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Celebrating Pride



History, glossary and further info

Key Events

Pride is held in June to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall riots, a series of protests that occurred in New York City after police attempted to raid the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar, in the early hours of June 28, 1969.

The confrontation sparked a gay rights uprising that grew year on year - including in other American cities and abroad - with each passing anniversary.

The movement also spawned the British charity Stonewall which was founded in 1989 to lobby for equal rights for LGBTQ+ people and is now the biggest LGBTQ+ rights organisation in Europe.

Pride celebrations today often take the form of large, colourful marches through city centres.

Although it is a celebration of LGBTQ+ people, non-LGBTQ+ people who believe in equality are welcome.

Please be aware that some of the terminology in the timeline (right) is now considered outdated and may offend.



1500: The 'Buggery act' outlawed homosexuality in Britain, making it punishable by death. After 200 years, the death penalty was abolished and replaced by a minimum 10 years of imprisonment.

1951: The first known case of sex reassignment surgery.

Roberta Cowell, a trans woman, underwent reassignment surgery. She was assigned male at birth, but later had her sex legally changed to female and underwent vaginoplasty surgery.

1964: The formation of the North Western Homosexual Law Reform Committee (NWHLRC). This group worked to promote legal and social equality for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people. It is now known as the [Campaign for Homosexual Equality](#).

1966: The formation of the Beaumont Society. This trans-support group aimed to provide better information and awareness about transgender people and act as a self-help and social organisation for them.

1967: The Sexual Offences Act decriminalises sex between two men over 21 'in private'. However, homosexuality was still widely discriminated against, and the Act still led to arrests, as certain acts were still considered illegal.

1969: The Stonewall riots occurred. This was one of the most significant events in LGBT history. Riots by LGBTQ+ people were sparked after police raided the [Stonewall Inn](#) (now a National Historic Landmark), a famous gay bar in New York City. Activists groups, including the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) formed as a result and the Stonewall riots are now remembered as one of the most important catalysts for modern LGBT movements worldwide.

1970: The establishment of the London Gay Liberation Front. This freedom movement was formed after seeing the effects of GLF in the US. They sought to take their own actions for LGBTQ+ rights.

1972: The GLF host the first London Pride event on the anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

Around 2000 people attended. Pride events now see millions of attendees marching to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community around the world.

1978: Gilbert Baker, artist and gay rights activist, designs the Pride flag. It originally had eight colours, but two were dropped to make mass-production easier. It is now a widely-recognised symbol of LGBTQ+.

1979: The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association is founded. The group's aim was effective understanding and treatment of gender dysphoria. It is now known as the [World Professional Association for Transgender Health](#), which "strives to promote a high quality of care for transsexual, transgender, and gender-nonconforming individuals internationally."

1985: Men who have sex with men (MSM) banned from donating blood. A lifetime ban was enacted due to fears amid the HIV/AIDS crisis of the '80s. The ban was not lifted until 2011 (see also 2021).

1988: The introduction of Section 28 of the Local Government Act. This was a major step backwards for the promotion of LGBTQ+ rights and awareness, triggering a huge uproar and renewed momentum in LGBTQ+ activism. The Section stated that local authorities "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality"

or “promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship”.

1988: The formation of [Stonewall UK](#), which is now the largest LGBT organisation in Europe. It was founded by Sir Ian McKellen, Lisa Power MBE, and Lord Cashman CBE in response to Section 28 and to campaign for LGBT rights.

1990: LGBT rights group [OutRage](#). In response to the murder of five gay men, a candlelit vigil was held in London and the group OutRage was created as a result. They campaigned against police mistreatment of LGBT people, as well as for other political actions.

1992: The World Health Organisation declassifies homosexuality as a mental illness. This was a huge step forward, as LGBTQ+ people had previously received controversial and often detrimental treatments to try and ‘cure’ their sexuality.

1994: The age of consent for same-sex relations between men is lowered to 18. It wasn’t until 2001 that it was lowered to 16 to be equal to the heterosexual age of consent.

1995: The formation of the trans children support group [Mermaids](#). Their aim was and still is to offer support and guidance to trans and gender-diverse children, young people, and their families. They also work to educate and spread awareness in society.

2000-2010: The new millennium and its first decade saw huge steps forward for LGBTQ+ rights in the UK. In the year 2000, the ban on lesbian, gay, and bisexual people serving in the army was lifted by UK Government. In 2002, same sex couples in the UK received equal rights for adoption as straight couples. Section 28

was repealed in 2003 in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. In 2004, the Gender Recognition Act passed, which allows transgender people to fully and legally identify with their chosen gender, as well as acquire a new birth certificate.

