

50 YEARS

SWITCHBOARD

LGBTQIA+ Support Line



01	.....	About Switchboard
02	.....	Our History
03	.....	Police Raids
04	.....	HIV/AIDS Crisis
05	.....	Section 28
06	.....	Admiral Duncan Bombings
07	.....	Switchboard Today
08	.....	Why We're Needed
09	.....	Types of Calls
10	.....	Statistics

Trigger Warning



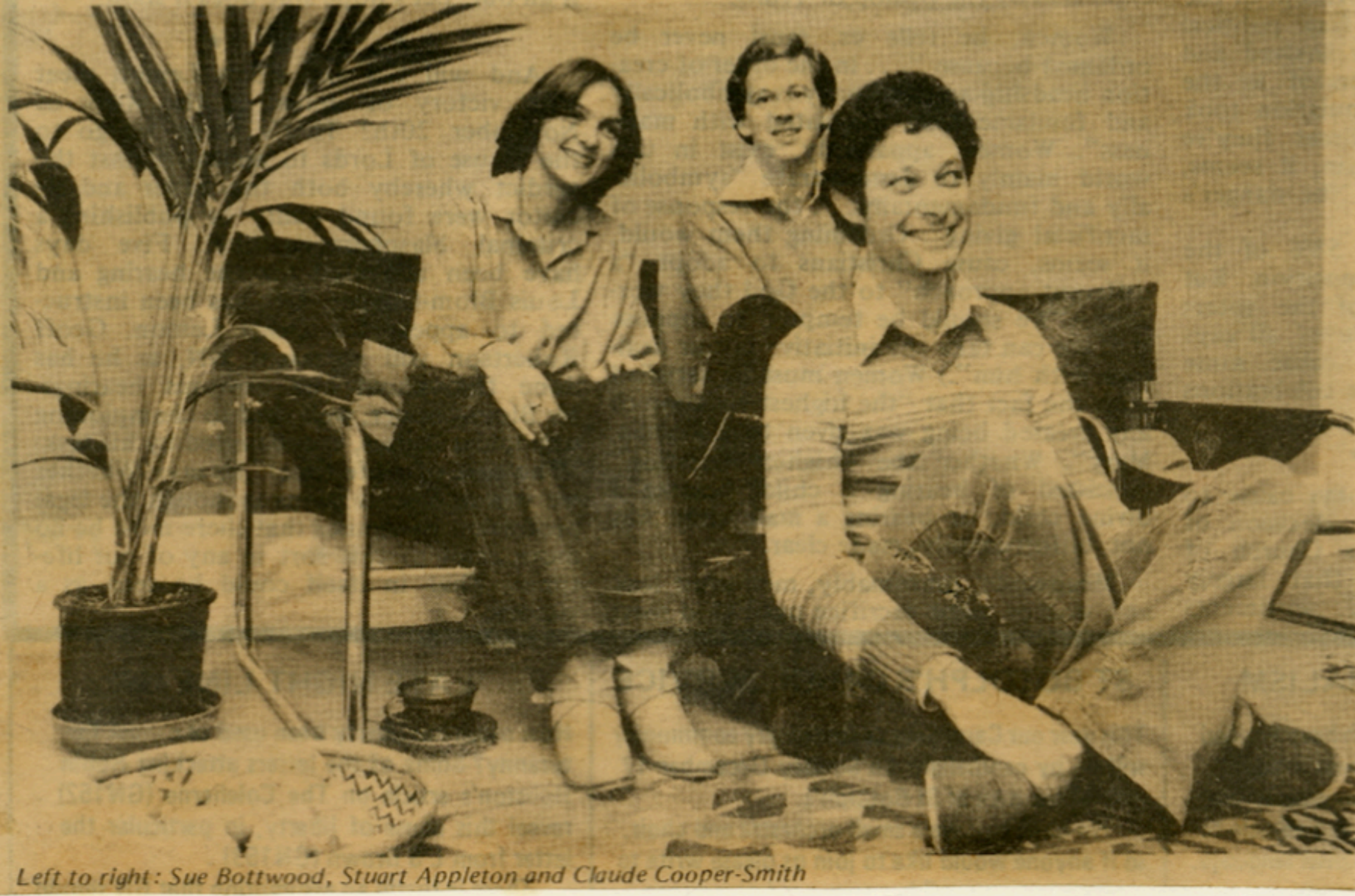
Switchboard is the national LGBTQIA+ support line. For anyone, anywhere in the country, at any point in their journey. We can discuss anything related to sexuality and gender identity. Whether it's sexual health, relationships or just the way you're feeling. This is your space – to explore, talk and be truly heard.

All our volunteers identify as LGBTQIA+ and know how difficult navigating some of these issues can be. We talk things through, so that you have the options to make your own decisions. Switchboard is a non-judgmental space, and whatever you tell us will stay between us.

Our support line is completely free, and available wherever you feel most comfortable – whether that's on the phone, via chat or email. 10am-10pm every single day.

