

# The history of Pride

## A timeline of key events

This timeline is by no means exhaustive but highlights some of the key events in the history of the Pride movement to show how far LGBTQ+ rights have come, where we are now and what remains to be done.



**1969**

### ***Stonewall riots***

Often considered the catalyst for the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement, the Stonewall Riots occurred in New York City in response to a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar. The riots lasted for several days and are commemorated annually during Pride Month.



**1970**

### ***First Pride parades***

The first Pride parade, then called the Christopher Street Liberation Day, took place in New York City on the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Similar events began to take place in other cities around the world.



**1973**

### ***APA removed homosexuality as a mental disorder***

The American Psychiatric Association (APA) removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders, marking a significant milestone in the recognition of LGBTQ+ rights.



**1978**

### ***Rainbow flag created***

The rainbow flag is a symbol of LGBTQ+ pride and solidarity. Each colour of the rainbow flag represents different aspects of LGBTQ+ life.



**1980s**

### ***HIV/AIDS crisis***

The HIV/AIDS epidemic devastates LGBTQ+ communities worldwide, leading to increased activism for healthcare, research, and destigmatisation.



**1988**

### ***Section 28***

The UK government introduces Section 28 of the Local Government Act, prohibiting the promotion of homosexuality by local authorities. The legislation sparks significant backlash and protests within the LGBTQ+ community.



**1990s**

### ***Decriminalisation and legalisation***

Several countries around the world begin to decriminalise homosexuality and legalise same-sex relationships, including South Africa, Canada, and parts of Europe.



**2000s**

### ***Civil unions and same-sex marriage***

Countries like the Netherlands, Belgium, and Canada legalise same-sex marriage, while others introduce civil union or domestic partnership laws, granting legal recognition to same-sex couples.



**2003**

### ***Lawrence v. Texas***

The United States Supreme Court strikes down sodomy laws in Texas and, by extension, in 13 other states, effectively legalising same-sex sexual activity in the United States.



**2004**

### ***Civil Partnership Act***

The Civil Partnership Act comes into effect, allowing same-sex couples in the UK to enter into legally recognised partnerships with similar rights and responsibilities to marriage.



**2004**

### ***The Gender Recognition Act***

The UK government introduced this act to allow transgender people to achieve legal recognition of their acquired gender and change their recorded sex on their birth certificate.



**2007**

### ***Equality Act***

In the UK, The Equality Act comes into force, providing protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in areas such as employment, housing, and services.



**2010**

### ***Transgender rights advocacy***

Increased visibility and advocacy for transgender rights lead to legal reforms in several countries, including changes to gender recognition laws and protections against discrimination.



**2011**

### ***"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repealed***

The "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is repealed by the Obama administration, allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military.



**2013**

### ***Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act***

The Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act is passed, legalising same-sex marriage in England and Wales. The first same-sex marriages take place in 2014.



**2015**

### ***Marriage equality***

The United States Supreme Court legalises same-sex marriage nationwide in the landmark case Obergefell v. Hodges, prompting celebrations and advocacy worldwide.



**2017**

### ***Apology for past convictions***

The UK government issues posthumous pardons to thousands of gay and bisexual men convicted of historical homosexual offences under discriminatory laws.



**2019**

### ***50th anniversary of Stonewall***

The LGBTQ+ community commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots with numerous events, parades, and celebrations around the world.



**2020**

### ***Black Lives Matter protests***

Pride events around the world incorporate support for the Black Lives Matter movement, advocating for racial justice and equality within the LGBTQ+ community.



**2021**

### ***Conversion therapy ban proposed***

The UK government announces plans to ban conversion therapy, a harmful practice aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.



**2024**

### ***Continued Activism and Visibility***

Pride events continue to be held globally, advocating for LGBTQ+ rights, visibility, and acceptance. Activism also focuses on transgender rights, combating discrimination, and promoting inclusivity.