

BAGIS

British Association of Gender Identity Specialists

Information for organisations proposing to host the BAGIS symposium

Background

The BAGIS is the leading association for specialist gender identity healthcare staff and providers in the United Kingdom. Our membership comprises almost the entire workforce of gender identity healthcare in the UK and a substantial proportion of those working in gender affirming gender identity academic studies. We are the only association incorporating the leading minds and substantial experience within the field of gender identity medicine and academia.

Our main focus, as an association, is on providing education for people in the healthcare field of gender identity medicine and academic gender identity studies. We are also an advocacy body on the subject of gender identity healthcare.

One of the core aims of BAGIS is to provide an annual symposium to offer cutting edge education and continuing professional development for our members which is specific to the UK context.

The BAGIS has no political affiliations and is solely funded by membership subscriptions. Membership is open to those in the field of gender healthcare and academia who can commit to upholding the [BAGIS Principles of Care](#).

Symposium Details

The BAGIS symposium takes place annually and is usually hosted by BAGIS in collaboration with a UK gender healthcare provider. The symposium is usually on the Thursday and Friday of the first full week in October.

Organisational Responsibilities

BAGIS retains the overall responsibility for providing the programme and organising the venues and sundry elements in relation to the symposium.

Financial Responsibilities

All financial elements of the symposium are managed by and remain solely the purview of BAGIS. There are no financial expectations of the hosting organisation either in terms of costs or income. The BAGIS does not currently receive any sponsorship or outside funding sources in relation to the symposium and operates on a not-for-profit basis to ensure that the tickets remain affordable for delegates in all professions. Occasionally there may be a request for support of the host from

BAGIS in relation to minor organisational elements that arise close to the symposium which may incur a small cost.

Hosting Arrangements

Main Venue

All bookings are managed by the BAGIS symposium planning team directly.

We ask that hosts use their local knowledge to identify a small number of suitable venues in their local area. These should fit the following criteria as far as is possible.

- Able to host a conference for between 220-275 people over two consecutive days
- Between 4-6 breakout spaces, some of which can hold 80-100 people.
- A small quiet space
- Accessible to people with a variety of mobility needs
- Close to national transport links
- Able to provide gender neutral toilets
- Able to offer a range of catering needs including but not limited to Vegan, Gluten Free, Allergies, Halal
- Budgets vary by circumstances but the average current delegate day rate is under £50

Evening Venue

We ask that hosts use their local knowledge to identify a small number of suitable venues for an evening social event to be included in the tickets of all delegates.

These should fit the following criteria as far as is possible:

- Able to host a meal and drinks for between 210-250 people on the Thursday of the symposium from 7pm until late
- Accessible to people with a variety of mobility needs
- Close to the main venue, usually within walking distance
- Able to provide gender neutral toilets
- Able to offer a range of catering needs including but not limited to Vegan, Gluten Free, Allergies, Halal
- A drink on arrival and access to a bar for all delegates to buy drinks

Programme creation

The programme is usually shaped in monthly meetings between the symposium planning committee members in BAGIS and clinical or academic representatives of the host organisation. Whilst the creation of the programme rests with BAGIS, who administer the call for papers and manage the programme, the hosts are encouraged to attend and offer suggestions for content and be part of the process.

In particular the host representatives are encouraged to suggest:

- A person with local standing to provide a brief welcome address lasting up to 15 minutes. This should be pre-recorded as most people in this position are not able to reliably attend for such a short slot. The identified person could be from any relevant background. In the past we have had MPs, trans elders, CEO's of the hosting trust, local relevant celebrities.
- Suggestions for the keynote speaker who can offer relevant insights and leadership nationally on an area of expertise.
- Suggestions for content from any of the following areas of BAGIS interest:
 - Endocrinology
 - Legal and Ethical
 - Lived experience/community contributions
 - Medicine
 - Nursing
 - Psychology and psychological therapies
 - Research and audit
 - Surgery
 - Updates from EPATH/WPATH
 - Voice and Communication
- A performance element lasting up to 15 minutes for the end of Thursday. In the past this has been (but is not limited to) a film, participatory choir or talk on an exhibition. This has the aim of bringing local culture and presenting gender diversity or LGBTQIA+ lives in a lens that is not as 'patients' or 'people in need', but rather as thriving people with their own cultures and celebrating gender diverse lives.
- A creative themed section that runs alongside the main event. In the past this has been a puzzle, a quiz, photography competition, art creation. It can be anything that is just for fun, with no pressure to take part, but adding something that draws people together and allows them to bring different parts of themselves to the symposium.

The BAGIS symposium planning team will support the host with all of these elements, and carry out a call for papers that will elicit a number of responses from within the membership that form the basis of the programme. The hosts and the programme team can then shape these elements into the final programme.

