, however, be rooted in empathy, understanding and love.

Bisi Alimi is the executive director of Bisi Alimi Foundation, a diaspora LGBT organisation using research and advocacy to accelerate social acceptance of LGBT people in Nigeria. He is also co-founder of the award winning Rainbow Intersection, an organisation set up to address race and sexuality in Britain.

## Baroness Liz Barker



In June 2013, from the red benches of the House of Lords, I spoke publicly for the first time about being a lesbian. When I was young, the idea that anyone would ever do that was beyond contemplation. Thirty years later, it was a huge privilege to make the case for an important step towards legislative equality for LGBT+ people, and to be reminded now, as I often am, of the impact that speech had, is a great pleasure.

Like many people who come out later in life, I have a huge sense of relief mixed with a

determination to make life better for LGBT+ generations to come. As a Liberal Democrat, one justification for being in an unelected position is that one is free – in my view obliged – to speak up for people whose voices are rarely heard. People from minority groups, or groups that are unpopular or misunderstood, should be our natural constituency. So I have focused on difficult subjects such as the treatment of trans prisoners and of LGBT+ asylum seekers, reform of the surrogacy laws and the causes of LGBT+ homelessness.

One issue has been a constant theme throughout my political life – the right of women and girls to self-determination – to control their fertility, to choose whether (and whom) they marry, to access education and achieve economic freedom. Those essential elements of autonomy and personal dignity should be universal, and we must never give up until they are.

It is great that we have (almost) legal equality in the UK, but unacceptable to have an NHS which ignores and excludes LBT women. It's disappointing that churches cannot see the grace in us, and gutting that lesbians can only be in TV drama if we meet a sudden, tragic end. Things have got better, but there is much still to do.

## Josh Hepple



Josh is a law graduate who has severe cerebral palsy. His impairment affects his speech and mobility and he relies on assistants 24/7.

The prejudice that Josh has faced has given him great empathy for minority groups; especially disabled and LGBT people.

Josh studied at Stirling and graduated with an LLB. During this time he was the LGBT and Disabled Students' Officer while also helping to run the Amnesty International student society. He employed many other students to help him out with personal and academic tasks and always had great success with the members of the hockey and rugby teams.

After completing his LLB he moved to London to do the conversion and professional course, as he believed that London would be more diverse and accepting of his impairment. Whilst studying, Josh volunteered with many human rights organisations including Amnesty International and the Human Dignity Trust. Josh wrote about his sex life in The Guardian where he gave a unique account of his experiences using Grindr which has recently received substantial media attention.

Josh is currently trying to find a training contract and to qualify as a solicitor. He hopes to work within discrimination and equality law in a way that will bring his activism and legal training together.

He is grateful for the emotional support he received from LGBT Youth and Gay Men's Health in Edinburgh while coming to terms with his impairment. However, these services were only available to Josh as he is gay. As a result he and his Mum established the charity TalkTime Edinburgh which provides free counselling to all teenagers with physical impairments.

Josh has started contributing to various online news sources as a freelance commentator.

Outside law he has a keen interest in theatre, and has been a reviewer at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for many years. He also delivers Equality training with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and is a keen believer in the social model of disability. When Josh is not campaigning he is having fun riding ponies.



## Nick Herbert MP



When I was born homosexual conduct was a crime. Now gay couples can get married. Much of the heavy lifting to achieve equality was done before my time in Parliament, but I was privileged to work with David Cameron who took the agenda on, and to chair the Freedom to Marry campaign which helped him to secure equal marriage. The gay weddings I've attended have had a special poignancy.

There's work still to do in the UK of course, but increasingly Parliamentarians are lifting our sights in response to

what's happening elsewhere in the world. While some countries are moving ahead, others are going backwards, with appalling abuses of LGBT people, sometimes encouraged by populist laws.

I chair a new All Party Parliamentary Group on LGBT Rights to focus on these problems and to support the NGOs and campaigners who are fighting for justice.

I'm setting up a new network for LGBT and LGBT-friendly parliamentarians around the world to work together as we press for equality.

I can't be at the launch of this exhibition because I'll be in Canberra, supporting the campaign for equal marriage in Australia. A few years ago, when I was a government minister, I went on a Europride march in Warsaw. A large group of thugs threw rocks and even petrol bombs at us. That was in Europe. We've come a long way, but the fight for equality is far from over.

