

Call for Papers: Deadline 14th August 2026 (17:00 BST)

Wolfenden at 70: Legal, Historic and Social Legacies of the Wolfenden Report

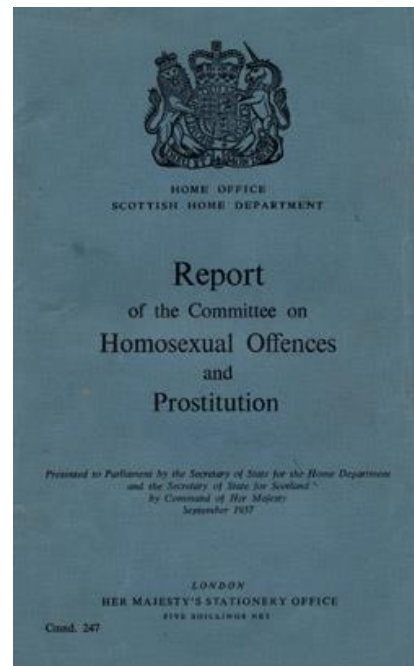
London, Friday 20th November 2026.

2026-2027 marks the 70th anniversary of the final year of work of the Departmental Committee on Homosexuality Offences and Prostitution which was published in the “Wolfenden Report” of 1957. To mark this upcoming anniversary, as well as the 60th anniversary of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 which the report would shape, London South Bank University is hosting a one-day conference exploring the legacies of the Wolfenden report and their relevancy to contemporary social debates and legal reform.

With generous support from the Society of Legal Scholars, this event will explore the contemporary significance of the Wolfenden Report and the legislative reforms which it influenced. The conference aims to take an interdisciplinary approach and welcomes submissions from a wide variety of disciplinary perspectives, including interdisciplinary legal analysis, as well as papers which take a cross-jurisdictional approach to consider the significance of the Wolfenden Report 70 years on.

Potential topics include, but are not limited to:

- “Permissive” legislation, the public/private distinction and modern-day debates on (de)criminalisation.
- Political and historic perspectives on the Wolfenden Report, subsequent legal reforms and contemporary legal issues.
- Cultural artifacts and representations of the Wolfenden Report, members of the committee and the reforms it shaped.
- Social attitudes and reactions to Wolfenden, subsequent reforms and related contemporary debates.
- Campaigning organisations’ responses to Wolfenden, subsequent social and political change and the voices heard and unheard in law reform.



Paper proposals should take the form of a written summary (max. 300 words) outlining the proposed paper. For further information, or to submit an abstract, email Wolfenden70@icloud.com. The deadline for submission of a proposal is **August 14th 2026**.

Submissions from postgraduate researchers and early career academics are particularly welcome. Funding to support travel to the conference will be available to presenters. The event will be free to attend.