

**Feedback from**

# **LGBT History Month Exhibition**

**Count Me In Too**

1<sup>st</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at the Jubilee Library, Brighton

---

**Report written by**  
**Nick McGlynn**

In consultation with:  
The Count Me In Too research team

## Acknowledgements

The Count Me In Too research team would like to thank the following for their assistance in making our LGBT History Month exhibition a success:

*Phil Clements, for volunteering to help at the exhibition;*

*Aristea Fotopoulous for her design talents;*

*Chris Hagan, Louise Bartlett and the staff of the Jubilee Library for all of their assistance;*

*Matt Homer and the staff of the University of Brighton's Pharmacy & Applied Biological Sciences department (PABS) for the use of their display boards;*

*Nicky Mitchell and the organisers of the Lavender Lounge for allowing Count Me In Too to exhibit during their event;*

*Project funders: Brighton & Sussex Community Knowledge Exchange, Brighton & Hove City Primary Care Trust, Brighton & Hove City Council, South East Coastal Communities;*

*And everyone who attended the exhibition and engaged with the project.*

## Contents

The exhibition .....	4
The posters .....	5
Takeaway resources and feedback mechanisms.....	7
Feedback .....	8
Who visited? .....	17
Conclusions .....	18

## The exhibition

The Count Me In Too Research Project has been exploring LGBT lives in Brighton & Hove since 2005, working in partnership with LGBT people, LGBT groups, and service providers to identify issues for local LGBT people. The project has produced 10 detailed reports with local service providers on a range of themes. These include recommendations on how to address issues and needs identified from the 819 questionnaires completed by respondents and testimonies of 69 people who took part in 19 focus groups.

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, the Count Me In Too project held a Community Consultation event at the Friends Meeting House in Brighton. One of the goals of this event was to show what the project had done so far, and another was to think about potential future plans. To display the work completed, a poster exhibition was designed to highlight the role that Brighton and Hove's LGBT community played in its development. It also presented findings and recommendations from the 10 reports published to date, as well as information about Count Me In Too's methods and methodology and a retrospective on the history of the project.

This exhibition proved popular, and visitors urged that it be shown more widely. Feedback called for the project to engage more with 'mainstream' LGBT communities. Responding to this feedback, the Count Me In Too research team organised a series of poster exhibitions, including an extended poster exhibition for Brighton Pride Week (July 25<sup>th</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009), a space at the official LGBT History Month Pre-Launch at the British Museum (Nov 19<sup>th</sup>) and a month-long exhibition at the Jubilee Library in Brighton for LGBT History Month (Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to Feb 26<sup>th</sup> 2010). See the website ([www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk)) for reports relating to these other exhibitions.

The Jubilee Library as a venue was suggested at the April 1<sup>st</sup> Community Consultation Event in 2009, at which its geographical centrality and its association with 'mainstream' society was highlighted. Count Me In Too applied for an exhibition space in the library for February 2010 (LGBT History Month), to link in with this broader campaign to raise awareness about LGBT people and to showcase a recent 'history' of Brighton & Hove's LGBT communities and LGBT partnership work. The bid for the space was successful and the prominent space at the main entrance was secured.

**This report outlines the details of the exhibition, who attended, their feedback from the project so far, and their thoughts about the continuing workplan for the project.**

## The posters

For this exhibition Count Me In Too had 18 posters at its disposal, each describing a different facet of Count Me In Too, and as well as a large timeline of the project's history starting from the year 2000:

### Introductory posters:

- 'Count Me In Too Exhibition' – a title poster welcoming visitors to the exhibition;
- 'Count Me In Too' – the newest poster which outlines the project as a whole along with some selected findings, and includes three buttons containing audio quotes from the project's qualitative data;
- 'What is Brighton & Hove like for LGBT people?' – describing some of the project's initial findings;
- 'Count Me In Too Timeline' – a long poster showing the history of the Count Me In and Count Me In Too projects alongside significant contemporary events for LGBT people in the UK;

