## The Familymakers Show

10th May 2025 Hilton Brighton Met<u>ropole</u>

Everything you need to know about LGBTQIA+ fertility

DIVA

London Womens Clinic

Kind iVF

London Sperm Bank



YOU DO YOU



### London Womens Clinic

In the mid 1990s, London Women's Clinic became the first clinic in the UK to offer donor insemination to lesbian couples, flying against both popular opinion and the widespread interpretation of the law at that time. In 2007, we launched our groundbreaking Inseminar events, creating easy access to crucial LGBTQIA+ fertility information for the first time.

Now, in 2025, we're very proud to be gathering together the highest quality information on LCBTQIA+ familymaking, presented by the most respected experts in the field, with The Familymakers Show.

The landscape of LGBTQIA+ fertility care has shifted drastically in the last 40 years, and information is now readily available online. However, as the Medical Director of London Women's Clinic, and a Fertility Patient Advocate with decades of experience, we know that locating trustworthy sources of advice, true expert insight, and real stories from the community can still be very challenging.

So, we are delighted to offer a line-up of leading voices: the author of the UK's largest ever study on intrauterine insemination, a legal academic who not only researches but helped draft the UK's current surrogacy laws, prominent clinicians with nearly a century of combined experience, and, most importantly, a range of brilliant LCBTQIA+ parents here to share their stories.

Welcome!



Professor Nick Macklon London Women's Clinic Medical Director



**Councillor Anya Sizer** Fertility Patient Advocate

## DIVA Welcome to The Familymakers Show

For more than 30 years, **DIVA** has been telling stories by and for LCBTQIA+ women and non-binary people in the UK and around the world. Family has always been at the heart of our storytelling because for so many in our community, the fight to have and raise children has been at the heart of our path through life.

Today, **DIVA** continues to push for a world where LGBTQIA+ people have equal rights and equal access to care and services as we grow our families. **DIVA** is a member of the Fertility Justice Now campaign, which calls for better access to information, more inclusive services, and equal rights to fertility care. We are also working with London Women's Clinic to deliver a manifesto on IVF that genuinely meets the needs of our communities.

That's why we are proud to be part of The Familymakers Show. London Women's Clinic has a long history of providing services to our communities, from the early days of opening their doors to LCBTQIA+ women over 40 years ago, to today, when they are a pioneering provider of treatments like Shared Motherhood.

Together, we know that everyone attending The Familymakers Show comes full of hopes, fears and most of all questions about building a family.

We hope that every single one of you will leave with some of those questions answered, with connections that help you on your journey, and with a clearer sense of what will work best for you.



Nancy Kelley DIVA Executive Direct Nancy is a multi-award winning civil society leader and human rights campaigner. She joined DIVA in 2023, and in 2024 took on the role of Executive Director, leading the groundbreaking media organisation through the process of becoming a charity. Prior to this, Nancy was CEO of Stonewall and held a number of senior roles in national charities, campaigning for a more just and equitable society. She is a Director of Trans Solidarity Alliance and a Trustee of the Bishopsgate Institute. Nancy is passionate about building a world where we are all able to live free and equal.

## **Event Overview**

#### 09:00 Doors open

09:45	Welcome & Keynote Address
10:00-10:45	Inseminar: Donor Sperm without IVF
II:00-II:45	<b>Finding Your Donor Match:</b> London Sperm Bank's approach
12:00	Refreshment break
12:30-13:15	<b>Egg Freezing Explained:</b> Preserving your fertility for the future
3:30- 4: 5	<b>IVF that's Kind to You and Your Pocket:</b> Affordable, high-success fertility with Kind iVF
14:30	Refreshment break
15:00-15:45	<b>Her Bun in My Oven:</b> Shared biological parenthood through Reciprocal IVF
16:00-16:45	<b>Surrogacy 101:</b> Personal journeys, clinical insights & legal know-how
17:00	Show closes

#### 9:45 - 10:00

## Welcome Talks

10:00 - 10:45

## Inseminar

Donor sperm without IVF



**Professor Nick Macklon** London Women's Clinic Medical Director

Professor Nick Macklon has been Group Medical Director for London Women's Clinic, London Sperm Bank and London Egg Bank since 2017.