NEWS FEATURE

Photograph: Bob Workman



Left to right: Sue Bottwood, Stuart Appleton and Claude Cooper-Smith

Gay News 16th November 1978

N42

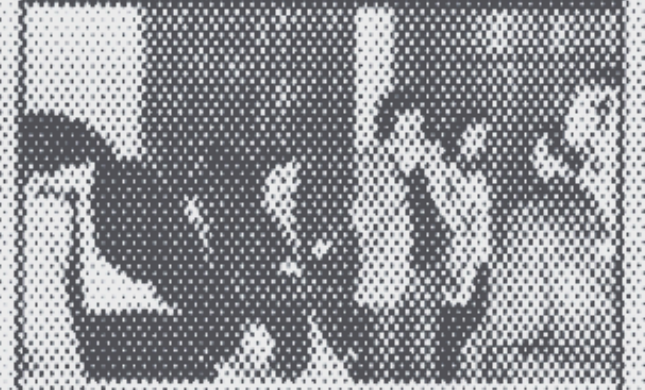
GAY NEWS

25p

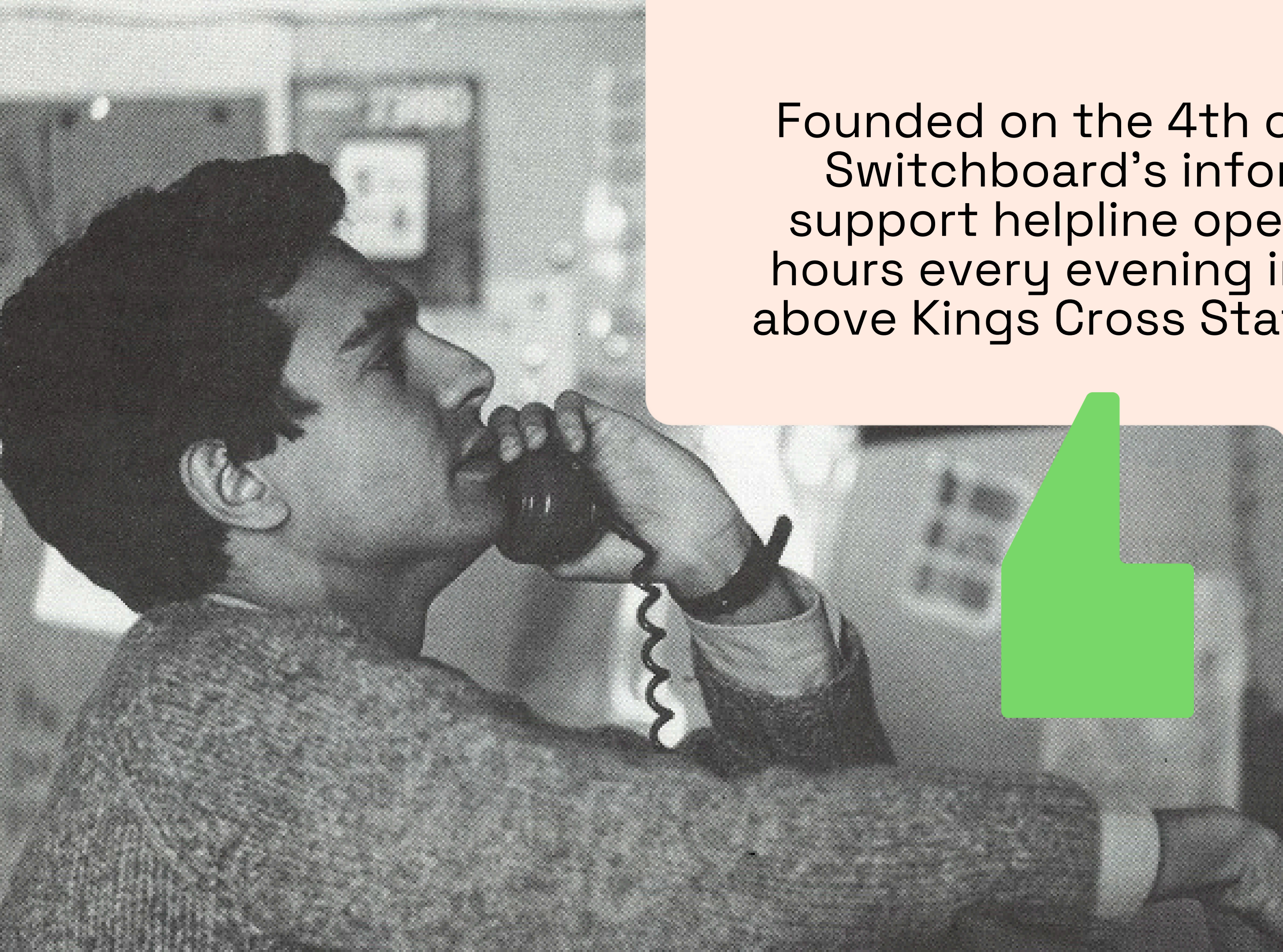
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NEW ACTION BRIGADE

Gay Switchboard
Dist 01 837774

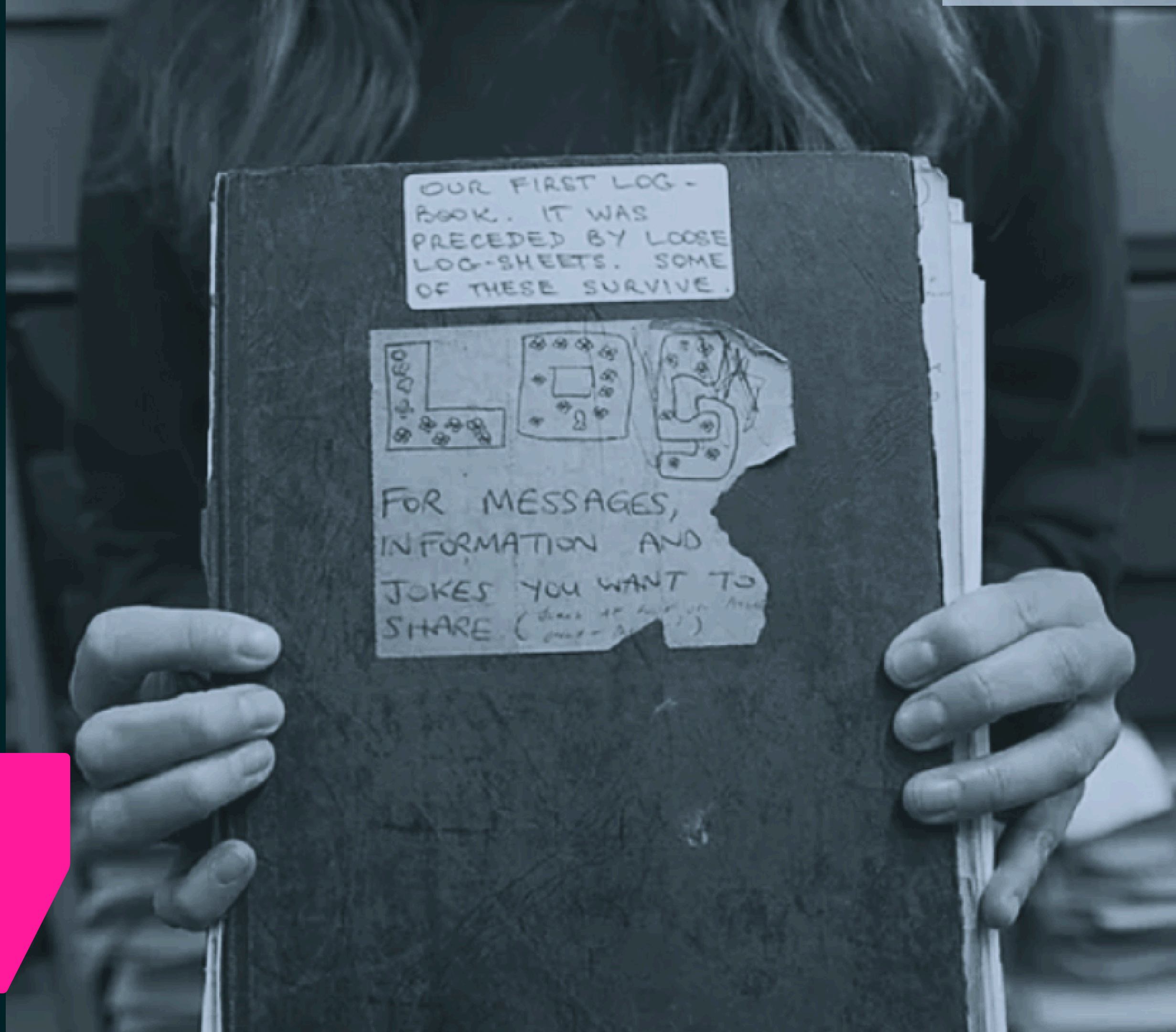


Founded on the 4th of March, 1974
Switchboard's information and
support helpline operated for five
hours every evening in a small room
above Kings Cross Station in London.