### Findings posters detailing some findings from its themed additional findings report:

- 'Bi Lives';
- 'Trans Lives';
- 'Safety';
- 'Domestic Violence and Abuse';
- 'Drugs and Alcohol';
- 'General Health';
- 'Mental Health';
- 'Housing';

### Methods posters:

- 'Groups' – this poster explained the different kinds of group – analysis, action and steering – that were involved in the development, practice and dissemination of the research;
- 'The Numbers' – a short poster detailing certain key numbers and statistics about the project;
- 'How did we do it? – Focus Groups' – this poster describes the project's method of using focus groups;
- 'How did we do it? – Questionnaire' – this companion poster explains the project's method of using questionnaires;
- 'Acknowledgements' – funders of the project were named and thanked on this poster.

### Outcomes posters:

- 'Using the Data' – a poster listing some uses of Count Me In Too's research in Brighton & Hove, as described by voluntary and statutory organisations.

Unfortunately not all of these could be displayed at the Jubilee Library due to considerations of space. The research team decided that the title poster, the new poster, the groups poster, the acknowledgements poster and the using the data poster were the most important for showcasing the project to such a wide audience. Regarding the findings posters, it was agreed that the General Health poster should be displayed, as this contained a lot of information and would showcase issues which most people in the general public would be able to understand and empathise with. The timeline poster was suggested as a possible 'frame' for the exhibition but during set-up it was agreed that the space was too limited, and that the positioning of the display boards could result in its damage.



## Takeaway resources

In addition to the display of posters, visitors were invited to take away information resources about the project and about the LGBT Research Information Desk, which forms a new phase of the project.

At the LGBT History Month Pre-Launch exhibition in November 2009, the research team debuted a new kind of takeaway resource - an 18-page Community Summary Resource Pack, which collated all of the current Community Summaries along with information about the project and information about how to use Count Me In Too in high school classes. It also included a DVD with copies of all of the project's reports plus a powerpoint presentation on some of the key findings. This resource proved highly popular at the Pre-Launch exhibition and so was used again at this one. Additional resources provided included flyers explaining the project's LGBT Research Information Desk and copies of the original Community Initial Findings Report.

All of these resources were extremely popular and uptake was very high, with the entire stock of Community Summary Resource Packs (around 200) running out by the end of the exhibition. The stock of resources was checked twice weekly (Thursday and Monday) and on each Monday the stock of Community Summary Resource Packs was entirely depleted, suggesting both that weekends were particularly busy and that more people visited than took resources. It can be hoped that this has helped the project disseminate its findings to a wide audience.

## Feedback

This section details the feedback received from visitors to the exhibition over the course of February, in the forms of written feedback sheets and tags hung on the wish tree. Some written feedback includes names, initials, ages and other identifying features – where these were present they have been changed or removed to preserve the writers' anonymity.

In previous exhibitions the research team found soliciting written feedback responses to be the most effective means of getting visitor feedback from unstaffed exhibitions like this. For this exhibition two opportunities to provide written feedback were provided.

Firstly, a feedback sheet with 4 questions was provided. Each question asked for a graded response to a statement about the research (from 'Strongly disagree' to 'Strongly agree', with 'don't know' also as an option):

Do you have time to answer a few questions? Please circle the answer that most represents your view. Add your comments below each question.  
*Only the research team will have access to these forms, and you do not have to complete or submit the form. We will use this to evaluate the exhibition and the research, and may use it as part of our publications. You will not be identifiable in any way.*

1) 'I think this exhibition is useful and informative.'
Strongly disagree   Disagree   Don't know   Agree   Strongly agree
Comments:

2) 'I think the Count Me In Too research will effect positive change for lesbian, gay, bi and/or trans people.'
Strongly disagree   Disagree   Don't know   Agree   Strongly agree
Comments:

3) 'The Count Me In Too research has changed how I think about lesbian, gay, bi and/or trans people.'
Strongly disagree   Disagree   Don't know   Agree   Strongly agree
Comments:

4) 'Research projects should involve people from the communities that they investigate in developing and carrying out the research.'
Strongly disagree   Disagree   Don't know   Agree   Strongly agree
Comments:

**count me in too** University of Brighton spectrum hofex

Space was provided to write a comment about each question, and additional space entitled 'What Do You Think?' on the reverse allowed visitors to write comments not related to any particular question. Completed sheets could be folded and placed in a sealed box for collection by a member of the research team later:



# What do you think?

We'd love to have your comments on the exhibition, the issues discussed, and the Count Me In Too research project. If you have time, please write your comments below and/or answer the questions on the back of this sheet.

Thank you for your time and feedback.

*Only the research team will have access to these forms, and you do not have to complete or submit the form. We will use this to evaluate the exhibition and the research, and may use it as part of our publications. You will not be identifiable in any way.*

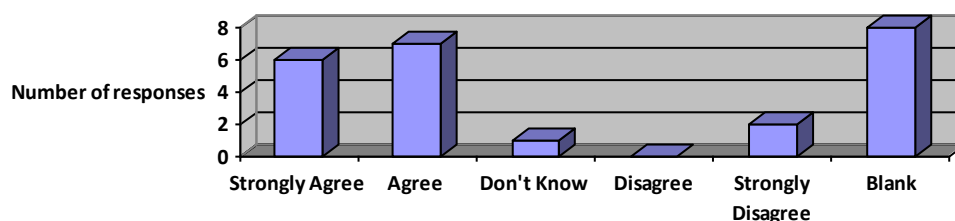
count me in too

University of Brighton spectrum hofe

## Feedback Sheets - Statements

In total 24 feedback sheets were received. Many were completed fully, while others have some blank answers or only comments. A breakdown of the results from responses to the four statements given are listed below. Those responses listed as 'blank' responded elsewhere on their feedback sheet, either to the statements or to the open space for comment, 'What do you think?', on the reverse. As you will see not all of the visitors who wrote feedback were in agreement, though certain broad trends can be noted:

### Statement 1) 'I think this exhibition is useful and informative.'

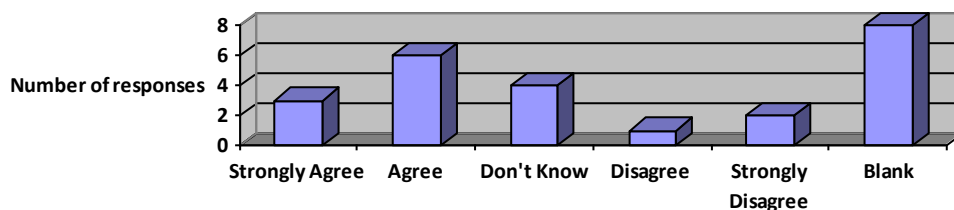


#### Additional comments for Statement 1:

- *'Just wish it was still not such an issue to have an exhibition.'* (strongly agreed)
- *'Wasting your time on immoral people!'* (strongly disagreed)
- *'It is a beginning.'* (agreed)
- *'Definitely.'* (strongly agreed)
- *'Most time I come to library, exhibition on LGBT or african. What about poor of Brighton - homelessness etc.'* (strongly disagreed)
- *'Not enough.'* (blank)

Most respondents suggested that the exhibition was useful and informative; for those who felt it was not, it appears that they felt the focus on LGBT people was inappropriate for moral/religious reasons or through detracting attention from other important, marginalised groups in Brighton & Hove.

