



UKEDC Awards 2025 – Nominees and winners

UKEDC Inclusion Award: presented to a person or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to including equality dancers within the wider partner-dancing world in the UK

The Dance Lab – Winner

The Dance Lab team has established an inclusive space for all dancers. It has become a home for competitive and social equality dancers, who utilise the school for practice and advanced classes. With Charles as the regular DJ at their monthly social dances, increasing numbers of equality dancers are attending. The team leads by example, freely dancing with anyone, regardless of gender identity or sex.

Michael & Lorna Stylianios – Nominee

Michael and Lorna, leading promoters of major dance competitions, are nominated for their exceptional commitment to inclusivity. They have gone above and beyond to welcome equality dancers at their international Majestic Dance Tournament in Brighton. The event includes dedicated, graded competitions for same-sex couples in both Ballroom and Latin, giving them the chance to perform alongside "mainstream" dancers on a prestigious stage.

Viktoriya Wilton – Nominee

Viktoriya is a passionate champion of equality dancing, and her efforts are truly deserving of recognition. She has worked tirelessly to include and promote a dedicated equality category at the prestigious London Gala Ball. Furthermore, she has transformed Inspiration2Dance at The Dilly into a wonderfully welcoming space where equality dancers can learn and perfect their craft. Her dedication has created a thriving and inclusive environment for the entire community.



UKEDC Community Development Award: presented to a person or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to strengthening and/or expanding the equality dancing community in the UK

Cheek2Cheek Brighton – Winner

For over 20 years, Cheek2Cheek has been a cornerstone of equality dancing in Brighton. The club has quietly taught students of all gender identities and sexualities, with some even going on to compete nationally. As the only dance club in the area specifically catering to same-gender partnerships, Cheek2Cheek has long provided a crucial and welcoming space for the LGBTQ+ community to dance with partners of their choice.

Queer Tango Birmingham - Nominee

Queer Tango Birmingham launched in 2024 to create a safe, supportive space for queer and new dancers in the city. Filling a significant gap, the group has flourished this year, hosting its first professional workshop weekend. They are also actively building connections and looking to collaborate with other emerging West Midlands dance groups, proving their dedication to strengthening the local dance community.

Queer Tango Bristol - Nominee

Queer Tango Bristol was established to provide a safe space for queer people to engage, connect, and learn a new dance form. The group has worked tirelessly to keep its events running, providing opportunities for both experienced dancers and newcomers to learn tango in a supportive and inclusive environment. They have gone from strength to strength, and have made an important contribution to the local community.

The Ballroom Barn - Nominee

The Ballroom Barn is nominated for creating a vibrant, beautiful, and welcoming space for the equality dance community. The venue has quickly delivered on its vision, providing new dance opportunities and drawing in dancers from both the local area and beyond. Through regular events and workshops, it has fostered understanding and acceptance of equality dancing, successfully strengthening and widening the community.

Norma Daykin - Nominee

Norma's work building Bristol Equality Dance has been hugely successful - with regular classes, brilliant socials and even performances at Bristol Pride. Her enthusiasm and encouragement help make BED spaces inclusive and friendly, and her equality weekends draw dancers from across the UK. Norma also gives time and expertise to the UKEDC Committee. Norma's incredible dedication to the equality dance community deserves to be celebrated!

Queer Salsa LDN - Nominee

Queer Salsa LDN is a vibrant collective reshaping London's salsa scene into something brilliantly inclusive. Since launching, they've created open-access events rooted in joy, representation, and gender freedom. By teaching both leading and following, each dancer—regardless of gender identity—gains both skills and self-expression, directly challenging rigid, heteronormative dance roles. Their workshops welcome LGBTQ+ communities and allies alike, forging a supportive space that acknowledges intersectionality, visibility, and empowerment. Queer Salsa LDN also collaborates with local queer venues, amplifying queer culture and forging lasting networks. This nomination resonates with the UK Equality Dance Council's criteria by celebrating inclusivity, innovation, community impact, and representation, all while fostering queer empowerment through shared artistry.