“The milestones of LGBTQ+ history can be traced in the calls that Switchboard has taken since 1974”

— Lisa Power



the only 24-hr service for homosexuals offering advice, legal entertainments, guide to referrals and flat shares.

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THIS LOG BOOK

CONTAINS MESSAGES FOR ALL SWITCHBOARD WORKERS, BUT INDIVIDUAL MESSAGES ARE STILL ON MESSAGES BOARD.

IT ALSO CONTAINS ANY INCOMING INFORMATION OR GOSSIP WHICH MIGHT BE OF USE, OR ENTERTAIN.

THE INFO-GROUP WILL SCOUR IT REGULARLY AND ALTER FILES, BUT USE IT FOR ANYTHING YOU WANT ~~TO SHARE~~ TO SHARE.

Friday
January 30th
1987
No. 277

CAPITAL GAY

THE
FREE
ONE

Moonies link to anti-gay demo

See
page
three

Major protests after

POLICE RAID VAUXHALL



So 'good' the night

HMI Somerville and the Communards raised nearly £12,000 for the London Lighthouse Project, the Aids hospice, at their benefit concert on Monday night.

Helping to raise money were Erasure, The Style Council, Daryl Pandy, Carlton Edwards and Jerry and Sherry who delighted the 2,000 strong crowd at the Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2.

MORE than 20 police raided the Royal Vauxhall Tavern in Kennington Lane, south London, on Friday night, closing the pub and arresting 11 customers and the landlord.

It is the second raid on the pub in six weeks and although there have been no charges yet, it has sent shock-waves through the gay pubs of London.

Publicans, the gay movement, local councillors, and Members of Parliament pledged their support at a meeting organised by the Gay Business Association, in the pub on Tuesday night.

Chris Smith MP (Labour, Islington North and Finsbury) told the meeting of 50 people that there were rumours of police plans to close many gay pubs and clubs in the capital, leaving "only one gay establishment in each area".

Two people told of ill-treatment when arrested by the police. Derek Smith, 27, a careers officer, suffered a strained wrist and a sprained ankle when he was hauled out of the pub at 12.45am.

Ken Comish, 31, an unemployed chef, had recently had an operation to remove the cartilage in his right knee. A

Several arrested men said they were made to sign documents they weren't allowed to read. Others said they signed 'Caution Forms' agreeing they had been drunk on licensed premises.

Publicans Pat and Brenda McCosson fear these will be used as evidence if the police challenge their licence, as they have threatened.

Pat McCosson was also arrested for having 260 people in the pub when the fire limit is 100. There have been no charges on this or any other matter.

The pub was also raided on December 17th when police with a search warrant arrested Brenda McCosson and two

staff and took away bottles of peppers, even though, for health reasons, they were no longer on sale. Peppers are now illegal and there have been no

charges arising from this raid although the McCossons have been told to report to Kennington police on January 30th.

The Gay Business Association, the National Council for Civil Liberties and Lambeth Council are among those demanding

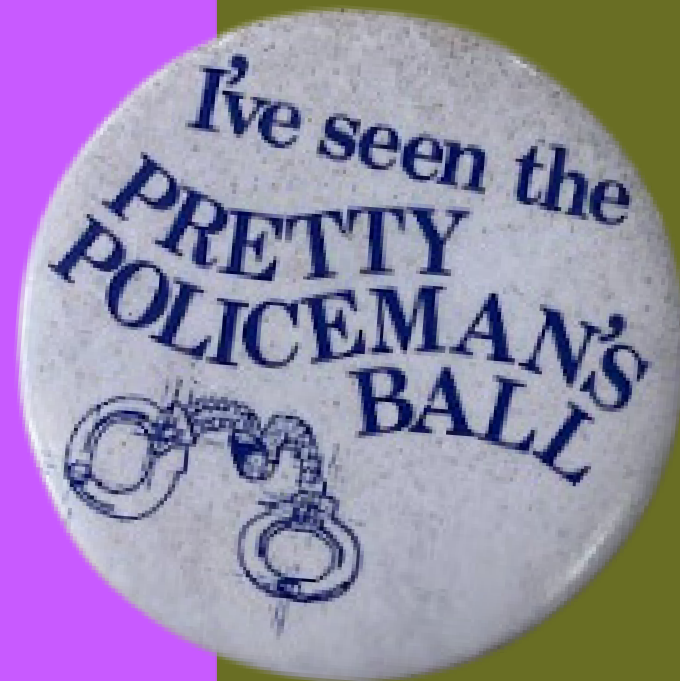
(Continued on Page 2)

INSIDE

REGULAR FEATURES	
Football	2
Weekend Weather	3
Body Matters	4
What's On	12 & 13
Arts/Entertainments	15
Small Ads	17 & 18
Television	19

ADVERTISING FEATURES	
Pubs	5 & 6
Jobs	14 & 16
Eating Out	12
Noticeboard	9
Hotels	13

CAPITAL GAY
38 MOUNT PLEASANT
LONDON WC1X 9AP
PHONE 01 278 2364
(11 LINES)