When I was first elected to Parliament, I didn't want to be identified by my sexuality, and I still don't. But I got a letter from a young guy who thanked me for showing him that it was possible to be gay and get elected to Parliament – and as a Conservative, too. I realised I had a responsibility to speak out, and that's what I've tried to do.

## Kevin Maxwell



If someone had told me eight years ago that I wouldn't be a police detective today, I'd have thought they were kidding. Yet for the same period President Barack Obama was in office, I had been fighting homophobia, racism and wrongdoing within the world's oldest police force – Scotland Yard.

Against such a powerful public institution, my fight for equality and justice was a lonely one. After being diagnosed with severe reactive depression, I did what I believed was the right thing and brought a case against London's

Metropolitan Police in the hope of changing it for the better and for the greater good.

Following my legal battle, an employment judge ruled that I had been unlawfully discriminated against, harassed and victimised on the grounds of my sexuality and race, and that my employer had leaked my sexuality and mental health condition to a national tabloid – for money – in order to discredit and shame me. Subsequently I was fired by the Police Commissioner for insubordination after my refusal to follow an order.

My fight for equality and justice within Britain's police for people like me was battering and bruising. Panic attacks and anxiety followed the depression, and I found the justice system and psychiatrists lacking empathy for my life and my reality in the workplace and in the world as a black gay man. The Police Commissioner has never apologised for the abuse I suffered, but I've learned a lot about forgiveness, especially about forgiving myself.

As a writer and advocate, I have a bigger role to play in society to ensure that my LGBT brothers and sisters and others do not endure what I went through in the workplace or anywhere else.

Life has been tough, but I fight on stronger. I'm proud of being *Liverpudlian*, *Gay* and *Black*.

## Andrew McMillan



Andrew is a poet and academic, living in Manchester. His debut collection *Physical* was published in 2015 by Jonathan Cape.

Dealing with issues of masculinity and sexuality, it was the first ever poetry collection to win *The Guardian First Book Award*, and won or was shortlisted for a host of other awards in 2015/16.

Andrew grew up in South Yorkshire; he came out to his parents when he was sixteen and was given a copy of the *Collected Poems of Thom Gunn* as a

present. His work examines every-day intimacy, youth and the interaction of our bodies with the world around them.

## Sadie Lee



Sadie is an award-winning British figurative painter. Her uncompromising work explores and challenges notions around the representation of women in art, gender, the aging body.

Group shows include *Sh[OUT!]* – Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art; *Art For Equality* – I.C.A. and *Pride and Prejudice* – Museum of London. Her solo exhibitions include *A Dying Art: Ladies of Burlesque* – National Portrait Gallery (London), *Venus Envy* – Manchester City Art Gallery, *And Then He Was A She – Paintings of Holly Woodlawn* – Schwules Museum (Berlin) and *Don't Look* – Museum of Modern Art (Slovenia).

She has given talks and presentations at institutions including the National Portrait Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, Tate Modern and The Walker Gallery, Liverpool.

Since 2007 she has presented *Queer Perspectives* at the National Portrait Gallery. This is a quarterly event where Lee invites a guest who identifies as LGBTQ I+ to select and discuss works from within the NPG collection.

## Jeremy Pemberton



Jeremy has been a priest of the Church of England for nearly thirty-five years. He worked in parishes in the north and east of England, in hospital chaplaincy and, for a time, in theological education in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He was an honorary Canon of Ely Cathedral and holds an honorary canonry at Boga Cathedral in the DRC.

Jeremy was married with a large family, and came out when he was fifty. He became involved in activism for the acceptance of LGBTI people in the church

from this time.

In 2014, when the law introduced equal marriage, he married his partner Laurence Cunningham. This was against guidance that had been issued by the bishops of the Church of England, and led to a series of disciplinary actions against him that culminated in his losing a promotion to a senior NHS chaplaincy position.

He took the Bishop who denied him a licence (and thereby lost him the job) to an Employment Tribunal. He lost. He has since

lost an appeal, but a further appeal to the Court of Appeal is in progress.

Jeremy chairs the Trustees of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, and writes and blogs for full LGBTI inclusion in church as in society. Unable to work as a priest, he is now a grandfather, a lay clerk (professional singer) at Southwell Minster, and a civil celebrant

## Vivienne Hayes MBE



Vivian has been a women's and human rights activist since she was a young teenager, never able, like others, to ignore the sex inequality woven into the fabric of her surroundings.