2011: The lifetime ban on MSM from donating blood is lifted in the UK (excluding Northern Ireland until 2016). However, a 1-year ban was put in place instead, meaning they could not donate blood if they had been sexually active in the last 12 months (see 2021).

2013: Stonewall UK launches ‘Gay. Let’s get over it’ campaign in schools. Its aim is to address homophobic language and homophobia as a whole.

2013: The first Trans Pride event happens in Brighton. Around 450 people took part and it was said to be the first of its kind in Europe. London’s first Trans Pride march occurred in 2019 and saw more than 1,500 attendees.

2014: The Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act comes into effect in England and Wales, finally making same-sex marriage legal. Scotland followed suit later in the same year.

relationships and sex education (RSE) mandatory in all schools in England and Wales as of 2019.

2017: The 1-year ban on MSM for donating blood is changed to 3 months. Northern Ireland still has the 1-year ban in place.

2017: PrEP widely available for free in Scotland. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) is an HIV to prevention medication for groups at high risk of HIV infection.

2019: The World Health Organisation declassifies transgender health issues as a mental illness. Graeme Reid (LGBT rights director at Human Rights Watch) said the changes would have a “liberating effect on transgender people worldwide”.

2020: Same-sex marriage legalised in Northern Ireland. The first marriage ceremony occurred on 11th February 2020.

2020: PrEP widely available for free in England and Wales.

2021: Ban on donating blood is changed to 3 months post sexual activity for all genders. Donor eligibility questions will now be the same for all, regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation.



Using the right words: an LGBTQ+ glossary

LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Queer) is an acronym meant to encompass a range of diverse sexualities and genders. People often refer to the Q (standing for 'queer') as an umbrella term, under which live many identities but it can also stand for 'questioning', relating to people who are figuring out their sexual orientation or gender identity. Here is a list of definitions for terminology relating to LGBTQ+ identities & people, sexualities, and genders:

agender – *adj.* : a person with no (or very little) connection to the traditional system of gender, no personal alignment with the concepts of either man or woman, and/or someone who sees themselves as existing without gender. Sometimes called gender neutrois, gender neutral, or genderless.

ally /"al-lie"/ – *noun* : a (typically straight and/or cisgender) person who supports and respects members of the LGBTQ community.

androgyny /"an-jrah-jun-ee"/ (androgynous) – **1 noun** : a gender expression that has elements of both masculinity and femininity; **2 adj.** : occasionally used in place of "intersex" to describe a person with both female and male anatomy, generally in the form "androgynous."

aromantic /"ay-ro-man-tic"/ – *adj.* : experiencing little or no romantic attraction to others and/or has a lack of interest in romantic relationships/behaviour. Aromanticism exists on a continuum from people who experience no romantic attraction or have any desire for romantic activities, to those who experience low levels, or romantic attraction

only under specific conditions. Sometimes abbreviated to "aro" (pronounced like "arrow").

asexual – *adj.* : experiencing little or no sexual attraction to others and/or a lack of interest in sexual relationships/behaviour. Asexuality exists on a continuum from people who experience no sexual attraction or have any desire for sex, to those who experience low levels, or sexual attraction only under specific conditions. Sometimes abbreviated to "ace."

bigender – *adj.* : a person who fluctuates between traditionally "woman" and "man" gender-based behaviour and identities, identifying with both genders (or sometimes identifying with either man or woman, as well as a third, different gender).

bisexual – **1 noun & adj.** : a person who experiences attraction to some men and women. **2 adj.** : a person who experiences attraction to some people of their gender and another gender. Bisexual attraction does not have to be equally split, or indicate a level of interest that is the same across the genders an individual may be attracted to. Often used interchangeably with "pansexual".

cisgender /"siss-jendur"/ – *adj.* : a gender description for when someone's sex assigned at birth and gender identity correspond in the expected way (e.g., someone who was assigned male at birth, and identifies as a man). A simple way to think about it is if a person is not transgender, they are cisgender. The word cisgender can also be shortened to "cis."

demiromantic – *adj.* : little or no capacity to experience romantic attraction until a strong sexual connection is formed with someone, often within a sexual relationship.

demisexual – *adj.* : little or no capacity to experience sexual attraction until a strong romantic connection is formed with someone, often within a romantic relationship.

feminine-presenting; masculine-presenting – *adj.* : a way to describe someone who expresses gender in a more feminine/masculine way. Often confused with feminine-of-center/masculine-of-center, which generally

include a focus on identity as well as expression.

fluid(ity) – *adj.* : generally with another term attached, like gender-fluid or fluid-sexuality, fluid(ity) describes an identity that may change or shift over time between or within the mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, bi and straight).

