

PLUS WORLD CAFÉ



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WHAT IS PLUS WORLD CAFÉ?

AN ONLINE AND
PHYSICAL SPACE
WHERE PEOPLE
CAN FIND
COMMUNITY AND
ACCESS
INFORMATION,
SUPPORT AND
MENTORING ON
LGBTQ+ ISSUES.



PROJECT CONCEPTION:

- The idea to create safer spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ community was first conceived in February 2022 during VOYCE (Values and Opinions of Young Communities in Europe).
- The goal of VOYCE is to put young people in the driver's seat and give them the necessary tools to make the changes they want in their societies.
- The young participants suggested topics that were important to us and areas where we wanted to make changes.
- We split into groups to address the topics we cared about most.

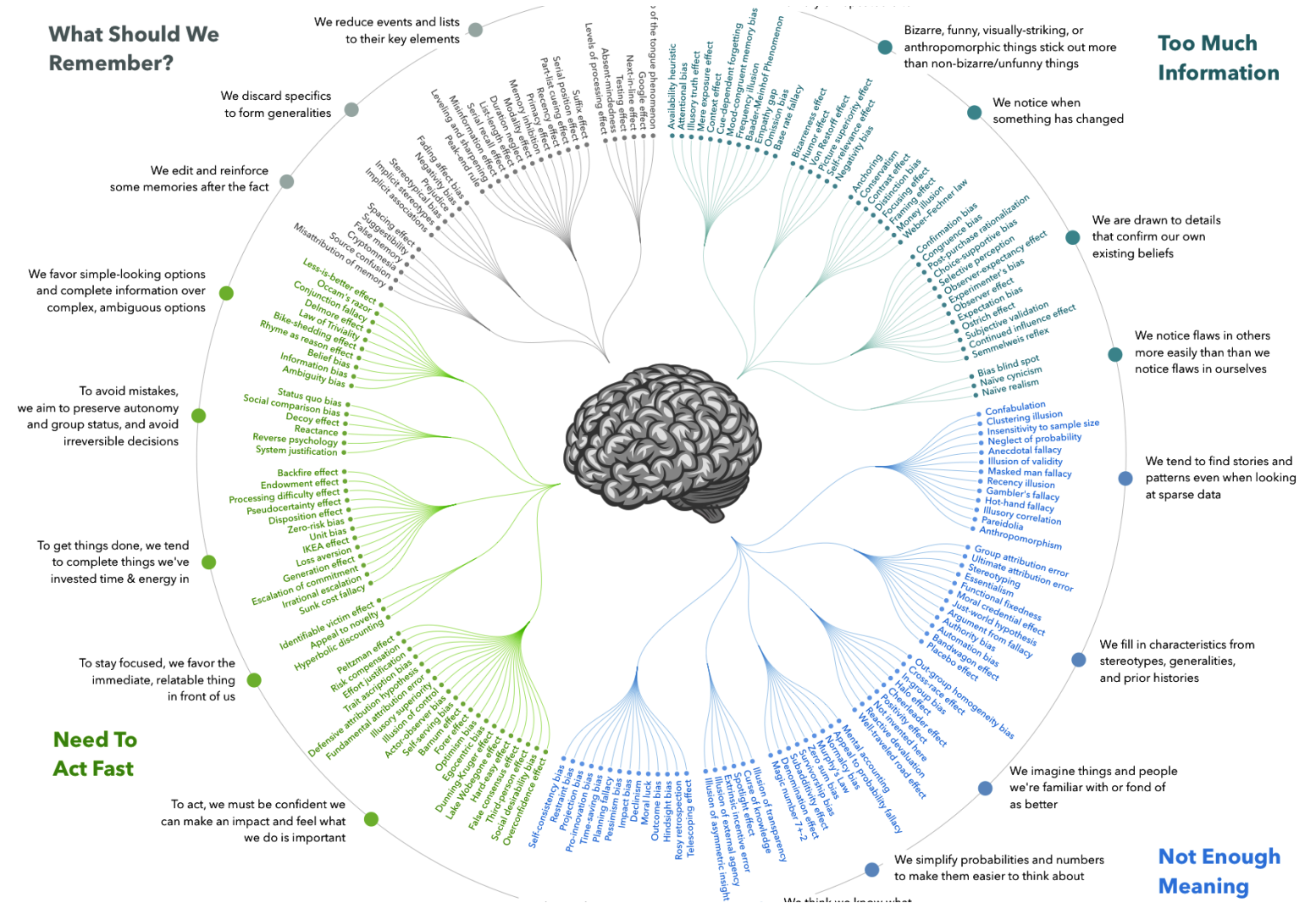


PROJECT CONCEPTION:

- We wanted to provide solutions to issues in the LGBTQ+ community.
- We recognised a common barrier that we experienced as members of the LGBTQ+ community was a lack of safe spaces where we could meet each other, hang out, and form a greater community.
- We began to brainstorm solutions to this problem.



