Please see some of the upcoming events you may be interested in below.

**OurTable – Wednesday 5th February, 18:00-21:00**

Food nourishes the soul as well as the body and connects us better than anything else can. OurTable is a community dinner project hosted by the University of Plymouth and UPSU with an aim to bring our diverse staff and student communities together over a shared meal. The event is free...simply bring a dish and join in! [Register here.](#)

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team will be hosting a community food project event in partnership with UPSU on Wednesday 5th February. The event aims to bring our diverse staff and student communities together as well as people from outside the University over a shared meal. Everyone will be invited to bring a dish for sharing and we will sit down together around one table and share our food and our stories.

OurTable is an opportunity to taste different cultures and connect with each other; make new friends, discover new tastes and build a welcoming atmosphere for all. There is **no cost** to take part in a meal; all you have to do is bring a dish. Everybody is welcome to come join us and celebrate our unique cultures together.

If you would like to find out more information or register for this event you can do so on the [OurTable event page.](#)

**LGBT+ Staff Forum, Christmas Pride, Thursday 12th December, 6pm - 9pm**

Happy New Year from the LGBT+ Staff Forum! The Forum is currently working on various events (both for LGBT+ staff, allies and the wider community) for LGBT+ history month in February, as well as looking ahead towards International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia and Pride on Campus in May. We also have some exciting developments happening in the next few months, so keep your eyes peeled! If you are interested in learning more about the Forum and getting regular updates about our work, events and social activities, you can become a member or an ally by contacting us at lgbtfourm@plymouth.ac.uk
Athena SWAN

As many of you are aware, each school in our Faculty has been aiming to gain an Athena SWAN Bronze Award by November 2020. Two other schools within our Faculty submitted their Athena SWAN application at the end of November 2019; Humanities and Performing Arts (HPA) and Plymouth Institute of Education (PIoE). Panellists are currently being invited to review around 170 UK Athena SWAN submissions. The Equality Charters team intends to inform university-level submission applicants of their results earlier than in previous rounds and results will be released to applicants in the first week of March 2020. The School of Law, Criminology and Government will be submitting their ‘intention to submit’ form in February 2020, as are aiming to submit their application in April 2020.

Media Training for Women – Athena SWAN
A training course will be taking place on the 26th March 2pm – 4.30pm which will be led by Karen Mason and Eleanor Burfitt. Please book your place via 'course bookings' on ESS, however be quick as there are only 6 places left, otherwise add yourself to the waiting list.

The External Relations team runs a highly popular media training session just for women as part of the University’s Athena SWAN commitment. The two hour session covers the importance of media relations, what makes news, how to work with the University’s media team to engage channels and audiences with your story, and how to prepare for media interviews – then putting what you’ve learned into practice with some ‘on camera’ practice and feedback in a safe and welcoming environment. Due to high demand for this course, it is a pre requisite that your current university role either currently involves or is likely to involve media work as a spokesperson or in talking externally about your area of expertise/research.

Dignity & Respect Advisor Network

From 6th January 2020 the University’s Harassment Advisor network has changed to a ‘Dignity & Respect Advisor Network’ with a slight update to the process of requesting an advisor.

The attached document explains how the process will work and what a Dignity and Respect Advisor will do; the website has been changed to reflect this and a message will be going out in staff and student bulletins in the new year. Please do encourage staff, students and contractors to use this service if they need support or advice during a difficult time.

Art Group for Refugees

An art group for refugees has been running on campus for a few months now and it is going incredibly well. They are a charity running the events and have little support from us other than giving them space to hold the classes. If you are an art/design academic or technician that might be interested in giving some time to one of their classes, please get in touch with Tom Rose (tom.rose@dcrsplymouth.org). The first session this year takes place on the 23rd of January at 5.30pm which will take place in Rolle 312.

Race Equality Charter (REC)

The University of Plymouth has become increasingly aware of issues relating to gender equity and equality through the Equality Challenge Unit’s Athena SWAN process. Whilst time-consuming and intense, Athena SWAN has allowed for
previously unheard issues be brought to the forefront of our collective consciousness allowing the institution to move forward as a more equitable place of work. As work around improved gender equity continues throughout the institution it is only right that we begin to consider the impact of race and ethnicity on both the student and staff experience at the University of Plymouth.

The institutional REC working group met in December, and it was confirmed that the University REC submission is aiming to submit in year 2021, and we are currently setting out initial plans of how to work towards this deadline.

The REC aims to improve the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education, and the university has formed a working group to understand and provide a framework to identify and self-reflect on institutional and cultural barriers standing in the way of minority ethnic staff and students.