FtM / F2M; MtF / M2F – *abbr.* : female-to-male transgender or transsexual person; male-to-female transgender or transsexual person.

gay – **1 adj.** : experiencing attraction solely (or primarily) to some members of the same gender. Can be used to refer to men who are attracted to other men and women who are attracted to women. **2 adj.** : an umbrella term used to refer to the queer community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who is not straight.

gender binary – *noun* : the idea that there are only two genders and that every person is one of those two.

gender expression – *noun* : the external display of one's gender, through a combination of clothing, grooming, demeanor, social behaviour, and other factors, generally made sense of on scales of masculinity and femininity. Also referred to as "gender presentation."

gender fluid – *adj.* : a gender identity best described as a dynamic mix of boy and girl. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of the two traditional genders, but may feel more man some days, and more woman other days.

gender identity – *noun* : the internal perception of an one's gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don't align with what they understand their options for gender to be. Often conflated with biological sex, or sex assigned at birth.

gender non-conforming – **1 adj.** : a gender expression descriptor that indicates a non-traditional gender presentation (masculine woman or feminine man). **2 adj.** : a gender identity label that indicates a person who identifies outside of the gender binary. Often abbreviated as "GNC."

gender normative / gender straight

– *adj.* : someone whose gender presentation, whether by nature or by choice, aligns with society's gender-based expectations.

homosexual – *adj. & noun* : a person

primarily emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to members of the same sex/gender. This [medical] term is considered stigmatizing (particularly as a noun) due to its history as a category of mental illness, and is discouraged for common use (use gay or lesbian instead).

intersex – *adj.* : term for a

combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and genitals that differs from the two expected patterns of male or female. Formerly known as hermaphrodite (or hermaphroditic), but these terms are now outdated and derogatory.

lesbian – *noun & adj.* : women who

are primarily attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other women.

outing – *verb* : involuntary or

unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or intersex status.

pansexual – *adj.* : a person who

experiences sexual, romantic, physical, and/or spiritual attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions. Often shortened to "pan."

polyamory (polyamorous) – *noun* :

refers to the practice of, desire for, or orientation toward having ethical, honest, and consensual non-monogamous relationships (i.e. relationships that may include multiple partners). Often shortened to "poly."

queer – **1** *adj.* : an umbrella term

to describe individuals who don't identify as straight and/or cisgender. **2** *noun* : a slur used to refer to someone who isn't straight and/or cisgender. Due to its historical use as a derogatory term, and how it is still used as a slur many communities, it is not embraced or used by all LGBTQ people. The term "queer" can often be used interchangeably with LGBTQ (e.g., "queer people" instead of "LGBTQ people").

questioning – *verb, adj.* : an

individual who or time when someone is unsure about or exploring their own sexual orientation or gender identity.

sex assigned at birth (SAAB) – *abbr.*

: a phrase used to intentionally recognize a person's assigned sex (not gender identity).

sexual orientation – *noun* : the type

of sexual, romantic, emotional/spiritual attraction one has the capacity to feel for some others, generally labeled based on the gender relationship between the person and the people they are attracted to. Often confused with sexual preference.

sexual preference – *noun* : the types

of sexual intercourse, stimulation, and gratification one likes to receive and participate in. Generally when this term is used, it is being mistakenly interchanged with "sexual orientation," creating an illusion that one has a choice (or "preference") in who they are attracted to.

sex reassignment surgery (SRS)

– *noun* : used by some medical professionals to refer to a group of surgical options that alter a person's biological sex. "Gender confirmation surgery" is considered by many to be a more affirming term. In most cases, one or multiple surgeries are required to achieve legal recognition of gender variance. Some refer to different surgical procedures as "top" surgery and "bottom" surgery to discuss what type of surgery they are having without having to be more explicit.

straight – *adj.* : a person primarily

emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to some people who are not their same sex/gender. A more colloquial term for the word heterosexual.

third gender – *noun* : for a person

who does not identify with either man or woman, but identifies with another gender. This gender category is used by societies that recognise three or more genders, both contemporary and historic, and is also a conceptual term meaning different things to different people who use it, as a way to move beyond the gender binary.

top surgery – *noun* : this term refers

to surgery for the construction of a male-type chest or breast augmentation for a female-type chest.

trans* – *adj.* : an umbrella term

covering a range of identities that transgress socially-defined gender norms. Trans with an asterisk is often used in written forms (not spoken) to indicate that you are referring to the larger group nature of the term, and specifically including non-binary identities, as well as transgender men (transmen) and transgender women (transwomen).