Professor Macklon is an internationally recognised gynaecologist and leader in reproductive medicine, and has held Professorship and Departmental Head positions at the Universities of Utrecht in the Netherlands, Southampton, UK and Copenhagen in Denmark, as well as a visiting Professorship in Adelaide, Australia. He has published many scientific papers and books and is regularly invited to lecture in the UK and abroad. Professor Macklon is Co-Chief Editor of one of the leading scientific journals in reproductive medicine, Reproductive Biomedicine Online. In addition to his commitment to providing exceptional patient care, he has a deep passion for classical music.



#### **Anya Sizer** Fertility Advocate

Anya is a passionate advocate for fertility, a board member for the HFEA, and former Patient Care Lead at London Women's Clinic, and a fertility coach, with nearly two decades of experience in the sector.

As a local councillor and champion for multiple civil society organisations, she regularly speaks on IVF justice in Parliament and for national media.

#### How can donor insemination help you make your family?

Hear real stories about intra-uterine insemination (IUI), alongside a step-bystep breakdown of the process, and expert insights for LGBTQIA+ parents.

Donor insemination is an easy, affordable, and less invasive fertility treatment, with almost 30,000 babies born since 1991.

Our talk is led by Elena Linara-Demakakou, author of the largest UK study into IUI treatment and expert in the field, and Hannah Stobbart, a senior fertility nurse who carries out IUI procedures daily and is great at supporting patients.

Elena Linara-Demakakou

#### **SPEAKERS**



#### Lab Manager and Quality Lead Elena is the Head of Embryology at London Women's Clinic, with 18 years of experience in reproductive medicine. She is the author of the UK's biggest-ever study on IUI, a Diplomate of the Royal College of Pathologists, and a member of ARCS and ESHRE.



#### Hannah Stobbart Senior Fertility Nurse

Hannah is a Senior Fertility Nurse at London Women's Clinic. She performs donor insemination on a daily basis, with 10 years of nursing experience and a passion for inclusive care for LGBTQIA+ patients.

11:00 - 11:45

## Finding Your Donor Match

London Sperm Bank's Approach

12:30 - 13:15

# Egg Freezing Explained

Preserving Your Fertility for the Future

#### How do you find the right sperm donor?

This talk outlines London Sperm Bank's rigorous and inclusive approach, and explains how our selection process foregrounds the needs of LGBTQIA+ couples and individuals.

#### **SPEAKERS**



#### Hayley King Fertility Advocate

Hayley King is an advocate and educator for donorconceived families and the Head of Operations at Paths to Parenthub, an online support platform for parents building their families through donor conception. As a donor-conceived adult and mum of twins in an LGBTQIA+ family, she brings a unique and balanced perspective to the complexities of donor conception. Through her work, Hayley provides information, resources, and a supportive community for all those navigating this journey.



### Nicole Nel

Director of Operations (London Women's Clinic South)

After many years at the helm of London Sperm Bank, Nicole is now Director of Operations (London Women's Clinic South). She is committed to providing high-quality donors and adhering to strict regulatory standards, and is passionate about enhancing donor services on the South Coast.

#### How can you keep your reproductive options open?

This session offers a clear look at egg freezing, and how it can be a gamechanger for many LGBTQIA+ people. Egg freezing is the UK's fastest growing fertility treatment, and can fit into a wide range of family-building pathways, on the timeline that works for you.

#### SPEAKERS



#### Dr Barbara Manukian Consultant

Dr Manukian is a consultant at London Women's Clinic Harley Street, and is widely recognised for her commitment and passion for supporting LGBTQIA+ individuals in their family-making journeys. She has a Master's degree from LSE, with a research focus on egg freezing in the LGBTQIA+ community.