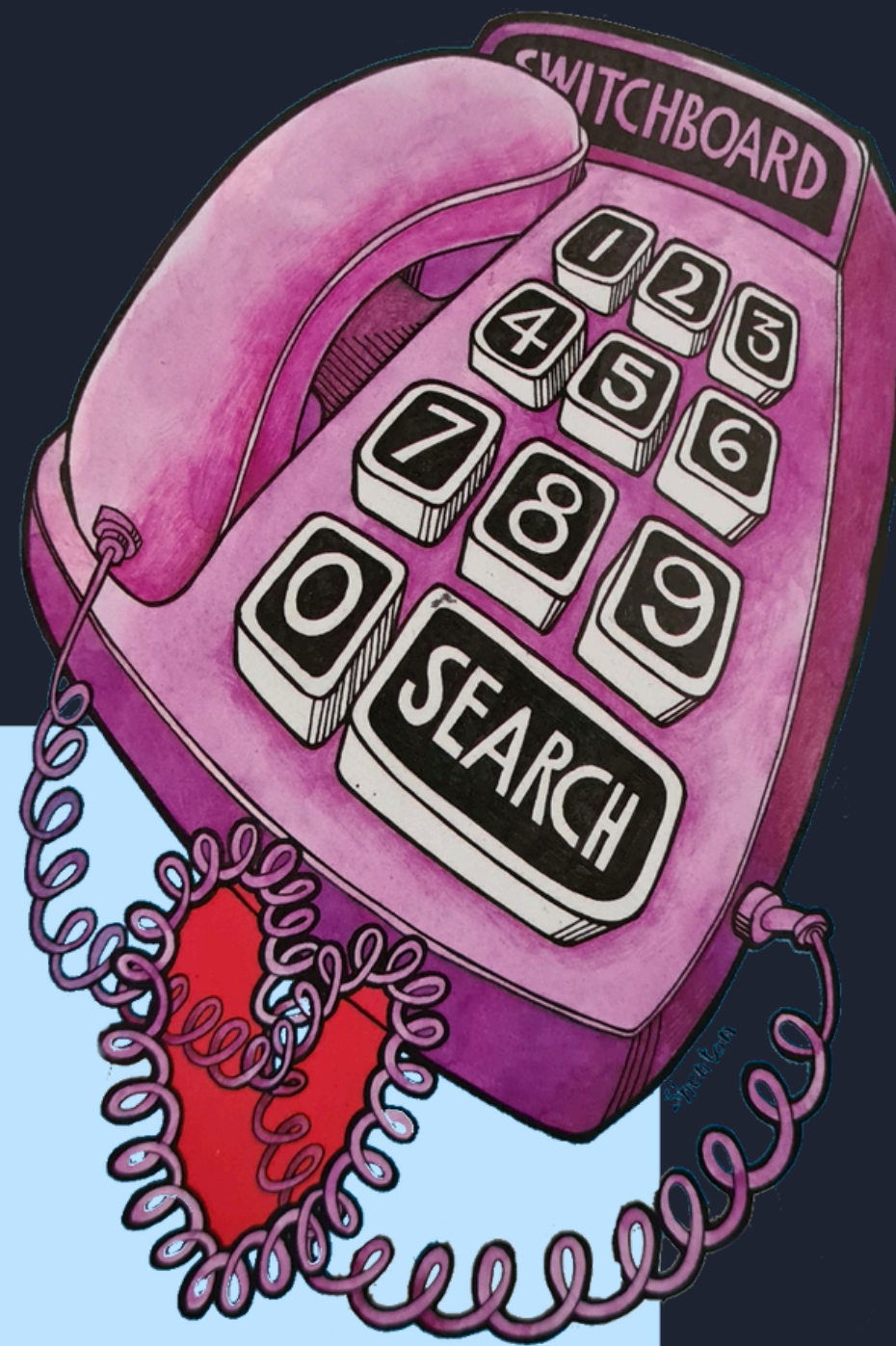



One of the most prominent types of entries throughout the 70s are the countless police raids during this period.

29/5/78

Two incidents reported to me last night of police arrests. One outside the Colborne at 1.10 am. Two police officers in plain clothes physically carried someone into a waiting taxi which speed off at fast speed. The other which is more disturbing was a plain-clothes police officer in Tricky J Poley's diors at the Green Man last night (special diors for bank holiday monday). The person who called me state that he went outside with the policeman and went down a back alley. As soon as he started undoin his fly a police car turned up and carted him off to Cannon Row Police Station where they stripped him and forced him to a medical examination. I felt if I

Yhi 3 March A closet police cadet rang this morning from Derby to say that there's going to be a major clamp-down on gays in the city during the last two weeks of March. Plain clothes men are going to do the pubs, cottages & wherever else the gays are because "they've got nothing better to do". The guy sounded fairly genuine. ~~I~~ said he just wanted to warn us. I think somebody ought to get in touch with the Derby people to warn them.







5/6

SUNDAY AM

If [REDACTED] calls can you please accept reverse charges - she has been chucked out of home by Dad + has no money / clothes etc - She wants a friendly voice + some advice about emergency accommodation.



When Switchboard started it was, as it still is today, a first point of call for many needing support.



In May 1983,
Switchboard
hosted the first
open conference
on AIDS

AIDS
DON'T DIE
OF
IGNORANCE

**Government
information
about
AIDS**

This leaflet is being sent to every household in the country to inform everyone about AIDS, in order to help stop the spread of this serious disease. It deals with matters of health and sex that may be disturbing. Please make sure that everyone in your household who may need this information sees this leaflet.

STOP PRESS
Special AIDS line
0800 555777

NB

ALL SHIFTS:

Caller [REDACTED], has had AB+ Test Result with [REDACTED] no counselling at all. Had his lover [REDACTED] die of AIDS three weeks ago. Wouldn't talk to me, but knows my name. Called at 4:13 am on 8th March. (hence this incoherent scribble). He could call back at ANY time. Please be gentle, he's scared stupid. Knows the hard facts, and is in desperate need of coping.

21/7

*

Beware

*

Caller reports that Northampton Special clinic advised him to tell his employer(!) he was HIV +ve. He is now sacked and moreover Homeless as the info was passed on!
What can I say? Aargh!







DON'T FUEL HATE – SCRAP 28

**Don't
Fuel
Hate
Scrap 28**

DON'T FUEL HATE – SCRAP 28

Section 28 Enacted

MAY 1988

A series of laws that prohibited
the promotion of homosexuality
by local authorities



26th October

Call via Get Connected. 15 year old male, school foundation was gay & informed parents who are fundamental Christians & now verbally abusing him & making him feel suicidal. Many issues in call, lack of access to support, lack of resources (money etc) to contact services. School very uncooperative citing Section 28 as barrier to tackling abuse.



Admiral Duncan Nail Bombings

30TH APRIL 1999





London
Gay Switchboard
0300-330-0630



Friday 30th April 9:30 pm

A bomb exploded in the Admiral Duncan pub in Old Compton Street 3 hours ago. So far we do not really know exactly what has happened - we have heard varying reports that 2, 3 or 7 people have been killed and about 40 injured. There were two people down on the rota for this evening, but Ben and Boo have been very quick to phone round and other volunteers have rallied round and we now have about 8 people taking calls - we are getting lots of calls related to the incident - many people including some of those here present are worried about friends of theirs who may well have been in the area this evening. Carl was himself only in Brewer Street when it happened. He came straight to Switchboard to organise the effort, along with Boo.