transgender – **1** *adj.* : a gender

description for someone who has transitioned (or is transitioning) from living as one gender to another. **2** *adj.* : an umbrella term for anyone whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity do not correspond in the expected way (e.g., someone who was assigned male at birth, but does not identify as a man).

transition / transitioning – *noun,*

verb : referring to the process of a transgender person changing aspects of themselves (e.g., their appearance, name, pronouns, or making physical changes to their body) to be more congruent with the gender they know themselves to be (as opposed to the gender they lived as pre-transitioning).

transman; transwoman – *noun* : An

identity label sometimes adopted by female-to-male transgender people or transsexuals to signify that they are men while still affirming their history as assigned female sex at birth. (sometimes referred to as transguy) **2** Identity label sometimes adopted by male-to-female transsexuals or transgender people to signify that they are women while still affirming their history as assigned male sex at birth.

ze / zir / "zee", "zerr" or "zeer" / –

alternate pronouns that are gender neutral and preferred by some trans* people. They replace "he" and "she" and "his" and "hers" respectively. Alternatively some people who are not comfortable/do not embrace he/she use the plural pronoun "they/their" as a gender neutral singular pronoun.

LGBTQ+ - inclusive language DOs and DON'Ts

AVOID SAYING... **SAY INSTEAD...**

WHY?

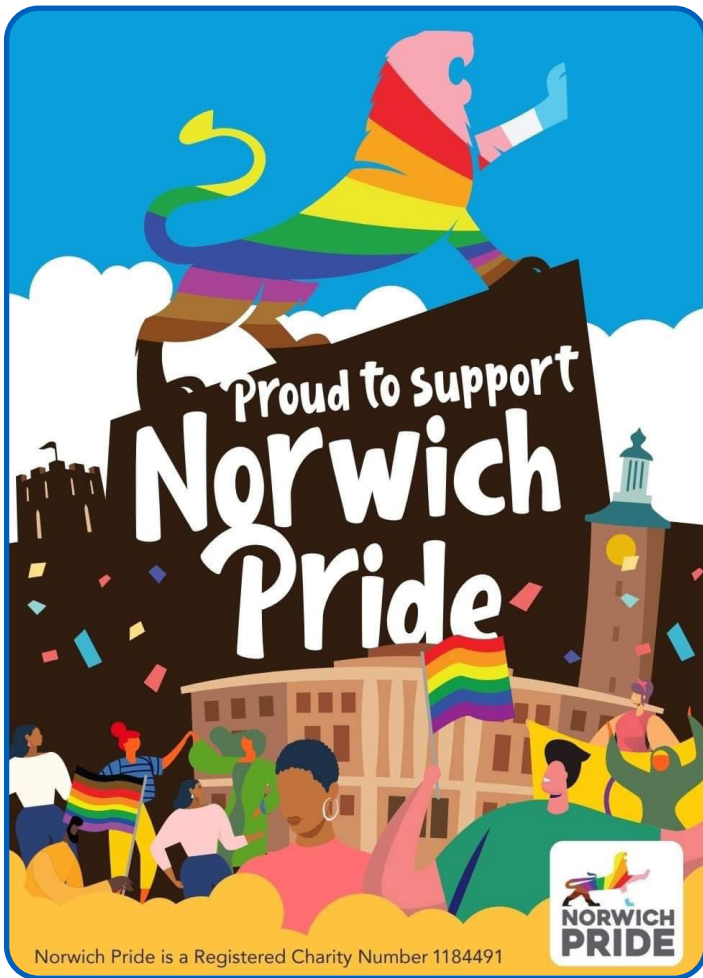
EXAMPLE

"Hermaphrodite"	"Intersex"	Hermaphrodite is a stigmatizing, inaccurate word with a negative medical history.	"What are the best practices for the medical care of intersex infants?"
"Homosexual"	"Gay"	"Homosexual" often connotes a medical diagnosis, or a discomfort with gay/lesbian people.	"We want to do a better job of being inclusive of our gay employees."
"Born female" or "Born male"	"Assigned female/male at birth"	"Assigned" language accurately depicts the situation of what happens at birth	"Max was assigned female at birth, then he transitioned in high school."
"Female-bodied" or "Male-bodied"		"-bodied" language is often interpreted as as pressure to medically transition, or invalidation of one's gender identity	
"A gay" or "a transgender"	"A gay/transgender person"	Gay and transgender are adjectives that describe a person/group	"We had a transgender athlete in our league this year. "
"Transgender people and normal people"	"Transgender people and cisgender people"	Saying "normal" implies "abnormal," which is a stigmatizing way to refer to a person.	"This group is open to both transgender and cisgender people."
"Both genders" or "Opposite sexes"	"All genders"	"Both" implies there are only two; "Opposite" reinforces antagonism amongst genders	"Video games aren't just a boy thing -- kids of all genders play them."
"Ladies and gentlemen"	"Everyone," "Folks," "Honored guests," etc	Moving away from binary language is more inclusive of people of all genders	"Good morning everyone, next stop Picadilly Station."
"Mailman," "fireman," "policeman," etc.	"Mail clerk," "Firefighter," "Police officer," etc.	People of all genders do these jobs	"I actually saw a firefighter rescue a cat from a tree."
"It" when referring to someone (e.g., when pronouns are unknown)	"They"	"It" is for referring to things, not people.	"You know, I am not sure how they identify."