**Egle Kancleryte** Head of the London Women's Clinic Elective Egg Freezing Programme

Egle is Head of the London Women's Clinic Elective Egg Freezing Programme, the only dedicated eggfreezing clinical unit in the UK. She has a strong interest in reproductive rights, equality, and the fascinating world of science, and prioritises exceptional care, informed decision-making, and expert-led, personalised treatment.

#### 13:30 - 14:15

### IVF that's Kind to You and Your Pocket

Affordable, High-Success Fertility with Kind iVF

## Her Bun in My Oven

Shared Biological Parenthood through Reciprocal IVF

## Kind iVF offers affordable treatment with outstanding success rates up to 20% above national average.

This session explains how Kind iVF works, and why it's becoming a key option for many couples and individuals, including those looking to use a sperm donor.

#### **SPEAKERS**



#### Jemma Garratt Data Scientist

Jemma is the Data and Insights Analyst at Kind iVF and London Women's Clinic. She has a Master's degree in clinical embryology from the University of Oxford, and is a candidate for a PhD at the University of Kent. She is a key voice in the field of optimising live birth rates in fertility treatment, and analyses large clinical datasets to improve IVF protocols and clinical care.



#### **Diane Casha** Director of Clinical Services for Bromley and Canterbury

Diane is the Director of Clinical Services for Bromley and Canterbury, encompassing Kind iVF and London Women's Clinic. She has over three decades of nursing and midwifery experience, and, with a longstanding passion for increasing access to affordable treatment, was instrumental in the development of Kind iVF. London Women's Clinic pioneered the practice of 'shared motherhood', used primarily by same-sex female couples.

By having one partner provide the egg, and having the other partner carry the pregnancy, both parents share a biological bond with the child. This session will contain information on how the process works, stories from couples who've experienced it themselves, and insights from key researchers in the field.

#### SPEAKERS

15:00 - 15:45



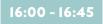
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Anya is a passionate advocate for fertility, a board member for the HFEA, and former Patient Care Lead at London Women's Clinic, and a fertility coach, with nearly two decades of experience in the sector. As a local councillor and champion for multiple civil society organisations, she regularly speaks on IVF justice in Parliament and for national media.



# Surrogacy 101

Personal Journeys, Clinical Insights & Legal Know-How

## Surrogacy can feel like a complicated process, but it doesn't have to be daunting or cloaked in mystery.

In this session, personal experience, clinical insights, and legal expertise from leaders in each field meet to clearly sketch out the process. You'll also hear a clear comparison of UK-based surrogacy with overseas treatment, with an outline of the oversight, transparency, and long-term experience found at London Women's Clinic.



#### Mimi Arian-Schad London Women's Clinic Director of Nursing

Mimi is London Women's Clinic's Director of Nursing. Trained at Guy's Hospital, and with over 20 years at the clinic, she spearheaded the London Women's Clinic surrogacy programme, and is qualified as an operating theatre and fertility nurse specialist.



#### Dr. Priti Jain Maheshwari London Egg Bank Consultant

Dr Maheshwari is a London Egg Bank consultant in reproductive medicine with over a decade of experience. She has acquired extensive experience in all aspects of fertility services, including ovarian stimulation for IVF/ICSI using own gametes or donor gametes, fertility preservation, egg donation and pre-implantation genetic testing.



#### **Professor Kirstey Horsey** Leading Legal Academic

Professor Horsey is a leading legal academic with a focus on laws regarding surrogacy. She has worked with multiple organisations to facilitate and encourage legal reform, has been involved in the drafting of national surrogacy legislation, and has further legal interests across the fields of fertility and legal parenthood.



## London Womens Clinic



## its your journey

Established in 1985, London Women's Clinic has pioneered many techniques and fertility treatments, such as reciprocal IVF, which are routine today, and was the first clinic in the UK to offer donor insemination to same-sex couples.