The daughter of a factory worker who later trained as a district nurse and made education fundamental, Vivienne was the first in her family to go to university.

"I want to honour the lesbian women change-makers who are too often made invisible, and especially my working class

sisters, all of them. It is upon the backs of such women that progress is made."

Vivienne was made an MBE for Services to Women in 2015.

Years as a working single mum, three degrees, untold hours of voluntary work and every bill-paying job from taxi driving to delivering vegetables followed.

A thirty-year vocation in the women's movement was inevitable for Vivienne, with more than a decade at the helm of the UK's only umbrella group for women's organisations, the Women's Resource Centre.

## Lenna Cumberbatch



**Being out as black** – My blackness has always been out, at least when people see me. It is visible and not something I could have hidden so it never occurred to me to think about hiding it. Even so, making '*black*' visible today is still a challenge. People see me, and they don't.

**Being out as disabled** – my disability is invisible and whilst it has been there for many years, it was a long time before I had a name for it and a

long time after that before I accepted and chose to be out about it.

**Being out as a woman** – when I was 5 I was annoyed that boys got to do whatever they wanted and girls had to be ladylike. Just the same, I decided I did not want to be a boy, it was much more fun to be the girl beating

the boys at all of the games. As a masculine woman, my womanhood is often invisible when people look at me. I confess

to not always correcting these misperceptions when they happen.

**Being out as a lesbian** – I came out as a lesbian whilst doing my degree. 'Lesbian' had been invisible to me until then. I had not seen in me what so many around me had seen but that environment helped. Through stereotype, 'lesbian' is often visible on me, though I regularly drop lesbian into conversation, to avoid any doubt.

## Angus Hamilton



Angus is currently working as a District Judge in East London in the criminal and family courts. He is a Tribunal Judge with the Information Rights, Gambling Appeals and Professional Regulation Tribunals. He is also responsible for training and appraising other judges.

Between 1983 and 2005 he was a solicitor in private practice and represented hundreds of gay men charged with gross indecency, importuning and insulting behaviour in relation to acts which have now been decriminalised. He also represented many of the defendants in the high profile prosecutions brought against gay men and women and activists from ActUp and

Outrage during this period including the Hoylandswaine 36 (men arrested for planning a possible sex party), Operation Spanner (men prosecuted for acts of consensual sado-masochism), and the Benetton 9 (activists prosecuted for invading Benetton's offices after they had used

photographs of HIV+ people in their advertising).

He is a co-author of the books 'Advising Lesbian and Gay Clients', 'Advising HIV+ Clients', and 'A Guide to the Data Protection Act'.



## Lord Collins of Highbury



Ray Collins is currently Opposition Spokesperson for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and International Development in the Lords. A lifelong trade unionist he was created a life peer in January 2011 and was General Secretary of the Labour Party from 2008 to 2011.

including Health, DCMS, Work and Pensions before taking up his current role in January 2013.

"My proudest moment in Parliament was to say 'my husband Rafael and I' after helping to steer through the Same Sex Marriage Act".

He was an Assistant General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union from 1999 and is very proud to have been part of a leadership team that included Bill Morris, the first black person to lead a British trade union and Margaret Prosser, the first woman to be the Union's Deputy General Secretary.

In 2007 Ray helped steer the union into a merger with Amicus, creating Unite, one of the largest trade unions in the country.

In the House of Lords Ray sits on the Labour benches as Lord Collins of Highbury. He has been a member of Labour's front bench since 2011 covering various portfolios

## Madeleine Rees



If you had mentioned the words, lesbian, law and activism to me as a child only one would have made any sense: the last one and I would have related to it as tree climbing, sports playing or an imagination which relied on narratives of the heroic rescue of damsels in distress...usually Dusty Springfield. So I suppose it was all there then, just that I didn't know it.

Curious but I never identified as gay. Not because I was in denial or through fear, but because I didn't recognize it. We have multiple identities and my sexuality was and is, just one of mine, an integral part of me but not the defining label, not even sure that there can be a defining label.

I came to law late and did so as I believed it would be the way in which my desire to see fundamental change in the way the world works, could be explored. I was right. The cases that we, as activist lawyers brought in the 1990's laid the bedrock for the changes we have seen in relation to equality since.

