

Fight BP's pink-washing

A briefing for LGBTQ rights campaigners

by No Pride In BP, Platform and People & Planet

Pinkwashing:

(n.) a public relations tactic, involving an appeal to LGBT-friendliness, in order to offset or 'wash' over other questionable practices

Is BP a queer-friendly company?

"proud to be a business where you can be yourself" - BP website

BP's real queer rights record: enables crackdown in Egypt

BP is the largest foreign investor in Egypt with a \$12bn gas deal, placing them as the largest contributor to the military regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Over the past two years El-Sisi's regime has become increasingly threatening to the lives of trans and queer Egyptians.

- In March 2015, [seven trans people were arrested](#) for 'debauchery', after police used fake dating profiles to lure them to a nightclub. Fake web pages had been created to entrap them. Over 150 trans Egyptians are known to have been jailed.
- The regime has instructed Egyptian [media to increase anti-gay coverage](#).



BP's real queer rights record: puts homophobes into US congress

BP and its employees donate a sizeable amount of money for US election campaigns. In the last two election cycles (2014 and 2016), the only two congressmen to remain in BP's top five donation recipients were:

John Culberson, Texas congressman. In 1993 Culberson signed onto a 'friend of the court' statement that "called homosexuality a psychiatric conditio

Destructive business



No Pride In BP protest BP sponsorship of National Student Pride

BP's pinkwashing aims to make the company acceptable to potential employees, business partners and customers.

BP runs Pride floats and LGBTQ recruitment events to position itself as a "responsible company". Meanwhile, it maintains homophobic and transphobic politicians, from congressman John Culberson to Egyptian dictator Abdel Fattah el Sisi in office.

BP's pinkwashing is a distraction from the company's core business model: continued drilling for oil that displaces indigenous people from their lands and pollutes waterways, and has communities across the Gulf of Mexico their livelihoods and health after the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

BP's pinkwashing strategy asks its audience to forget that BP's business plan depends on burning more fossil fuels than is possible within a "safe" two-degree global warming scenario.

BP's pinkwashing asks us to pretend that as long as BP runs an LGBT recruitment fair in London, it is OK to remove front-line communities from their homes in the quest for extraction and profit in other parts of the world.

BP uses a similar strategy by [branding arts and cultural institutions in London](#). This has sparked resistance, leading several institutions to [sever their ties with BP](#).

It's time for LGBTQ organisations and student groups to reject BP branding, too.

What you can do