



The Queer Collective: 2022-2023 Annual Report

About the club:

The Queer Collective, being a community-driven and inherently political group given the lived experiences of queer and trans individuals, has broadened our perspectives, provided affirmative spaces to those who are routinely oppressed, and helped raise awareness regarding LGBTQ+ issues. Through club activities, we have learnt how to empathetically help individuals deal with homophobic and transphobic microaggressions, and facilitate necessary discussions. Our principles are to create a safe, supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals while striving for political change - on a personal and community level. We embody our principles by respecting pronouns and names, validating the daily struggles of being queer, cultivating inclusive discussions, and holding our aggressors accountable. Such a club is unique to FLAME because queer identities are not only seen but affirmed, especially in a country where acceptance is rare. Our work is extremely significant and stretches far beyond the university, as a community must rely on life-long mutual aid, support, and care.

Executive Committee:

The EC consists of members who are handling day-to-day operations of the club and are ultimately responsible for all the Club's activities. The Executive Committee must be composed of the President (Anjali Dhamayanthi), Vice president (Lo Verma) and Secretary (V Bhatt).

Core-Committees:

The club's Executive Committee may elect club members into core-committees positions in charge of particular portfolios (such as content, design, logistics, and social media) to assist them in the operation of the club. The sub-committees typically operate under the direction and supervision of the Executive committee (11 members).

Active Member:

An active member is a patron (member) of the club who is recorded in the club's membership register with at least their full name, email address, and student ID. The Executive Committee will select the Active Members to be part of an Election Committee at the end of each academic year.

Club Instagram:

https://instagram.com/flame_thequeercollective?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==



Introduction of the executive committee:

Cohead - Anjali Dhamayanthi (UG2)



Cohead - Lo Verma (UG3)



Cohead - V Bhatt (UG2)





Club Activities

On October 6th, 2022, The Queer Collective held its first event 'Gay-pardy', a queer themed quiz night inspired by the popular American game show 'Jeopardy,' at Kalidas. Donned in attire resembling an array of pride flags, the participants competed against each other's knowledge of queer trivia, especially in the categories of history, media, fictional characters, important icons, and slangs. Alongside the game, our queer-themed photobooth and mixer encouraged the attendees to join in, swaying to music by queer artists. The quiz was followed by a special surprise signing of a large progressive pride flag by all the constituents of The Queer Collective, as a way to memorialize that every member is a part of our community - our "collective" - along with their diverse and unique identities and lived experiences.





The second event was held on November 9, 2022, in collaboration with Front Row, at Kalidas wherein we organised a film screening of “Portrait of a Lady on Fire” alongside a concessions stand, a post-screening discussion, and a tastefully decorated photo booth wherein attendees could create portraits of their loved ones. The portraits were then distributed a few days after the event.





On November 21, 2022, The Queer Collective held its third event, a cosy rant session following the cyber-queerphobia by the hate account “flamestraightprideclub,” in RNJ001. It is more important than ever for us to provide a space prioritizing the utmost safety, validation, and emotional well-being of the queer and trans individuals on campus. Creating networks of support and care is integral to our aim as not only a club but a community. Hot chocolate was also distributed at the event for free. No pictures were taken at this event in order to maintain confidentiality and anonymity due to lack of cybersafety.





In the month of January 2023, The Queer Collective collaborated with the FLAME Film Society for four consecutive weeks to screen queer films, including a selection of Indian queer shorts (Devi, The Booth, and Sisak), Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Bros, and Paris is Burning. These took place across several classrooms in the Ramanujan, Aryabhata, and Tagore buildings. The films were chosen on the basis that they not only depicted the queer community but also involved us in the production process. Each film screening was followed by a discussion and a concessions stand was placed at every meeting.





Our penultimate event, the Valentine Market, took place on February 14, 2023 along the Academic Spine in a celebration of love. Stalls were set up to sell roses, stickers and other merchandise alongside a stall for henna tattoos and tarot readings. The event was open to all regardless of their relationship status, sexual orientation, or gender identity, celebrating love in its purest form



For our final event, The Queer Collective facilitated FLAME University's Sociology department in organising and conducting a film screening for Sheer Qorma, followed by a Q&A session with the film's director - Faraz Arif Ansari - in VKS001. It was a heartwarming screening with multiple tears shed, after which Faraz kindly and gracefully answered questions from both students and faculty alike.



List of Active Members:

1. Anjali Dhamayanthi (Co-head) UG2
2. Lo Verma (Co-head) UG3
3. V Bhatt (Co-head) UG2
4. Bhavi Kanugo UG3



5. Ishita Bagri UG1
6. Ayushi Pandey UG2
7. Adya Dalmia UG2
8. Suhani Banerjee UG2
9. Zahra Gonsalves UG1
10. Ananya Arora UG2
11. Tamanna Das UG1
12. Aadhya Dechamma UG1
13. Ananya Tandon UG1
14. Tiya Padhi UG1

Introduction of the New Executive Committee for 2022-23

President: Suhani Banerjee (UG2024 batch)

Vice President: yet to be decided

Secretary: yet to be decided

Treasurer: yet to be decided