METHODOLOGY



METHODOLOGY

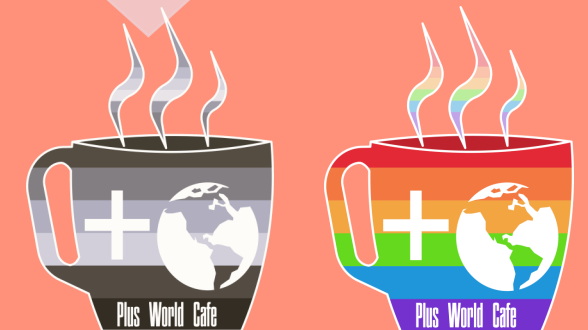
 Specific	 Measurable	 Attainable	 Realistic	 Time-bound
<p>Do: Set real numbers with real deadlines.</p> <p>Don't: Say, "I want more visitors."</p>	<p>Do: Make sure your goal is trackable.</p> <p>Don't: Hide behind buzzwords like, "brand engagement," or, "social influence."</p>	<p>Do: Work towards a goal that is challenging, but possible.</p> <p>Don't: Try to take over the world in one night.</p>	<p>Do: Be honest with yourself- you know what you and your team are capable of.</p> <p>Don't: Forget any hurdles you may have to overcome.</p>	<p>Do: Give yourself a deadline.</p> <p>Don't: Keep pushing towards a goal you might hit, "some day."</p>

 STRENGTHS	 WEAKNESSES	 OPPORTUNITIES	 THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Things your company does well• Qualities that separate you from your competitors• Internal resources such as skilled, knowledgeable staff• Tangible assets such as intellectual property, capital, proprietary technologies etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Things your company lacks• Things your competitors do better than you• Resource limitations• Unclear unique selling proposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Underserved markets for specific products• Few competitors in your area• Emerging need for your products or services• Press/media coverage of your company	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emerging competitors• Changing regulatory environment• Negative press/ media coverage• Changing customer attitudes toward your company
			

OUTCOMES:

It is necessary to have both an online space and a physical space to provide solutions on a local and international (European) level. This enables local members of the community to meet physically and allows people to connect internationally online, too.

It is suitable to have both a name and logo that provide discretion/anonymity. This means it is inclusive and can be used by members of the community who are not 'out' yet.





“The thought of having this lifeline in Oxford gave me hope. However, I soon realised that there were very few LGBTQ+ organisations here and that none of them could provide me with the meaningful support I needed.”

WHY HAVE A PHYSICAL SPACE IN OXFORD?

- One of the key issues identified was that Oxford is lacking a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community to spend time and socialise - especially one that does not involve drinking alcohol.
- Kit (pictured) is a member of the group and is transgender. He has struggled with the lack of a physical space to meet people from the LGBTQ+ community in Oxford.

THE ONLINE PLATFORM:

- We decided that an online platform should be developed so that people from the LGBTQ+ community could interact online as well as in person.
- The benefits of an online platform:
 - People who are not 'out' yet can meet other people from the community discretely.
 - It is a controlled environment with safety procedures in place. For example, you can report abusive members.
 - You can meet and talk to people from all over the world and form a sense of belonging to a much larger community than just your local one.



PHYSICAL SPACE: SMART GOALS

Specific: Aim to establish one physical place in Oxford that is a safe space for members of the LGBTQ+ community.



Measurable: Use surveys to assess the needs of the community. Dispense surveys before and after people start using the space to see if it is meeting their needs.



Achievable: Aim to get a minimum of 100 responses to our original survey and people to use the space once open.



Relevant: Relates to the 3rd and 10th UN sustainable development goals and needs addressed by young members of LGBTQ+ community.



Time bound: Different targets for different phases.

ONLINE SPACE: SMART GOALS

Specific: Aim to establish an online platform for members of the LGBTQ+ community.



Measurable: Use surveys to assess the needs of the community. Dispense surveys before and after people start using the platform to see if it is meeting their needs.



Achievable: Aim to get a minimum of 100 responses to our original survey and people using the platform when running.



Relevant: Relates to the 3rd and 10th UN sustainable development goals and needs addressed by young members of LGBTQ+ community.