#### **Statement 2) 'I think the Count Me In Too research will effect positive change for lesbian, gay, bi and/or trans people.'**

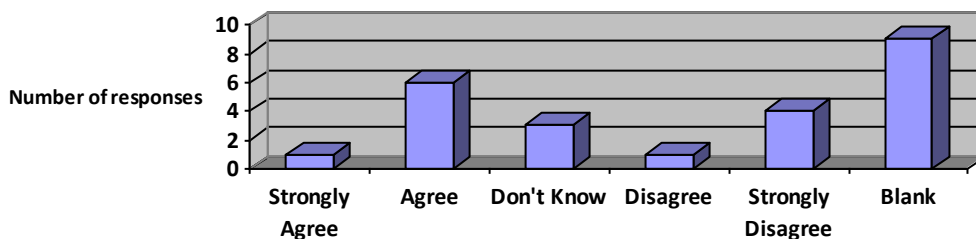


#### Additional comments for Statement 2:

- *'Worry despite research findings - money may prevent action in this financial climate.'* (strongly agreed)
- *'The type of people who frequent your library are already of that mindset!'* (strongly disagreed)
- *'I hope so, but those involved in the study need to see what if it is effective for them.'* (didn't know)
- *'I very much hope so! It has the potential!'* (agreed)
- *'Makes them out as totally separate group. Being homeless equally bad whatever your sexuality (not the view of Brighton I know.)'* (strongly disagreed)
- *'Oppose private thoughts.'* (blank)

Responses to this statement varied – several were either unsure (n. 4) or answered in the negative (n. 3). This note of uncertainty may reflect a wider uncertainty about the value of this kind of research for effecting change. Similar uncertainty about the effect of Count Me In Too research can be seen in feedback from the project's Community Consultation Event – see the April 1<sup>st</sup> Community Consultation Event Report pp. 12-13 (available at [www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk)). In both reports, however, most respondents agreed that Count Me In Too's research would effect positive change.

**Statement 3) 'The Count Me In Too research has changed how I think about lesbian, gay, bi and/or trans people.'**

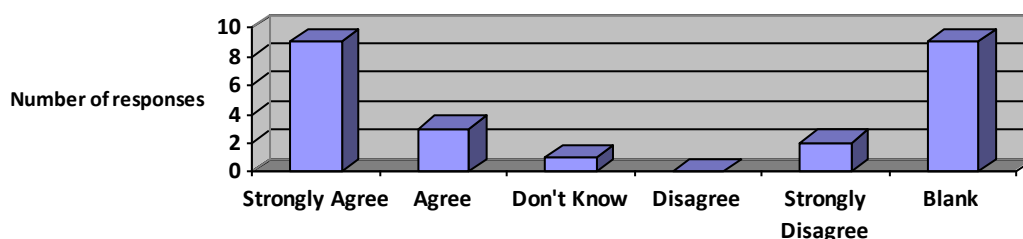


Additional comments for Statement 3:

- *'Why single them out as something special?' (strongly disagreed)*
- *'I am open minded anyway.' (strongly disagreed)*
- *'I noticed the comments of Rita on inacceptance of bi people in a gay context... I will modify my bi-phobia.' (agreed)*
- *'It has confirmed some of what I know and have experienced.' (didn't know)*
- *'Makes me think they are different to me, I used to believe in equality what an idiot I am.' (strongly agreed)*
- *'DISLIKE.' (blank)*

This statement elicited the broadest range of responses of the four given. Some commented that they were *'open minded anyway'* – this is similar to responses given during the project's Pride Week exhibition in 2009, such as *'gay already'* and *'as a gay political man I think I already knew'*. See the Feedback from Pride Week Exhibitions Report pp. 11-12 (available at [www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk)) for more. Such responses, however, generally seem to treat the statement as a question of 'tolerance' or 'acceptance' of LGBT people, rather than as question of marginalisation and problems in Brighton & Hove's LGBT communities.