Law has lead to social change. It has worked in other contexts that I then worked in and has lead to my profound belief in the value of fundamental human rights as law; to be upheld, protected and advanced. ...a life line in a troubled world.

## Tammy Parlour & Jo Bostock

Co-founders of Women's Sport Trust



Tammy and Jo co-founded Women's Sport Trust on the back of London 2012 with the aim of using the power of sport to accelerate gender equality and stimulate social change. Their campaigns actively promote diverse athlete role models, increase media coverage and help to improve the funding landscape for women's sport.

As an out, lesbian, married, job-sharing couple, they have learnt a lot about what it takes to run a high profile charity

together. The experience is a mixture of exhilaration, frustration, good fortune, great co-conspirators, red wine and late nights.

They pay the bills with their "other jobs". Tammy is a martial arts Master, with a 5<sup>th</sup> degree black-belt and her own Hapkido school. Jo is leadership consultant who specialises in inclusion. Jo has previously worked with Stonewall on their leadership programme and wrote their role model guide.

## Rebecca Trowler QC



Rebecca is a barrister specialising in criminal law. She was appointed as Queen's Counsel in 2012. She is a member of the leading human rights set Doughty Street Chambers and has recently been appointed as the Criminal Bar Association's Director of International Affairs.

She has been 'out' since she was first called to the Bar in 1995 at a time when there was very little visible lesbian presence in the legal world.

Before coming to the Bar she was a resident and activist at Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp (1984–85).

Thereafter she maintained a visible role in the London lesbian community and 'sat for' photographers including both Del La Grace Volcano and the late Tessa Boffin whose work documented the lesbian community and promoted 'queer' visibility.

Rebecca is in a civil partnership and has a daughter aged 4.

## Giles Goddard



Giles is Vicar of St John's Church, Waterloo and an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathedral. St John's is noted for its work on climate change, inclusion and interfaith, finding common ground especially with progressive Muslims.

Giles works closely with the Inclusive Mosque Initiative (who gave him the prayer beads he is wearing in this photograph). He was Chair of Inclusive Church for five years, working to make the C of E fully inclusive

of LGBTI people, and is now chair of the General Synod Human Sexuality Group.

His book, "Space for Grace – creating inclusive churches" was published by Canterbury Press. Previously he worked in social housing and at the John Lewis Partnership.

His partner, Shanon Shah, is a writer and lecturer in the sociology of religion and Deputy Editor of the periodical 'Critical Muslim.'

## Stephen Whittle OBE, PhD, MA, LLB , BA



Stephen is Professor of Equalities Law at Manchester Metropolitan University.

In 1975, aged 19, Stephen helped set up the UK's first local trans support group in Manchester. The same year he transitioned to living as Stephen. In the 1970s and 80s he lost many jobs because of being trans.

In the mid-1980s, after losing another job because of his trans status, he decided things would only change if trans people

understood the law and how to change it. Stephen took evening classes and eventually qualified in law in 1990. In 1989 he set up the FTM Network, and for 28 years was co-ordinator of the group, which eventually had over 3000 members. In 1992, Stephen co-founded Press for Change (PFC), the UK's transgender lobbying group.

Stephen has been an adviser to the UK, Irish, Italian, and Japanese governments, the Council of Europe & the European Commission. He advises lawyers and regularly writes court briefs, or is an expert witness in courts. In 2015 he was

appointed special adviser to the Women & Equalities Committee Inquiry into Transgender Equality.

In 2005 he was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE, 2005) in the Queen's New Year's Honours list for his work on transgender rights.

Stephen and his wife Sarah married in 2005 after Stephen gained legal recognition as a man. They have been partners for over 37 years. They have 4 children by donor insemination. The eldest has graduated and is now teaching in China. The others are currently at university.

## Margot James MP



### **Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility**

In 2010, Margot was elected as the Conservative Member of Parliament for Stourbridge making her the second "out" lesbian in the House of Commons.

Margot always wanted to pursue a political career, but says that in the 1980s the overall political environment was much more difficult for LGBT candidates. Therefore Margot worked in business after graduating from the London School of Economics. In 1986, Margot

co-founded *Shire Health*; a PR and medical education business. The success of this business is among her proudest achievements.

Margot was also involved for a decade in a charity focussed on women's issues in African communities. In her spare time she enjoys reading history, particularly on British Prime Ministers from the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and she also has a deep interest in Foreign affairs.