Time bound: Different targets for different phases.

A UNITED EFFORT:



- Following on from VOYCE, we have kept in touch and have put our ideas into action.
- We have weekly meetings every Tuesday at 1pm (BST) with members from the UK, Ireland and Turkey (over Zoom).
- We even have some new members who have joined by word of mouth!



STEP 1:

MISSION, VISION, VALUES



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

Mission: Our mission is to create an LGBTQ+ space where people can be themselves, find community, and provide information, support and mentoring on LGBTQ+ issues.

Vision: An inclusive world free from discrimination towards the LGBTQ+ community, where LGBTQ+ people are connected and feel less alone, and where they have the skills to navigate a world that is often unfriendly to them.

Values: We want to be inclusive and accessible every step of the way, and to encourage inter-community networking, support and compassion. To us inclusion means being welcoming to everyone regardless of marginalisation. We also believe in providing information to those who aren't LGBTQ+ in order to help make the world more inclusive of LGBTQ+ people.

STEP 2:

NAME AND LOGO



"PLUS WORLD CAFÉ"

- We decided on the name "Plus World Café" for several reasons:
 1. Although this is a space for members of the LGBTQ+ community, it is for everyone to use – including LGBTQ allies. The main principle of Plus World Café is inclusion. Therefore, it is important to have "plus" (representative of everybody) and "world" to show it is not just a local or even national space but for everyone everywhere to use.
 2. "Café" is symbolic of a safe place where you meet friends and discussions take place.
 3. "Plus World Café" allows users to be discrete and as the name is not obviously linked to the LGBTQ+ community.
 4. We didn't want a name exclusively linked to the LGBTQ+ community as we thought it would deter non-LGBTQ+ community members from participating and using the space to create friendships.

THE LOGO



Non-discrete logo



Discrete logo

STEP 3:

NETWORKING, SURVEYS,
SOCIAL MEDIA &
FUNDRAISING



NEXT STEPS

- We have created a risk assessment to be filled out by members of the LGBTQ+ community. We are centering the needs of the people who will use the space most.
- We are creating social media platforms to generate a following and advertise Plus World Café. Through these, we will be able to receive feedback and share surveys and opinion polls to followers.
- We need to distribute surveys to potential users so we can make sure we are meeting the needs of the community.



NEXT STEPS

- In Oxford, we have arranged a meeting with our local MP to discuss the needs of the LGBTQ+ community and our plans to create a physical space/café.
- We need to raise money and begin a fundraising campaign which raises awareness of the need for Plus World Café.
- We plan for the online platform to be set up before the physical space in Oxford.



✦ ACTIVITY AND STORY TIME ✦



WHY DOES IT MATTER?

