



Statement of Support for Trans and Gender-Diverse Students

As we recognise Trans Awareness Week (November 13th-19th), the Highlands and Islands Students' Association stands proudly in solidarity with our transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse community members. This week is dedicated to honouring the strength, resilience, and contributions of trans people, while also raising awareness about the unique challenges the community continues to face.

We recognise that trans and gender-diverse students too often encounter discrimination, exclusion, and violence—issues that have no place on our campuses or in our society. Trans Awareness Week is a critical opportunity to reflect on these injustices and to renew our commitment to creating an environment where everyone, regardless of gender identity, feels safe, supported, valued, and represented. We renew our commitment to push for inclusive practices and facilities at UHI, so that every student feels seen and respected.

We acknowledge that Trans Awareness Week leads into Trans Day of Remembrance (November 20th), a time to honour the lives lost to anti-trans violence, discrimination, and suicide. As we celebrate and support our trans community this week, we also hold close the memory of those who are no longer with us, underscoring the importance of our collective work toward a more inclusive, understanding, and just society.

To our trans and gender-diverse students: we see you, we respect you, and we are here for you. We are committed to being better allies, fostering true inclusion, and supporting you not only this week but every day of the year.

We acknowledge that authentic allyship requires active learning and continuous action to create change. To this end, we encourage all staff and students to engage with Trans Awareness Week and learn more about being an ally in our article: **Authentic Allyship: How You Can Support the Trans and Gender-Diverse Communities in Scotland.**

In solidarity,

Highlands and Islands Students Association Executive Committee 2024/2025