Calls received so far:

- * John Peel of the BBC called to offer his support towards any fundraising or benefit for the victims
- * Gays Against the Nazis phoned to tell us about the demo tomorrow.
- * Black Jewish gay man from Israel phoned to offer his support

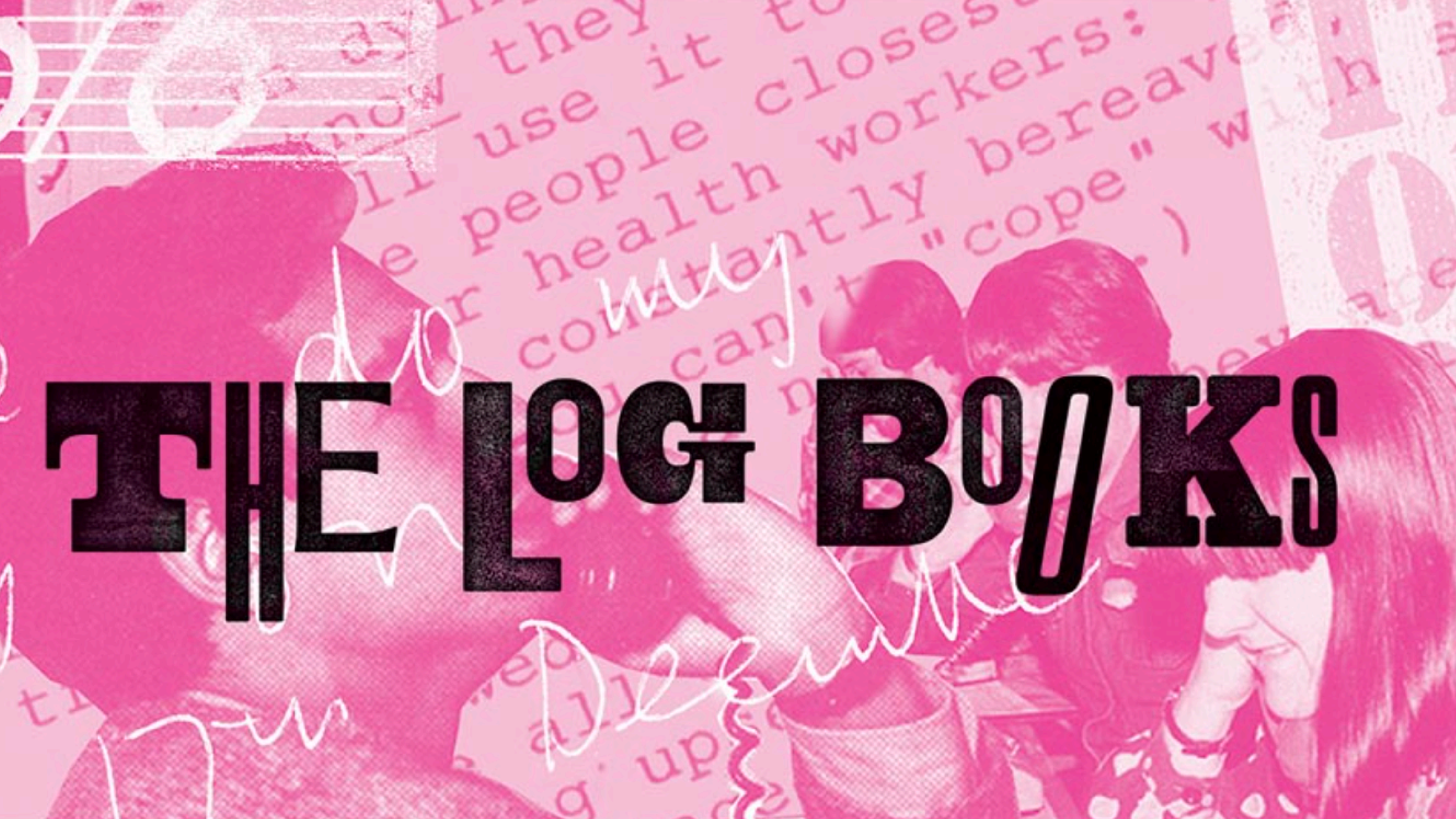


A woman called [REDACTED] rang to 'share with s/b' the fact that she'd come out to her strong Irish/Catholic family and they'd been fantastic. Her Mum hugged her and said 'I love you', her Dad kissed her, her brother said it was fine and her sister said, 'you've never looked like one'.

Over the last 50 years, our volunteers have responded to millions of calls from heartbreaking conversations on loss and despair to triumphant messages of acceptance and love.

