

TRANSport: Exploring Trans Experiences of Transport

Speaker Bios

Nour Shaker Fayad, Senior Manager CIOA

Pronouns: she/her



After working in Dubai, Egypt, and Europe over the last 13 years in specialist IT leadership roles, Nour moved to the UK five years ago to achieve the next milestone in her career path and to continue her gender transition journey. Nour is strongly committed to driving positive change within the community and the workplace through her engagement with Stonewall. Nour is also considering ordained ministry within the Church of England. Nour's aspiration is to build life changing business solutions to better support people's lives in a rapidly changing society whilst maintaining a strong framework of ethics and personal integrity.

Aiden Costello, Transport Support and Enforcement Officer, Transport for London (TfL)

Pronouns: he/him



Aiden is an operational officer for TfL working in Transport, Support and Enforcement. He is also joint Vice chair of OUTbound, TfL's LGBT+ Staff network. Aiden believes that it is important for him to take part in events such as these as he is an openly trans frontline member of staff and wants to be able to support and encourage other Trans or Non-Binary folk through his own visibility and education. At the end of the day Trans Rights are Human Rights.

Jo Towers, Chartered Surveyor, Valuation Office Agency (VOA)

Pronouns: she/her



Jo is a Chartered Surveyor and one of the few Agricultural Valuers for the Valuation Office Agency, based in Devon. Jo's role involves the inspection and valuation of agricultural property. Pre-Covid, she also travelled to many VOA offices throughout England to attend meetings and support colleagues. Up until February 2020 Jo lived in North Leicestershire with her wife and worked in the VOA Nottingham Office, so she often had to take public transport. Jo is 53 years old and has worked for the VOA since 1993.

Rico Jacob Chace, Director at TransActual UK, Producer of Against Racism Radio Show

Pronouns: he/him



Rico provided live updates at the London Black Lives Matter protests along with revealing some of the white-washed black history. Also for Rainbow Films, he volunteered to create documentaries on racism and queer rights, as a spokesperson and part of the film crew. The last documentary, 'Pride & Protest' won 'Official Selection 2020' at the BFI Flare film festival. The new documentary 'Black Rainbow' has just launched on Reel Stories. He has also spoken on NHS King Cross Hospital panels and North-East A&E doctors on LGBTQI+ healthcare and on a similar subject at the Mayor of London's round table think tanks.

As a newly appointed board member of TransActual UK, he continues to strive to change UK legislation for non-binary equality and raise the Black Queer intersectionality question in all forums with speeches at Cumbria Pride and London Trans Pride. As a columnist at Wedzera, he continues to speak out about the complexities of sexuality, gender and racial perceptions. He has recently launched 'Against Racism' a nine-part show exploring the various forms of racism and how we collectively can make a difference. Rico is a very vocal activist, fighting avidly for the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and Black people.