With its long-standing commitment to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community, the clinic offers inclusive fertility services tailored to the unique needs of same-sex couples and individuals. Since its inception, the clinic has been dedicated to providing compassionate care in a supportive, patient-centred environment.

londonwomensclinic.com | @londonwomensclinic



# The UK's only dedicated egg bank

London Egg Bank are pioneers in egg donation and are part of an established and successful fertility clinic. With over 30 years' experience, access to leading experts and state-of-the-art laboratories, they provide industry-leading results.



londoneggbank.com @londoneggbank

# **Kind iVF**



We believe parenthood should be possible for everyone. Kind iVF is brought to you by London Women's Clinic, and developed by world-class fertility experts. We're here to make consultant-led fertility care accessible at a more affordable price.

#### kindivf.com | @kindivfofficial

## London Sperm Bank

London Sperm Bank is the UK's leading provider of donor sperm, offering a diverse range of high-quality samples to ensure optimal success rates. With a focus on quality, safety, and ethical practices, they're here to guide you through every step of your journey.

londonspermbank.com | @london\_spermbank

# The UK's leading provider of donor sperm



Freeze now. Live today. Try later.

Egg freezing provides a unique opportunity to prolong your current fertility and enhance your options if you choose to start a family in the future. Over the past decade, egg freezing has become a more popular and reliable treatment option and has reached a stage where success rates for fertility treatment using frozen eggs are comparable with those using fresh eggs.



londonwomensclinic.com/egg-freezing @lwceggfreezing



DIVA Media Group is the world's leading entertainment group for LGBTQIA+ women and non-binary people. As well as publishing DIVA magazine, DMG is also the force behind Lesbian Visibility Week, DIVA Awards and the DIVA Power List.

First published in 1994, DIVA is the world's best-selling magazine for LGBTQIA+ women, spotlighting all that is fresh, funny, exciting, controversial and cutting-edge in our community.

DIVA brings you the latest in lesbian and bi-related celebrity interviews, news, politics, pop culture, style, travel, social issues, health and wellbeing, entertainment and more.

We tackle the tough topics, like racism in the LGBTQIA+ community, mental health and the challenges facing queer youth, and also profile inspirational women who are making a difference to the lives of lesbian, bi and trans women.

DIVA Media Group offers a range of platforms, delivering content relevant to the interests of LGBTQIA+ women through print, digital, mobile and social.

diva-magazine.com | @divamagazine



THE FERTILITY

ACCESS FERTILITY

### Nappy Endings

Nappy Endings are a surrogacy and fertility support agency, who through their own personal journeys want to share their experience with others and help in any way they can. Among their services include matching intended parents to their surrogates and offering 24-hour support through your whole journey.

nappyendings.com @rachelwestburynappyendings

### The Fertility Alliance

The Fertility Alliance is a national fertility charity offering support and information for anyone who wants to know more about their fertility. They offer individual one-to-one support, and run regular fertility groups to encourage connection and community building for those with shared experiences.

thefertilityalliance.org.uk @fertilityalliance

### **Access Fertility**

Access Fertility helps to take the financial uncertainty out of IVF by offering fixed price treatment with a money-back guarantee. Offering multiple cycles means they can provide our treatment programmes at a significantly lower cost compared to standard pay-as-you-go IVF options.

www.accessfertility.com @accessfertility



### Paths to Parenthub

Whether you are at the very beginning of your journey, or now parenting via donor conception, Paths to Parenthub offers support, information, friendship, and a sense of community to all of its members.

pathstoparenthub.com @paths\_to\_parenthub

### **Donor Conception Network**

The Donor Conception Network (DCN) is a nonprofit organisation that supports individuals and families who are building their families through donor conception. Since 1993 they have helped thousands of people, hosted hundreds of in-person and online events and published over 50 books.

www.dcnetwork.org @d\_c\_network

# Support for LGBTQIA+ Patients

LGBTQIA+ parenthood has evolved significantly, with growing visibility and inclusivity in family-building options.

From early barriers to modern advancements, the journey reflects progress in fertility treatments, adoption, and legal rights. Community voices are essential in this narrative. sharing inspiring stories of love, resilience, and diverse family structures. By amplifying these experiences, we celebrate the beauty of LGBTQIA+ parenthood while continuing to advocate for equal rights and broader acceptance, ensuring every family has the opportunity to thrive. DIVA and London Women's Clinic strive to ensure equal access for all when it comes to starting their family.

