

## Office of Inclusive Excellence LGBTQ IA+ Resource Guide

The University of Kentucky is deeply committed to our LGBTQIA+ and gender diverse faculty, staff, students, and visitors. We affirm that every person on our campus, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, should feel physically and psychologically safe, supported, and valued.

### Campus Information:

On UK's campus, the following actions have taken place to ensure that all members and visitors of our campus feel safe and supported:

- Map of gender inclusive/single-user restrooms on campus on this [campus map](#).
  - To find the gender-inclusive restrooms, click on "Layers"
  - Check "Gender Inclusive Restrooms."
- Most departments have graduates of our [SafeZone](#) training. SafeZone Workshops are offered by the Office of LGBTQ\* Resources and are 90-minute workshops to equip individuals to be more aware and active allies. These workshops explore LGBTQ\* identities, strategies for supporting student experiences, and exploring LGBTQ\* related campus and community resources.
- Every department has a gender-inclusion point person who has read and disseminated the *Trans Allyship Workbook*.
- We have multiple LGBTQ affinity groups.
- We have gender-affirming health care services for trans individuals through UK's [Transform Health](#).
- In partnership with the College of Medicine, we have produced several micro-learning [videos](#) focused on trans mental health, pronoun use, gender identity diversity, and LGBTQ health disparities.

For more specific services, see our [LGBTQIA+ Resource Office](#). For specific guidance, support, or accommodations within the college, contact Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence [Dr. Christia Spears Brown](#).

### City-wide Information:

UK is situated centrally within the city of Lexington. The city of Lexington is proudly an LGBTQIA+-inclusive city. This [BeLexProud page](#) is dedicated to providing LGBTQ+ related information and resources. The Mayor's office has a dedicated staff member to represent and serve the LGBTQ+ community in Lexington. For any additional information or questions, contact the Mayor's Office at [\(859\) 258-3100](tel:8592583100).



According to the Human Rights Campaign, which evaluates over 500 cities across the nation on the policies, laws, and services being offered to the LGBTQ+ community, Lexington ranked in the top 4% in the nation in 2022 (for the specific metrics, see [Human Rights Campaign 2022 Municipal Equality Index Scorecard for Lexington](#)).

## City actions supporting LGBTQ+ residents

Many steps have been taken to make Lexington more LGBTQ+ inclusive and fair. Here are a few of those steps:

- **1999** – Fayette County was the first in Kentucky to pass a county-wide Fairness Ordinance, protecting residents against housing, employment and public accommodation discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- **2013** – Lexington adopts domestic partner benefits for city employees.
- **2017** – Crosswalks at the intersection of Limestone and Short Streets are painted in a rainbow pattern, the first of their kind in Kentucky.
- **2019** – Lexington commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the Fairness Ordinance, flying a Pride flag in the Government Center and holding a celebration ceremony.
- **2019** – For the first time in city history, Lexington flies Pride flags along Main Street for the Lexington Pride Festival. This has continued each year since.
- **2019** – The Mayor appoints the city's Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index Workgroup, which is dedicated to recommending actions to improve LGBTQ+ related policies and ordinances.
- **2020** – Additional non-discrimination language is included in the contract agreement with city contractors.
- **2021** – City unveils a refreshed and brighter design of rainbow crosswalks at Limestone and Short Streets.
- **2021** – Lexington begins utilization of all-gender signage for city-owned, single occupancy facilities. Every public building now has a single-user restroom.
- **2021** – Lexington passes a ban on conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ youth.
- **2022** – City launches the LexProud campaign, encouraging residents to be proud of themselves and of their city.

According to Kentucky Fairness Campaign, Kentucky is home to 25 Pride Festivals and 24 Fairness Ordinances. They emphasize that the city of Lexington not only has a Fairness Ordinance, but the city also *enforces* it.

Lexington Visitor Center Resources:

- [An LGBTQ+ GUIDE TO LEXINGTON](#)
- [A list of LGBTQIA-owned restaurants and bars](#)

## [Gay Lexington Travel Guide from Gay Travel](#)

### Gay Lexington

Tucked into the heart of Kentucky's Bluegrass region, Lexington offers gay travelers the chance to connect with a modern, mid-sized city that embraces the LGBTQ+ community with genuine warmth.