THE LOG BOOKS

Why



Switchboard Today

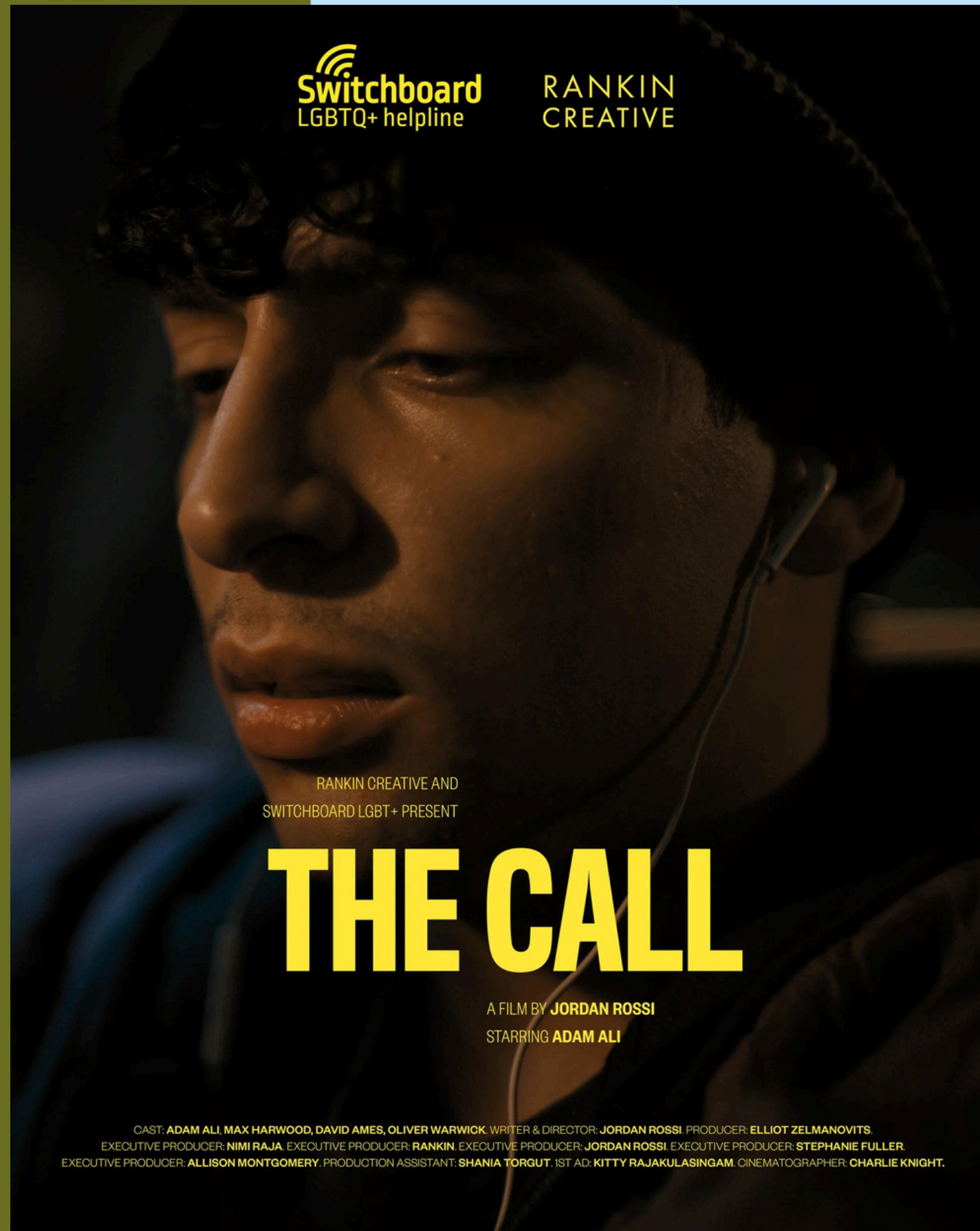




We've come a long way in the last 5 decades.

Through all the crises, celebrations and changing attitudes, Switchboard has been a clear and unmistakable voice. Today, we channel this spirit in new ways that champion our community, spread vital knowledge and inspire change.





Switchboard
LGBTQ+ helpline

RANKIN
CREATIVE

RANKIN CREATIVE AND
SWITCHBOARD LGBTQ+ PRESENT

THE CALL

A FILM BY JORDAN ROSSI
STARRING ADAM ALI

CAST: ADAM ALI, MAX HARWOOD, DAVID AMES, OLIVER WARWICK. WRITER & DIRECTOR: JORDAN ROSSI. PRODUCER: ELLIOT ZELMANOVITS.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: NIMI RAJA. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: RANKIN. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: JORDAN ROSSI. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: STEPHANIE FULLER.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: ALLISON MONTGOMERY. PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: SHANIA TORGUT. 1ST AD: KITTY RAJAKULASINGAM. CINEMATOGRAPHER: CHARLIE KNIGHT.

In 2023 Switchboard moved to a free 0800 phone number.

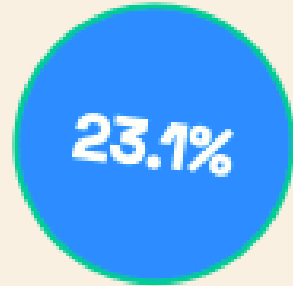
We released the short film The Call to highlight the importance of our service.



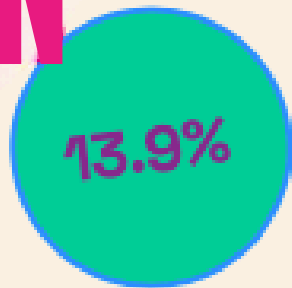
Conversation reports are completed by volunteers after every phone call, chat conversation and email exchange. The information included in these reports informs our annual Listen Up! Report.

IN 2022 OUR TOP 5 CONVERSATION THEMES WERE:

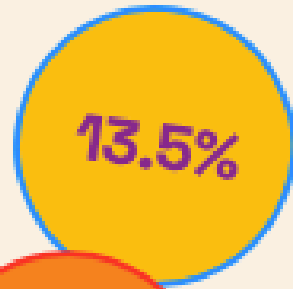
RELATIONSHIPS



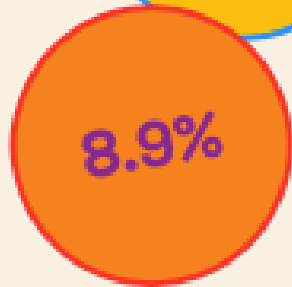
SEXUAL ORIENTATION



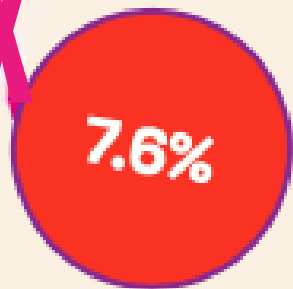
HEALTH

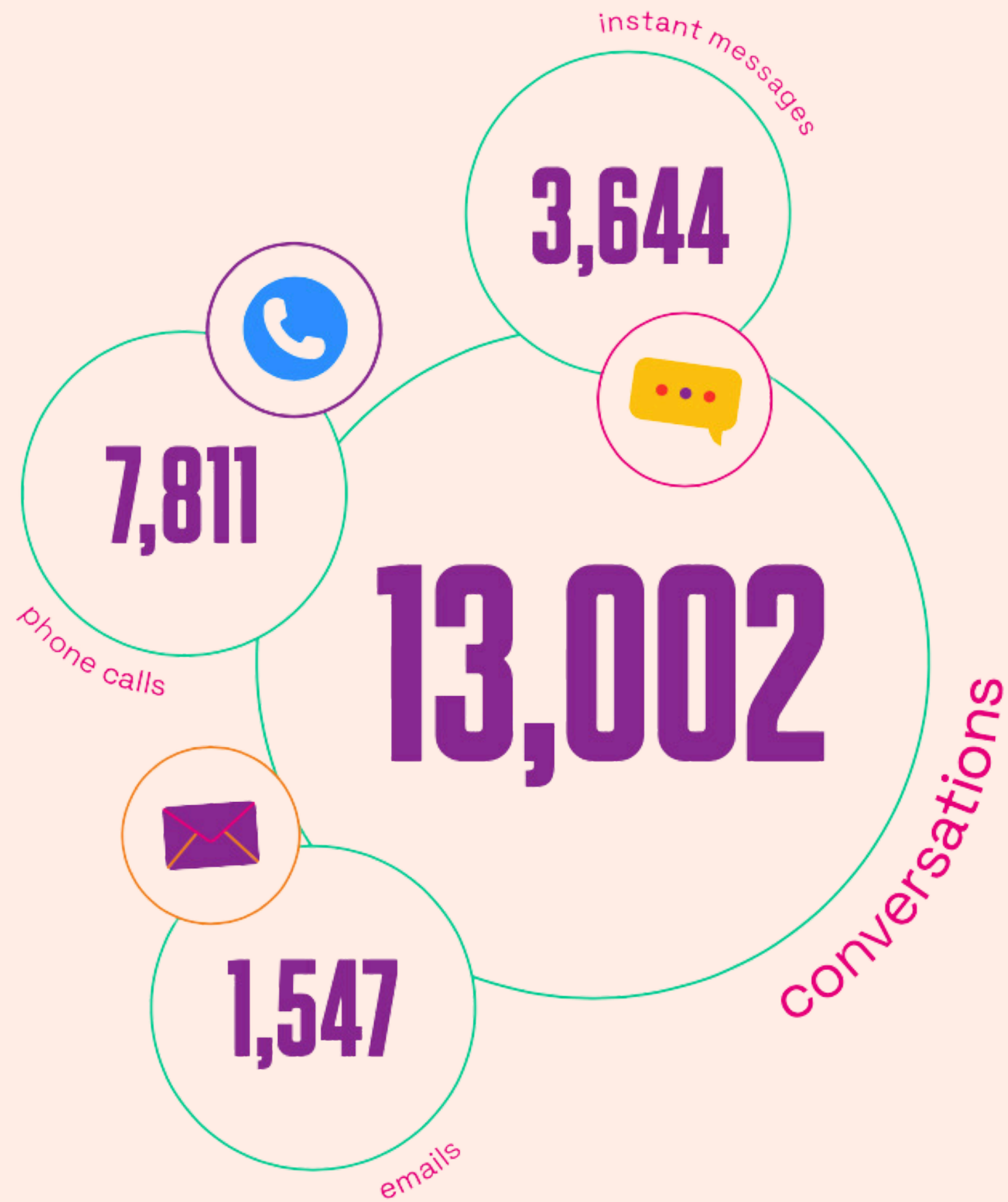


GENDER

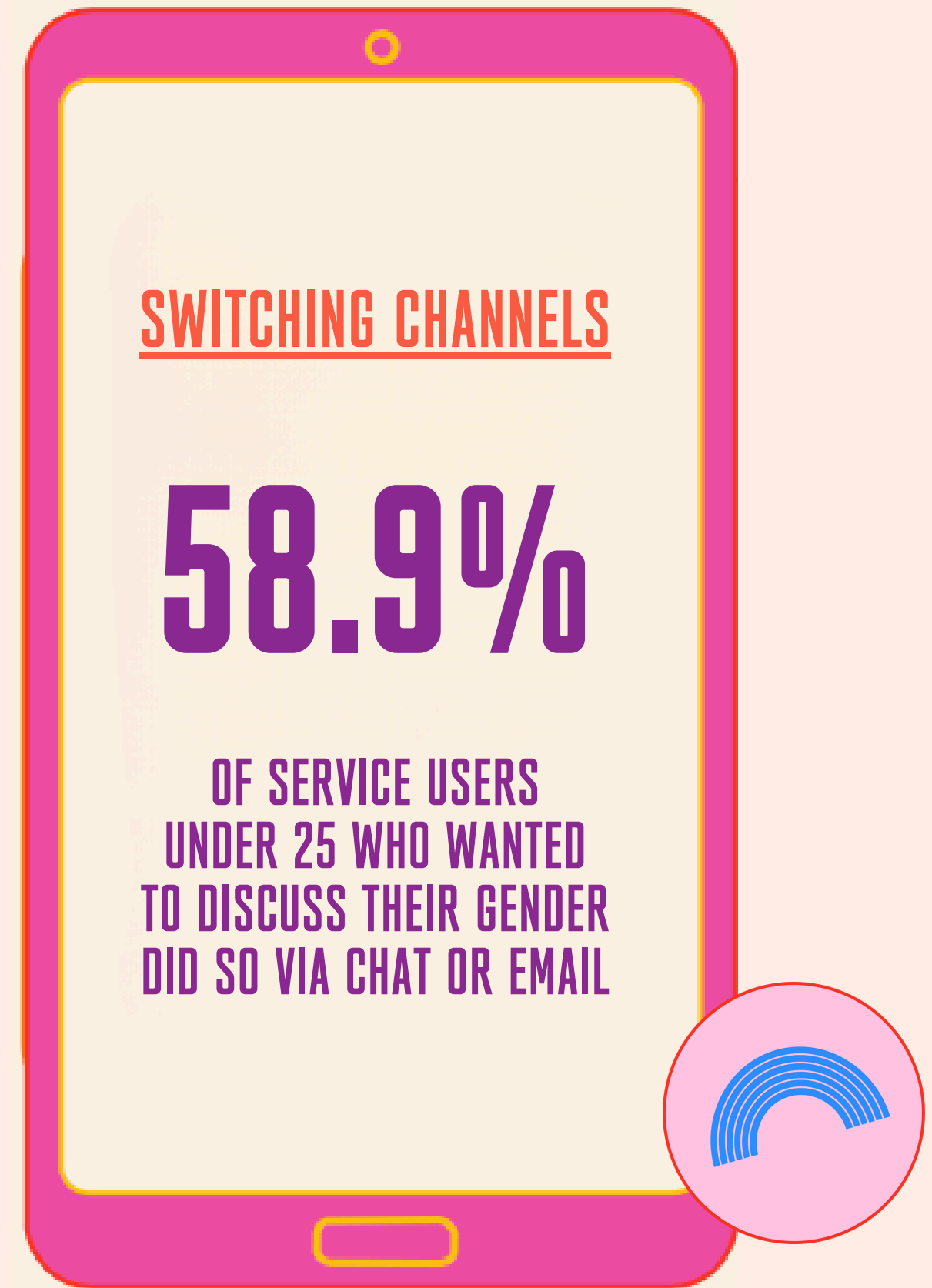
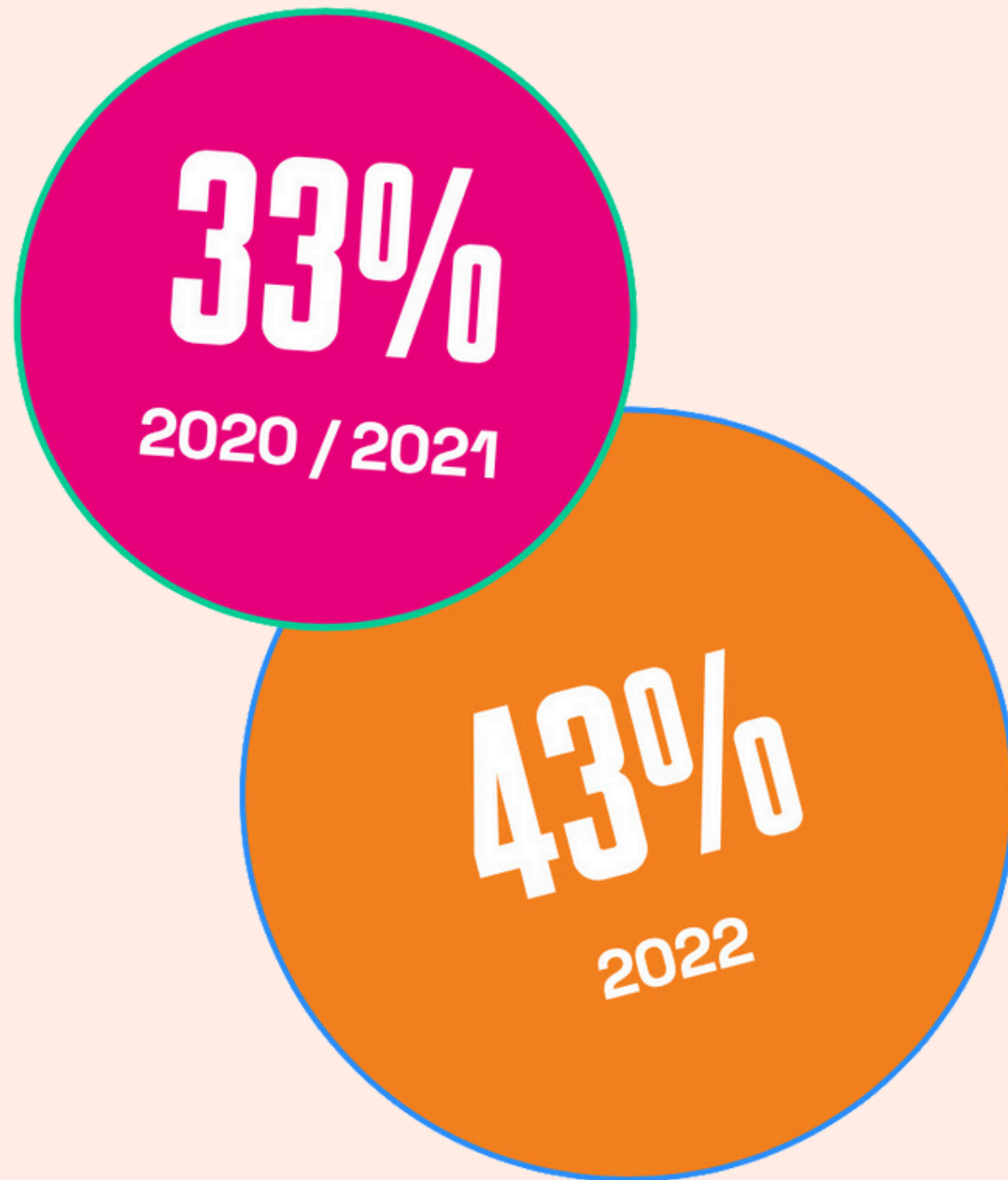