More information

<https://www.history.com/news/stonewall-riots-timeline>

<https://www.stonewall.org.uk/about-us/news/stonewall-uprising-50-years-lgbt-history>



<https://norwichpride.org.uk/>

<https://prideinlondon.org/>



<https://gywpride.org>



<https://suffolkpride.org.uk>

TED Talks:

TED is a non-profit organisation devoted to spreading ideas via powerful talks. The videos cover many topics from technology to entertainment, science to global issues.

We love these TED talks:

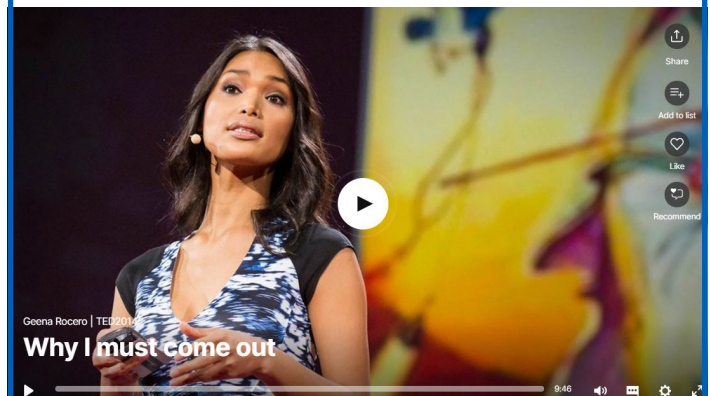
Tiq Milan & Kim Katrin Milan – A queer vision of love and marriage



Lee Mokobe – A powerful poem about what it feels like to be transgender

Thomas Lloyd – Why am I “so gay”?

Geena Rocero – Why I must come out



We hope you enjoy these videos, there are many more on TED for you to watch too!

Pride Flags



The images above show just some of the Pride flags which are flown across the world. Here is some more information about them:

- 1 Rainbow flag:** designed by artist Gilbert Baker in 1978, it adopts the eight colours of the rainbow, each with its own meaning (hot pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for spirit).
- 2 Progress Pride flag:** a development of the Rainbow flag, the white, pink, and light blue reflect the colors of the transgender flag, while the brown and black stripes represent people of color and those lost to AIDS.
- 3 Bisexual flag:** brings visibility to the bisexual community, showing the overlap of the stereotypical colours for boys and girls. The flag was inspired by an older symbol of bisexuality: the "biangles," two overlapping pink and dark blue triangles.
- 4 Intersex flag:** designed in 2013 by the organisation Intersex International Australia, this flag intentionally features nongendered colours that celebrate living outside the binary.
- 5 Transgender flag:** designed in 1999, the light blue of this flag is the traditional colour for baby boys, pink is for girls, and the white in the middle is for those who are transitioning, those who feel they have a neutral gender or no gender, and those who are intersexed.
- 6 Genderqueer flag:** the genderqueer flag highlights androgyny with lavender, agender identities with white, and nonbinary people with green. Some people refer to it as a nonbinary flag.
- 7 Aromantic flag:** the colours of this flag represent aromanticism. An aromantic is someone who does not experience romantic attraction, or does so in a significantly different way than is traditionally thought of.
- 8 Lesbian flag:** introduced in 2018, with the dark orange stripe representing gender non-conformity, the orange stripe representing independence, the light orange stripe representing community, the white stripe representing unique relationships to womanhood, the pink stripe representing serenity and peace, the dusty pink stripe representing love and sex, and the dark rose stripe representing femininity.
- 9 Pansexual flag:** this flag has colours that represent pansexuality's interest in all genders as partners. The pink represents women, yellow nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people, and the blue is for men.

The main source of this information is www.advocate.com where more information can be found on the history and variety of Pride flags.