**Statement 4) 'Research projects should involve people from the communities that they investigate in developing and carrying out the research.'**



Additional comments for Statement 4:

- *'I agree completely, in a new census/demographic survey. Involved, a new start + hope, then so I agree completely ' (strongly agreed)*
- *'Absolutely, but one must consider whether some of these people have had their voice heard or feel as though they've been 'counted in' themselves!' (strongly agreed)*
- *'Too open ended question, could mean anything.' (blank)*
- *'V. Equality' (blank)*
- *'Not always.' (strongly disagreed)*

Although the additional comments provided for this statement are quite varied, the responses were overwhelmingly positive. Even those who displayed antipathy to the project in their responses (ie. the person who suggested it *'focuses on unworthy characters who would boil the holy water if they dare touch it'* – see following section) strongly agreed with this statement, indicating broad support for participatory research. One of the comments attached to a 'strongly disagree' response read *'not always'*, perhaps suggesting a viewpoint where a more 'detached' research methodology might sometimes be desirable.

### **Feedback Sheets – 'What Do You Think?'**

The reverse of the feedback sheets asked 'What do you think?' and invited visitors to comment on 'the exhibition, the issues discussed and the Count Me In Too project.' In total 16 of these comments were provided:

- *'The library consistently disregards religion in its vision (Messiah Mints and the poster) and instead focuses on unworthy characters who would boil the holy water if they dare touch it! I'm not impressed! What I'd like to see is a multi-faith display, rich in culture and morality.'*
- *'I like the open 'education' about people who feel hurt by 'prejudice' and discrimination in our civilisation ??? it does not conflict ??? people individual ??? ??? 'self empowered' with in groups, organisations or with community statutes. We have to all practice more acknowledgement, acceptance, love and finally neighbourhoods. Intimate and professional relationships with each other. Even more so of the LGBT community, in those who 'have unmet needs' will I hope not lead to unmet wants.'*
- *'I think it's quite right that this information be researched. I must point out though, that there will be many people within the LGBT population in Brighton & Hove that feel their voice hasn't been heard and that their experiences haven't been accounted for. The very nature of the issues encountered by these groups mean that there is likely to be many hidden aspects to their lives, exacerbated by the social exclusion they may have faced. What is the next stage in your research? How do you propose reaching more people to enable them to have their say and count them in too? What agencies will be targetted in promoting your findings?'*
- *'It would help if I knew what LGBT stands for?'*
- *'This is so important - keep it up!'*
- *'Not a good idea. Fuck this.'*
- *'While there is no doubt that people within the LGBT communities are marginalised or suffer discrimination, the 'Poor me, I'm so misunderstood' attitude is not representative of both of us. Brighton is staffed by LGBTs - how much more 'friendly' could they be? It's people on all margins whose needs are least well met.'*
- *'Maybe I'm just bitter and cynical but none of the results in the survey really surprised me. People are less knowledge about/educated about the difficulties overcome to bring LGBT issues to where they are now, and that's a shame.'*

- *'I think the library's fun, my auntie works here.'*
- *'I think lesbians should stop moaning, also can you do a survey on why so many lesbians have mental health problems, and crap on other lesbians. And yes, I am a lesbian.'*
- *'Email [email address given on feedback sheet] - I'm a fine art painter and Egyptologist if my particular field of expertise is of use in any way to your project do get in touch. Count me in – Patricia.'*
- *'Nice.'*
- *'Update your research, it's old.'*
- *'I was delighted to see the display and research reports in the library - brilliant! Makes me feel like the issues being given proper attention and info given back to the community. Haven't read research yet but also delighted to see inclusion of trans people - we are so often marginalised even within LGBT community. Well done to all involved.'*
- *'What happened to Doris Day?!'*
- *'I really like the gays.'*

### **Wish Tree Tags**

In addition to the feedback sheets, visitors were invited to write down what they wish for on tags and hang them on a 'wish tree' where the wishes of all visitors and volunteers were displayed. This provided space for framing and sharing of aspirations not linked to aspects of the project. The wish tree was first used at the April 1<sup>st</sup> community consultation event and has proved extremely popular at every exhibition since. Perhaps due to the length of this particular exhibition a very large volume of tags (198 in total) were hung on the tree.