# **Raising Tomorrow**

# Why London Women's Clinic is now the UK's leading centre for LGBTQIA+ fertility treatment

'Raising Tomorrow', our feature in this year's Familymakers Show, is not about the past but about what we can do for the LCBTQIA+ community today, as they look ahead to their own family formations. What we see today - and tomorrow - is a range of treatments which were unimaginable 40 years ago, when we first opened our doors to fertility treatment for LCBTQIA+ patients. Over the decades, scientific developments have advanced hand-in-hand with regulatory changes, legal updates and social attitudes to make fertility and parenthood far more available and accessible to all. London Women's Clinic has been at the heart of all of these positive changes.

Our sessions at The Familymakers Show will give an overview of the treatments available to LOBTQIA+ patients, exploring the patient journey and setting out the expected levels of success.

Some of those treatments have been championed by London Women's Clinic, including egg and sperm donation and egg freezing, where our work has been reported in scientific studies unmatched by any other UK clinic. London Sperm Bank and London Egg Bank now provide the UK's premier source of domestically available gametes, and their development has been instrumental in expanding access to treatments for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Many same-sex female couples choose IVF as a means of 'shared biological parenthood', a technique pioneered by London Women's Clinic in which one partner provides the egg and the other carries the pregnancy. As our network of clinics grows alongside the treatments we offer, pathways to parenthood for LCBTQIA+ people are growing - opening up new opportunities for the future.

More recently we introduced the UK's most affordable IVF programme, Kind iVF, which has enabled greater access to this cornerstone of fertility treatment. Our South Coast clinics are also approved to deliver NHS-funded treatment meaning patients with secured NHS funding can come to us to complete their families.

At a recent specialist medical meeting, our group medical director, Professor Nick Macklon, described London Women's Clinic as 'the leading fertility centre for the LGBTQIA+ community in Britain'. The treatments and brands we present here are living evidence of that position. Fertility treatment for the LGBTQIA+ community has been a key part of London Women's Clinic's mission throughout our 40-year history.

## London Womens Clinic with locations across the UK

- London Women's Clinic Harley Street II3-II5 Harley St, London WIG 6AP
- 2 London Women's Clinic London Bridge I St Thomas St, London SEI 9RY
- 3 London Women's Clinic Harrow Hygeia, 66-68 College Rd, Harrow HAI IBE
- 4 London Women's Clinic Brentwood Town Hall, Ingrave Rd, Brentwood CMI5 8AY
- 5 London Women's Clinic Colchester 57 Priory St, Colchester COI 2QE
- 6 London Women's Clinic Cambridge 52 Mawson Rd, Cambridge CBI 2HY
- London Women's Clinic Guildford
  2 Stirling House, Stirling Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7RF
- London Women's Clinic Bromley
  I35 Masons Hill, Bromley BR2 9HT
- London Women's Clinic Canterbury
  72 St. Dunstans St, Canterbury CT2 8BL
- London Women's Clinic Tunbridge Wells
  10 Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells TNI INU
- London Women's Clinic Eastbourne
  6 Alder Cl, Eastbourne BN23 6QE
- 12 London Women's Clinic Brighton Olivier House, 18 Marine Parade, Kemptown, Brighton and Hove, Brighton BN2 ITL



- **COMING SOON Reading** 52 London Street, Reading, RCI 4SQ
  - London Women's Clinic Bristol Zinc Works, Bristol BS2 0NX
- London Women's Clinic Cardiff
  I5 Windsor Pl, Cardiff CFI0 3BY
- 6 COMING SOON Swansea Ethos, Kings Rd, Swansea SAI 8AS
- 17 London Women's Clinic Darlington Woodlands Hospital, Morton Park, Darlington DLI 4PL

## The Familymakers Show

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familymakers.co.uk @londonwomensclinic