

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

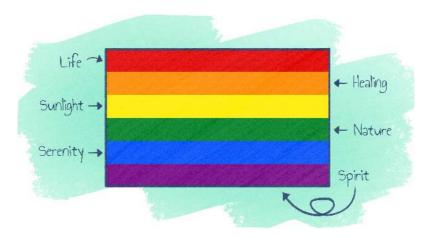
The American Psychiatric Association (APA) removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders, marking a significant milestone in the recognition of LGBTQ+ rights.



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.