Not all of the wishes are related to the project, LGBT people or even the Jubilee Library. Despite this it is certainly the case that anyone writing on the wish tree was in contact with the rest of the exhibition. The wishes have been typed up and a selection are listed here:

- I wish to be a musketeer.
- I wish I was at middle street
- I wish things could just be... easier!
- Equality for all!! <3
- I wish Gatty would listen and understand
- That LGBT history month becomes unnecessary
- Love, experience and happiness x
- Love and fearlessness is in the hand of the man with a knife. I hope we all find true love and become 1... E. E.
- Bring an end to the needless LGBT bullying & derogatory use of LGBT terms. It annoys me ☹
- I wish for a loving partner
- Justice for all cultures/colours and sexuality.
- I wish I could let go easy. I've learnt to now. I love you?
- I wish people that were poor were not poor anymore
- I wish I could kiss my lover all the time
- Happiness xxx
- Fu\*k Barcelona. Brightalona 2010. –clipboard rage-
- I wish for a good ending
- I wish to be me again 2010
- End to LGBT bullying
- I am all for the 'open dialogue' but we need more acceptance everywhere!
- I love the library
- I wish our student body feel supported regardless of sex orientation
- I wish for my friend to recover from a stroke
- I wish my ears would heal.
- Just to see my granddad for a few more mins to tell him I will always love him
- I wish that my pain and all the world's pain would go away
- I want a publishing deal. Leave me your contact if you're a publisher. I've written a brilliant book.
- I wish I could see my Nana + Dad again :/
- I wish for a career in the gaming industry
- To get back with my ex-girlfriend who has my three year old son. Scuse me but DAMN I love them both!!!
- Acceptance – see beyond your stereotypes + preconceptions
- To do something. 'Job' I love.
- I wish I hadn't eaten that KFC. Calories maaan.
- One day parents will be happy that their child has the capacity to love and not be concerned about the gender of any chosen person.
- We accept each other as we are and don't need awareness and names just acceptance and peace
- I wish for less ignorance about issues of sexual orientation and in general.
- I wish for life on earth to last forever
- Just to be as happy as I am right now!
- I wish Jo Crusher loved me. Jenni ☺
- Jo Crusher already loves Jenni Maddie
- I was Carrie Shhhh!
- I wish for abundance x
- I wish I could live in my dreams
- An end to poverty
- I wish peace to the world
- I wish that the LGBT cared about heterosexuals X
- Love conquers all
- I wish that all of these wishes come true! :D
- I wish for everyone to be nice to each other
- I wish it all to work out right
- I wish my son felt better and I could wave it away. Love you xx
- I wish for black mirrors on my face xx
- I wish everyone took better care of our planet <3
- I wish that I will never die
- To never grow up
- I wish for equality & inclusiveness – not acceptance.
- I wish for a Dennis Aid Kit and a water bottle
- Peace and love in the world
- I wish to be as brave as I was I was x
- I wish that I love people more
- I wish my life to be back the way it was
- I wish to win big on the lottery and open a couple of orphanages in third world countries
- Libraries give us power!
- That schools were fully inclusive...
- I wish we could all be friends like we were in middle school. And we'd bake cakes out of rainbows and smiles...
- Please make something happen soon. Please lord xx
- I wish that nobody feels lonely & sad for too long
- To make the most of my life + experiences
- I wish for the joy of lesbianism to be part of the knowledge given to youngsters at school.
- The future belongs to those who dream of their future
- Eat me
- To live a long happy life with my true love x
- Stop polluting!!
- I wish I could be an author