SEX





**SERVICE USERS WHO DO NOT IDENTIFY WITH
THE GENDER ASSIGNED TO THEM AT BIRTH:**



Trans rights are on the line,
our line is open for trans
service users across the UK.



Questioning, struggling,
or just looking to chat?

SWITCHBOARD
LGBTQIA+ Support Line

0800 0119 100
switchboard.lgbt



We can discuss anything
related to sexuality and
gender identity. Whether
it's sexual health,
relationships or just
the way you're feeling.
This is your space
- to explore, talk
and be truly heard.

**You talk.
We listen.**

**Ask.
Wonder.
Question.
Tell-all.**

We're here
for it all.

0800 0119 100
switchboard.lgbt

SWITCHBOARD
LGBTQIA+ Support Line

0800 0119 100
switchboard.lgbt

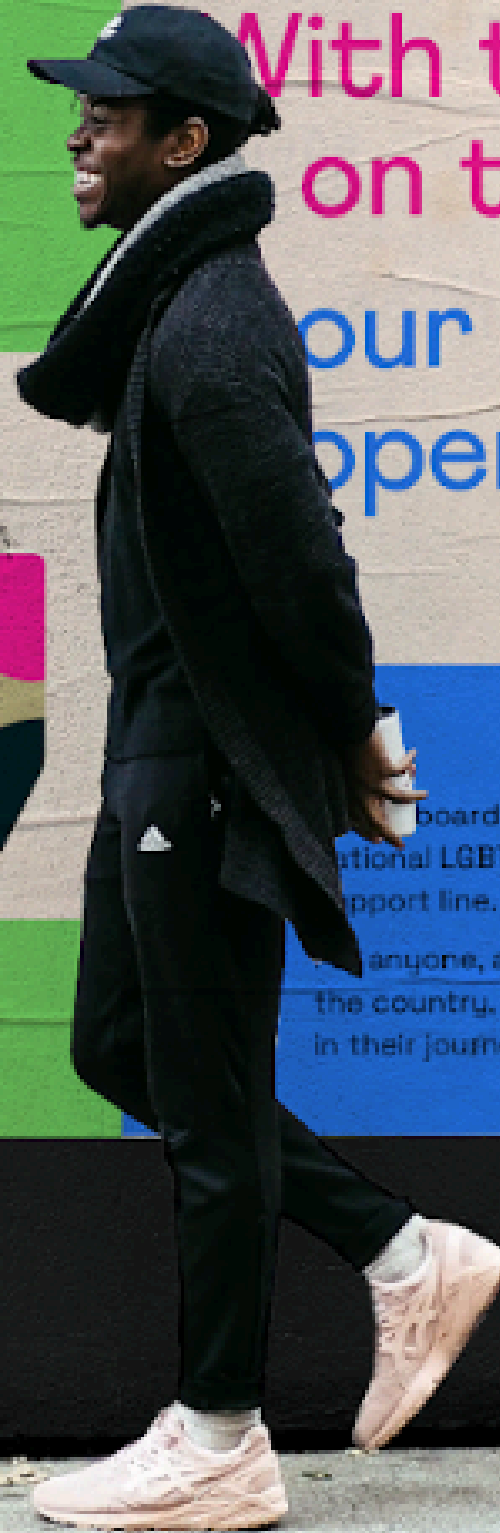
**With trans rights
on the line,
our line is
open for you.**


Switchboard is the
national LGBTQIA+
support line.

Open to
everyone, anywhere in
the country, at any point
in their journey.

SWITCHBOARD
LGBTQIA+ Support Line

**here
d an ear.**





”I first phoned in 1979. I was just turning 15 at that point and I was told about some of the groups supporting LGBTQIA+ people at that time. My life changed and I will be forever grateful.”

50 YEARS

 SWITCHBOARD 

LGBTQIA+ Support Line



0800 0119 100

switchboard.lgbt



hello@switchboard.lgbt

