

# **The Queer Collective Club Charter**

**For the academic year 2020-21**

**The Student Activity and Affairs Committee FLAME University**

August 2020

## FLAME University Club Charter

### Article I: Club Principles

This Student Club:

Aims to contribute towards the enrichment of the lives of all members of FLAME University. It shall not discriminate with regard to race, religion, age, ethnic or national origin, gender, physical ability, or sexual orientation.

Will respect that differing viewpoints exist, and will work towards understanding these viewpoints, and giving all members the right to voice their concerns as long as they are within the bounds of acceptable behaviour within the FLAME Community.

Will work towards strengthening, not fragmenting the FLAME Community. It will use its influence to impact positively, all of its members - and by extension, the FLAME Community.

### Article II: Name and Logo

This Club shall be known as The Queer Collective Club of FLAME University.



### Article III: Purpose

The purpose of The Collective shall be to create a safe space for people belonging to all sexual orientations and gender identities at FLAME University. The club aims to make the university more sensitised, receptive and accepting towards the community.

### Article IV: Club Leadership (Executive Committee)

The **three Co-Heads** of this club would be Ms. Rinzing Chingapa of Batch UG2, Ms. Srinidhi Ramakrishnan of Batch UG2, and Ms. Sana Ajmera of Batch UG2. We believe that a three

co-head system would work best for this club, as the lack of a hierarchical leadership structure would be most in line with the club's mission and purpose.

The **Faculty Advisor** of this club would be Ms. Smitana Saikia.

**The primary objectives of The Collective will be as follows:**

1. To create a safe space on campus where people belonging to all gender and sexual identities can express themselves openly and without fear of harassment or discrimination.
2. To screen films and lead discussions geared towards spreading awareness and creating a more accepting environment for all regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Some of the broad themes covered under this objective will include queer representations in media, LGBTQIA+ in India, Aro/Ace awareness, power of the “straight ally”, queer history and theory, etc.
3. To allow such conversations to carry on outside of meetings by inviting guest lecturers belonging to the community, or working towards the empowerment of LGBTQ+ individuals in their relevant fields.
4. To further share the lived experiences of queer individuals via the creation of a social media handle for the club on Instagram.

We believe these objectives will have a positive impact on society since it will help establish peer support networks that promote equity and inclusivity for sexual and gender minority members of the FLAME community. Creating such respectful and supportive environments that are free of discrimination is fundamental to FLAME’s Liberal Arts philosophy. The presence of such safe spaces has also been proven to reduce feelings of alienation, rejection and fear amongst those belonging to the community.

**Article V: Membership**

All members of FLAME University will be invited to each club meeting and will be updated on the activities of the club via email/social media/posters. The title of “active member” will be awarded to selected club members who volunteer to help carry out various activities such as research for meetings, contacting speakers, creating posters, handling social media, etc. These members will have to meet at least once a week outside of regular meetings to fix agendas and create action plans. They will also be expected to attend at least 70% of meetings, as well as help the club logistically. Such participation will be on a voluntary basis. The future club leaders will be elected from within this select group of students.

| Sr.No | Name | Batch | Designation | Remark |
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## Article VII: Club Plan for the Academic year 2019-20

| Topics of Discussion                                        | Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| General Plan                                                | The club will host open meetings <b>each week</b> (except during final exam weeks) on Monday at 9 pm. Films will tentatively be screened every alternate week in association with the Film Club, and will be followed up with detailed discussions on the themes, representation and portrayals in the film. Meeting agendas will be shared through email with the FLAME community thus inviting all (and not only club members) to meetings. The club also aims to invite one speaker every 2-3 months, thus having at least 3 speakers during this academic year. These discussions, screenings, and other events will allow the club to tackle the topics mentioned below while emphasizing our club guidelines of ‘Voluntary Participation, Acceptance and Respect’. |
| First Meeting                                               | The club will be introduced to the student community and ideas on future club activities will be collected from the new members via an online google form. It will also be emphasised that the club is a safe space for sharing and learning for <b>all</b> and not only members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Collective will be established as a safe space for new students during this meeting, and through later discussions on the topics below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity                      | The club will expand upon the differences within the LGBTQQIAAP+ community based on differences in romantic/sexual preferences and identity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Feminism and Fetishization                                  | The club will be exploring themes of feminism - specifically third and fourth wave feminism, lesbian feminism, and various feminist theories. We will also be exploring misogyny, objectification and fetishization within the LGBTQIA+ community, especially of queer womxn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Heteronormativity, Heterosexism, and Forced Heterosexuality | The club will discuss the experience of a queer individual in an overtly heteronormative and heterosexist society.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Institutionalised Discrimination                            | We will also discuss how deep rooted homophobic mindsets display themselves at an institutional level, including at FLAME University.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Queer Theory                                                | The club will hold discussions on critical queer theory aimed at understanding and problematizing various nuances within the discourse                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Intersectionality                                           | The club will emphasize the need for intersectionality within the queer discourse based on to gender, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual identity, gender identity, age, class, caste, religion and so on.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| Capitalism                           | The emergence of Rainbow Capitalism from privatization, neoliberalism and capitalism, and its implications on the queer community will also be discussed.                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Indian Queer Politics                | Section 377, the implications of identifying as 'queer' in a right-wing India, and the impacts of a Hindutva ideology on Indian queer discourse.                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Representation                       | Through screenings and other sessions, discussions on what qualifies as fair and accurate representation, and its importance will be held.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Queer Subaltern                  | We will also tackle queer politics in India and understanding the subaltern queer from a post-colonial lens.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Marginalisation and Invisibilization | Identity based invisibilization as a form of discrimination throughout queer history.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Sensitization                        | The club aims to invite an organisation (most likely The Humsafar Trust) to facilitate a sensitisation and awareness session on the LGBTQ+ community in FLAME.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Other Activities                     | The Collective is a collaborative club, hence other activities or events may be planned during the year based on the interests and ideas of active club members. These will be set into motion Term 2 onwards. It is possible that The Collective will collaborate with other clubs or with the FLAME Cultural Committee for the same. |

### **Article VIII: FLAME Support**

The Collective will need the FLAME's and The Student Activity and Affairs Committee's **funding and logistical support** to invite guest speakers on campus.

### **Article IX: Expected Budget/Sponsorship-Raising Plans**

Based on the above mentioned activities, it is estimated that the club will require a sum total of Rs. 40,000 during the academic year. This is **not including** the cost for inviting Humsafar Trust on campus and conducting a sensitisation session.

Based on expenses incurred in the previous year, it is estimated that at least Rs. 10,000 is required per guest speaker to pay for their travel, stay, meals/snacks, and felicitation on campus. Since the club aims at calling at least 3 speakers, Rs. 30,000 will be required to achieve the club's third objective.

Rs. 7000 will be required for miscellaneous stationery expenses for making and printing posters, stickers, etc. during the year.

We would also like to set aside Rs. 3000 for miscellaneous expenses that may be incurred should the club choose to hold any other events based on the member's interests.

We, the Executive Committee of the club, have read and clearly understood the terms and conditions of the Club and roles and responsibilities of the various office bearers.

**Co-Head**

Name and Signature

**The Club Advisor**

Name and Signature

**Co-Head**

Name and Signature

**Co-Head**

Name and Signature