- That we are all equal under the sun, and not to be divided!
- I wish this works out well... x
- I wish for a more accepting society for all. S. H, 13
- SpmF racing car
- I wish for happiness for all the people I love x
- Shut up mum you old moaner ☺
- I wish to be happy and settled
- I don't think positive
- I wish he loved me <3
- I wish for magic beans
- Brighton is a great place to ??? I am glad I have
- I wish 4 creative stimulation and satisfaction x
- I wish for world peace
- I wish to be a better man!
- I wish for clarity and guidance x
- I wish I pass my theory test next week
- Mark stays off cissies
- For my son to be happy & have a great life
- I wish my cat could fly like batman
- For everything to turn out for the best
- I wish for a better tummy
- I wish I had tomorrow's newspaper.
- I wish I could have a swimming pool in my garden
- I wish to be in Star Wars
- I wish for an end to homelessness and for somebody to give me some help
- I wish everyone was happy
- I wish life would be easier... for those who die can come back for just a day :/
- I wish like I was a bird
- I wish that LGBT people were treated fairly and equally wherever they live in the world
- I wish my career to fly in 2010
- I wish I was black
- I wish that I could have as much wishes
- I wish for... no-one in the army dies ☺
- I wish for health and happiness for my children.
- I wish King's College would get back to me
- I wish for... more wishes to come true!! Xxx
- I wish Pepper Pig and Rebecca Rabbit came alive
- I wish for equality in the world and everyone has a right to be themselves
- I wish Greg would love me too!!
- I wish that my lack of confidence didn't get in the way of life xx
- ... world peace?
- I wish I could go to Disneyland Paris
- I wish Tom to be as happy as he deserves to be.
- I wish for human values to be practiced equally throughout humanity! Cx
- World peace
- I wish for true, equal society where all human beings can live together in peace and harmony.
- Happy Bday 2 me I'm 21. I wish I could fly!
- I wish I was "G"
- Life will hopefully start to get happy again!
- I wish I had a iphone
- I wish that we have belief in every way <3
- I wish I had, me, 2 beautiful wives...
- I wish to be an illustrator
- I wish for a happy life
- I wish for a pant set
- I wish I get lots of sweets.
- I love Vonna
- I'm the best!
- I wish for a healthy + joyous life for me + the people I love.
- I wish my family rich.
- I wish for lots wishes.
- I wish for my yo-yo renting club at school to be a success!
- I wish for my son & I to have a happy life & a better relationship with my daughter.
- I wish to be joyous about my time here in Brighton. Acceptance + grace.
- Judgement free society
- I wish that my Sarah loves me too and that Nidi and Chanti are in my life forever.
- I wish the people would 'wake up' to the poor state of our earth & revolutionise against our poor government.
- I wish that LGBT people were more accepted throughout society! Scene queen 2010
- That she would just leave me alone! World peace!
- If it's not perfect... it's not the end! <3
- I wish me + all my friends + family won a million pounds ☺
- I wish I could see me loved ones once more <3
- I wish 4 hot weather!
- PEACE everywhere
- I wish for friends for my son.
- I wish that my friend will get the job he wants xx
- I wish my sister finds her true love + is happy <3
- Love power x
- I wish for a peaceful life.
- A new job! Storage is dull!
- I wish I could help the world in some way.
- I wish those wives would hurry up so we can go to the queer disco x
- To be 'counted in too'!
- I wish for some accommodation please as I am homeless and in bad health
- I wish that Jack would be my wife and Stacey would be her girlfriend + Matilde would be mine – and I've got it! X
- I wish make a smile ☺
- I wish money was a means of exchange + wasn't loaded with other values.
- Wishes: love, happiness, health for everyone

- Long hot summer please!!
- I wish for even more exciting collaboration.
- Oh to fit into my Levis again + for people to build a bridge... and get over it!
- I wish I could get out of my pushchair.
- I wish John to recover & have a life.
- I wish I was rich and the world fair to black people.
- I wish to perform on the main stage of Pride.
- I wish there was a person for everyone, no-one is alone.
- I wish they realised that it's not what they think of me that counts, but what I think of them. Xx
- I wish for a new real car.
- I wish that my girlfriend of 10 years attending my son's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday didn't raise eyebrows of surprise among my family x ☺
- I wish I was rich!
- I wish for Lamborghini
- I wish for more inclusive harmony.
- I wish for health, peace, love, light and abundance for all of you <3
- Who needs you Mr Pope?!
- People should live in peace and quiet. NO WAR.
- I wish everything was right again!
- I wish to keep wishing
- For more help in schools for vulnerable children going through family breakdown
- I wish for cash \$\$\$
- I wish that I could get better & stop having fits.
- World peace, good health and happiness for all sentient beings.
- I wish the grass was pink.
- I wish for an end to animal cruelty
- I wish everyone was rich!
- We wish for good friends.
- I wish we were all treated as equals.
- I wish Lesley Jane has a little girl. Just perfect! xxx
- I wish that making friends was easier.
- I wish the Pope would talk sense for a change.
- I wish I had a speed boat.
- I wish for a safe world for queer families/kids.
- I wish I could be with her!