**Sanura Dance - Nominee**

Building a Feminist, Queer Dance Floor. Sanura Dance has grown into a consolidated queer dance school offering year-round Salsa and Bachata courses, monthly drop-in Salsa classes with socials, and biweekly Bachata drop-ins—right in the heart of Soho. Founded in 2023, it creates a powerful, joyful space for FLINTA and LGBTQ+ communities to learn, connect, and lead. Every dancer learns to both lead and follow, breaking down gendered expectations and fostering skill-sharing and solidarity. Sanura Dance envisions a world with a feminist dance floor—where barriers are dismantled, confidence blooms, and empowerment happens through movement. Its inclusive, community-led model aligns with the UK Equality Dance Council's criteria for accessibility, innovation, representation, and lasting community impact. This is more than dance—it's a movement for joy, equity, and belonging.

Nigel Bradshaw - Nominee

Nigel has made an important but relatively unacknowledged contribution to equality dancing. He has taught regularly on dance weeks in the UK, where his fun style of teaching and his awareness of inclusion and LGBTQ+ issues is much appreciated. He has gone out of his way to help develop the community, for example, travelling to support equality events, including appearing on the stage with the Bristol Equality Dance group at Bristol Pride, 2024.

Louise Sampson - Nominee

Louise has been a regular supporter of the equality dance community as a teacher and judge. She, with Norma Daykin, set up the Women's Dance Weekend on Torquay in 2024, which is a valuable asset for the community and for women who enjoy dancing and socialising with women.

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Em Spoor and Chloe Rogers - Nominee

Em & Chloe have made a great contribution to strengthening and expanding the equality dancing community by organising the Big Brum Boogaloo, encouraging and promoting equality dancing in Birmingham.

Mariusz Stankiewicz - Nominee

Mariusz has for many years been teaching equality dancing classes in London with an exceptional level of quality, creating space for new and existing members of the community to learn, have fun and progress to competing if they so wish. His passion for dancing and teaching shine bright at his classes, with a unique sense of humour that puts people at ease and encourages people to keep coming back and do their best on the dance floor.



UKEDC Champion Award - presented to an individual or organisation who has made a significant, but potentially unacknowledged, contribution to the equality dance community in the UK.

Tim Regan - Winner

Tim is a true equality champion, nominated for his invaluable contribution to the community. In 2025, he launched Queer Dance Connect, a global directory that has quickly become the definitive source for LGBTQ+ dance information. By providing a platform for dancers to find partners, events, and classes, Tim's initiative has strengthened the community both socially and competitively. It has not only filled a clear need but also successfully raised the overall profile of equality dancing.

Jo Hunt - Nominee

Jo is a long-standing member of the UKEDC committee and has made a significant voluntary contribution to the equality dance community. She was instrumental in improving the UKEDC's communications and publicity. With her wife Lou, she has also helped to set up and run the UKEDC Ball and Awards ceremony, as well as organising many local equality dance events in Brighton. Her dedication has made a considerable impact on the equality dance scene.

Don Wheeler - Nominee

Don has dedicated considerable time and effort to organising "Hosted Housing" for international competitors at the Pink Jukebox Trophy. For many years, his voluntary work has not only ensured accommodation for overseas dancers but has also fostered lasting friendships across the global equality dance community. These connections have led to reciprocal arrangements at international competitions, strengthening the bonds and spirit of cooperation amongst dancers worldwide.

Lori Pearce-Altendorff - Nominee

Lori is a valued contributor to the equality dancing community, serving as a long-time competitor and a crucial supporter behind the scenes. As a member of the UKEDC Committee and the EEDA Competition Rules Working Group, her thoughtful and analytical approach has provided wise counsel and helped navigate difficult situations. She has also been a strong advocate for dancers, offering robust and constructive challenges on key issues. Furthermore, Lori was instrumental in initiating the UKEDC awards. Her commitment and willingness to speak up have added significant value to the community.

Tony Bird, Phil Marsden, Jon Shilton, and Russ Owen - Nominee

For many years, Tony, Phil, Jon and Russ have organised a group of equality dancers to rehearse and take part in the annual London Pride march, which increases the visibility of equality dancing in the UK and provides another opportunity for equality dancers to build their community. Phil has built a trolley, together with a sound system, to provide the music during the parade. Every year, he reassembles the equipment and pulls it by hand from his home to the parade and back. Tony manages the group registration, distributes participant wristbands, and deals with on the day logistics and assembly. Jon and Russ adapt line dances so they are suitable for the parade, and run practice sessions in the run up to the day.

Dan Lyons - Nominee

Dan often welcomes newcomers at social events and tries to break the ice. He has often volunteered at some big events e.g. Pink Jukebox Trophy competition, including hosting competitors from abroad, making "behind the scenes" contributions to the community.