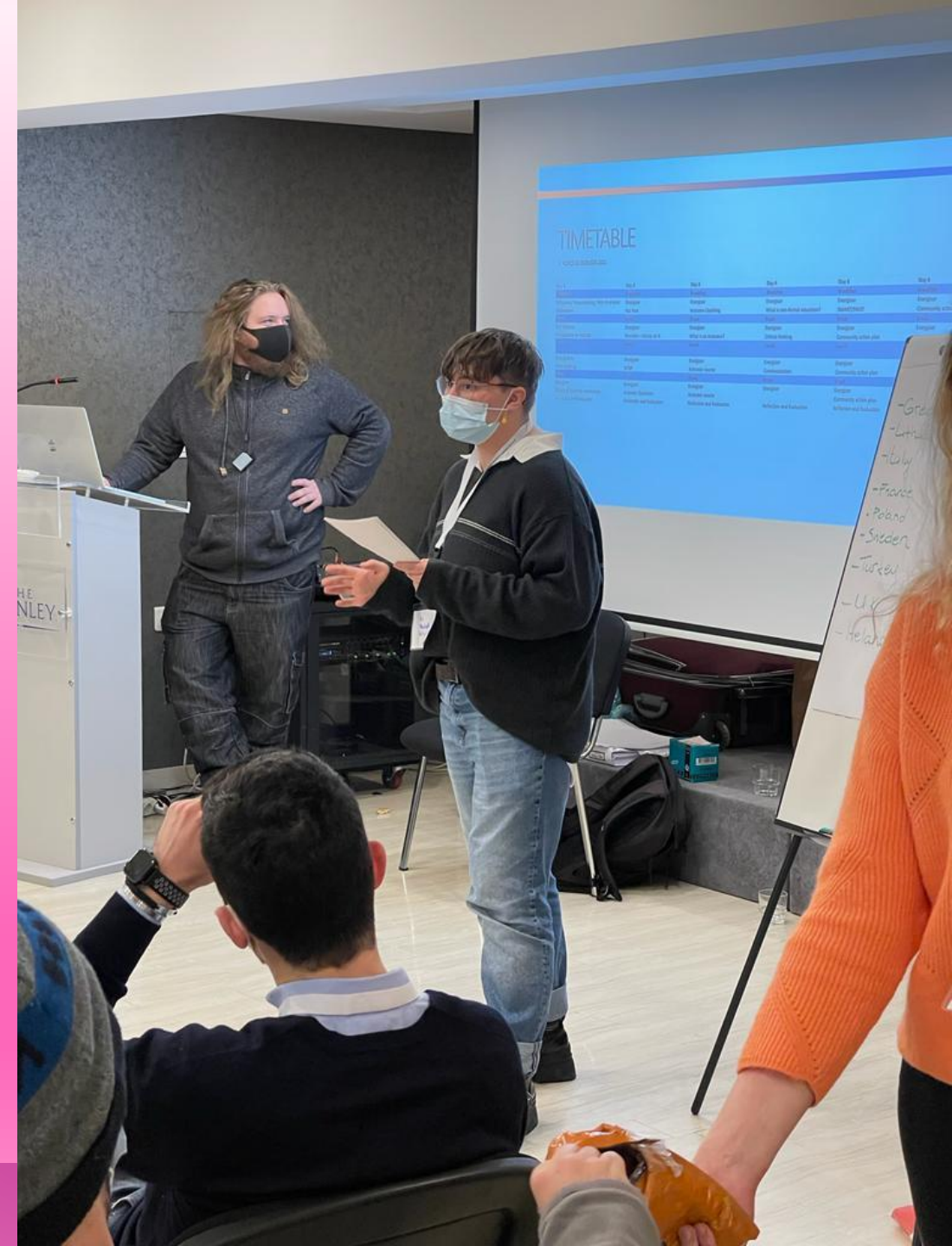
“Finding people who understand your struggles and who you can be yourself around should be easily accessible to everyone.” ~ Kit



Kit

KIT'S STORY

- Kit MacCrindle is a young trans person with disabilities from Oxford who discovered Ikkaido in 2021 when they joined our inclusive martial arts classes.
- In December 2020, Kit moved back to Oxford from university. He was struggling with severe mental illness and living with people who weren't understanding or respectful of his identity. He was very lonely.
- His therapist suggested he look for LGBTQ+ organisations or support groups to get involved with. However, Kit was unable to find any in Oxford.



KIT'S STORY

- Kit said: “Having a lack of shared community in Oxford was very hard for me, and still is. The UK is not a great place to be an LGBTQ+ person, especially if you’re a trans or non-binary person.”
- In the past six years in the UK, homophobic and transphobic hate crimes have risen by 210% and 332% respectively.
- Mental illness, homelessness and housing insecurity, addiction, waiting times for gender affirming healthcare, and difficulties accessing sexual healthcare are but a few of the other issues our community struggles with on a daily basis.



KIT'S STORY

- Kit said: “Although I have online friends who I can talk to about these issues, it doesn’t make up for meeting with people in person who understand what it’s like and who understand me. Not having that here in Oxford has often left me feeling very lonely and isolated.”
- Kit discovered that a lot of Oxford’s LGBTQ+ organisations have shut down or been disbanded, and of those that still exist, many members meet online instead of in person.
- Most of the people that are meeting in person meet in non-sober spaces, such as pubs.



KIT'S STORY

- There is a significant lack of any resources, LGBTQ+ specific safe spaces, or opportunities to communicate or connect with each other properly.
- None of what is currently available in Oxford provides any LGBTQ+ specific support services such as sexual healthcare, housing support, or mental health support. The LGBTQ+ community in Oxford is in dire need of resources like these.



Now Kit is working with other members of the VOYCE project from across Europe to create more spaces for the LGBTQ+ community in the form of Plus World Café.

PLUS WORLD CAFÉ

- We hope that by creating Plus World Café, no one will feel as lonely and isolated as Kit did.
- Kit said: "Finding your LGBTQ+ community can be incredibly powerful and healing, and I hope you get to experience this like I have."
- We hope that Plus World Café can be a space for everyone to make friends and find community, learn about each other and be respectful.
- The main ambition of Plus World Café is to be an inclusive space that everyone can be a part of, but especially members of the LGBTQ+ community who are lacking a safe space to connect with others.