It is intended that the contributions to the wish tree will be presented as an online display linked to the Count Me In Too website ([www.countmeintoo.co.uk](http://www.countmeintoo.co.uk)).



## Who visited?

No formal monitoring was done at this exhibition, and unlike most previous Count Me In Too exhibitions this one was entirely unstaffed – this was necessarily the case given the long duration. Research team involvement was limited to setup, take-down, refreshing take-away resources every week, and a brief presence on the final night of the exhibition (Feb 26<sup>th</sup>) during Brighton OurStory's Lavender Lounge evening event.

Due to this situation, those who visited the exhibition can only be judged by the feedback received (in the forms of feedback sheets and written tags on the wish tree) and by the uptake of takeaway resources. It should be noted, however, that the Jubilee Library receives a large number of visitors every week and particularly at weekends, and given the location of the Count Me In Too exhibition (at the main entrance) it is likely many of them saw the exhibition, even if they did not actively engage with it.

The feedback received suggests a good mix of LGBT and non-LGBT visitors. A considerable number also appears to have been written by young children, many of whom added their names and ages. This is in keeping with one of the main reasons for exhibiting in the Jubilee Library – to disseminate the research findings into the 'mainstream', as suggested at the Community Consultation Event on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. This exhibition received much more feedback than any previous exhibition – possibly more than all previous exhibitions combined. This is likely due to the increased length of the exhibition and the prominence of its location. We can, therefore, estimate a commensurably greater number of overall visitors.

As mentioned earlier in this report, uptake of takeaway resources was extremely high – particularly at weekends. All of the 200 Community Summary Resource Packs were taken over the course of the month, along with a roughly equal number of Community Initial Findings Reports. This indicates a good number of interested visitors who now possess the Count Me In Too findings.

## Conclusions

Given some of the exhibition feedback from Count Me In Too's April 1<sup>st</sup> community consultation ('Repeat, repeat, repeat!'), this report aims to inform the planning of the Count Me In Too exhibition and other activities in the future, and also to record the project's dissemination and engagement practices.

- **Visitor numbers cannot be approximated but were likely well in excess of 200;**

Although there was no formal monitoring system in place, the numbers of Community Summary Resource Packs taken and tags hung on the wish tree were both around 200. The resource packs were entirely depleted after each weekend, suggesting that there were even more visitors than resources available. However it is possible that some people took more than one resource pack and/or wrote more than one wish.

- **Feedback about the project was very positive;**

The main way to assess this is by the written feedback sheets as the wish tree tags offered little in the way of commentary on the project. Most feedback was very positive, although there was criticism from religious and 'equality' perspectives.

- **The new Community Summary Pack resource continues to be very popular;**

Receipt of this resource was higher than expected and uptake of it far outstripped the uptake of any other resource.

- **The exhibition succeeded in bringing Count Me In Too's findings further into the 'mainstream';**

Feedback suggests a diverse range of people attended the exhibition, both LGBT and non-LGBT, and additionally quite a high proportion of young children appear to have visited.

- **Established setup/take-down procedure is working well;**

Previous events have provided experience in setting up the exhibitions. The setup and take-down for this exhibition went very smoothly, with the former taking only one and a half hours and the latter only half an hour. It is to be expected that any future exhibitions will benefit from this established procedure.