



Your monthly update of news, views and interviews from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).

Welcome to the December issue of the **PodMag**, hosted by Karen Foley.

In this edition, the theme is human rights. You may be aware that December 10 is Human Rights Day, which calls upon everyone to stand up for someone's rights – whether that's defending the rights of a refugee, a woman, a child, an LGBT person, indigenous peoples, or anyone at risk of discrimination or violence. Karen talks to Meg-John Barker on gender and sexuality and Marie Gillespie on child refugees.

To listen to the full edition (18 minutes duration) click [here](#).



## Diary

### **ISPY, a new drama, launches Monday 28 November**

An OU study, undertaken by two psychology academics, found that many people think the internet makes affairs more likely. A five part drama, ISPY, directed by BAFTA-nominated Faye Gilbert, was commissioned to explore how online behaviours are interpreted and the effects web flirtation can have on real life relationships. It launched on Monday 28 November at 7pm. It is available from both the central and Faculty facebook pages, YouTube and OpenLearn.



### **Dr Meg-John Barker**

Karen talks to Meg-John about what the barriers might be for the UN in terms of making a Declaration in the area of sexual orientation and gender identity, media

representation and impact and gender identity in adolescents.

Dr Meg-John Barker is a senior lecturer in the psychology department at The Open University. Meg-John co-chaired the main Level 2 counselling course and now works on the new 'mad or bad' Level 3 course about counselling and forensic psychology. Meg-John is a lead author of The Bisexuality Report: Bisexual inclusion in LGNT equality and diversity (2012).



## Professor Marie Gillespie



Karen talks to Marie Gillespie about human rights and refugee children and the importance of International Treaties. There are 60 million refugees around the world and half of them are children. Professor Gillespie discusses the two main conventions which help protect the rights of children by setting universal standards, their importance and complexities.

Marie is a Professor of Sociology, based within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Her research and teaching focus on issues of diaspora, media and identity.

## Christmas closure

The University will close at 3.00pm on Friday 23 December and will re-open on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would like to wish you all very best wishes for the festive season and a healthy and happy 2017.

## Students – have your say

If you have any suggestions for interviews or features you would like to see either via The PodMag or our student focused Facebook page please feel free to let us know, we'd love to hear from you.

Would you like to be interviewed yourself and tell your story? If so, please contact the Student Connections team.



## FASS online community



### Twitter

Our new Faculty Twitter handle is @OU\_FASS. Follow us to keep up-to-date with Faculty news.



### Facebook

Have you visited our student Faculty Facebook page yet? We have over 28,000 followers - why not join us!

Click [here](#) to take a look and feel free to like, comment on and share our posts.

There will be a break from the Friday Thinker for the remaining part of December and the page may go a little quiet during the Christmas closure, but we look forward to seeing you in 2017.



You can contact the Student Connections team at [connections@open.ac.uk](mailto:connections@open.ac.uk).