

PEACE OUT



Museum Development Yorkshire Art Fund_

All of the Peace Museum's objects and exhibits tell stories about people throughout history who have peacefully campaigned to advance and protect human rights, justice and equality, and for the right to live in peace.

Many of those people were members of the LGBTQ+ community, and many people have taken part in peaceful campaigning to gain LGBTQ+ people the rights and freedoms that they now enjoy.

LGBTQ+ stands for lesbian, gay, bi, trans and queer. The plus includes other gender identities and sexual orientations included within the LGBTQ+ community, such as non-binary, pansexual and asexual.

Find the definitions of these identities and others on page 5.

Cover image: © Peace Pledge Union



Imagining Peace

Many feel that the story of the LGBTQ+ community's journey to equality and peace started with a moment that was not peaceful – the Stonewall riots.

The Stonewall Inn was a gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village neighbourhood in the 1960's. At that time being gay or dressing in clothing that did not match your assigned sex was illegal, and the police would raid LGBTQ+ spaces regularly to arrest people.

On the 29th of June, 1969 the NYPD raided the Stonewall Inn and as people were being dragged from the bar into police wagons, a lesbian, later identified as Stormé DeLarverie shouted to the watching crowd "Why don't you guys do something?". What followed was several days of riots and violent demonstrations from LGBTQ+ people and allies, demanding the right to be themselves without fear of arrest.



The Stonewall Inn, September 1969.
The sign in the window reads: "We homosexuals plead with our people to please help maintain peaceful and quiet conduct on the streets of the Village. — Mattachine."



© Peace Pledge Union

In the 1970's, designer Gilbert Baker was challenged by Harvey Milk (one of the first openly gay elected officials in the US) to come up with a new symbol for the LGBTQ+ community.

Baker was likely inspired by the peace rainbow that was widely used by the peace movements of the 1960's, and created his original 8-colour rainbow flag in 1978 for San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Eventually this evolved into the 6-colour rainbow flag which is still used today as a symbol to represent the LGBTQ+ community. It is often used as a way to show safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people or for allies to show their support.

There are also other versions of the flag which include additional sections representing support for the trans community and LGBTQ+ people of colour.

The first "Gay Pride" event was a protest march held in New York in 1970 to mark the anniversary of the Stonewall riots. People who attended these events were speaking out against the parts of society that oppressed LGBTQ+ people.

Now you can find Pride events being held all over the world. In countries where LGBTQ+ people now have equal rights, these Pride events are often celebrations of what it means to be LGBTQ+. However, there are still many countries where the LGBTQ+ community are persecuted, where Pride events are banned or where people attending them are attacked. LGBTQ+ people and their allies in these places continue to use Pride events to campaign peacefully for their rights and freedoms.



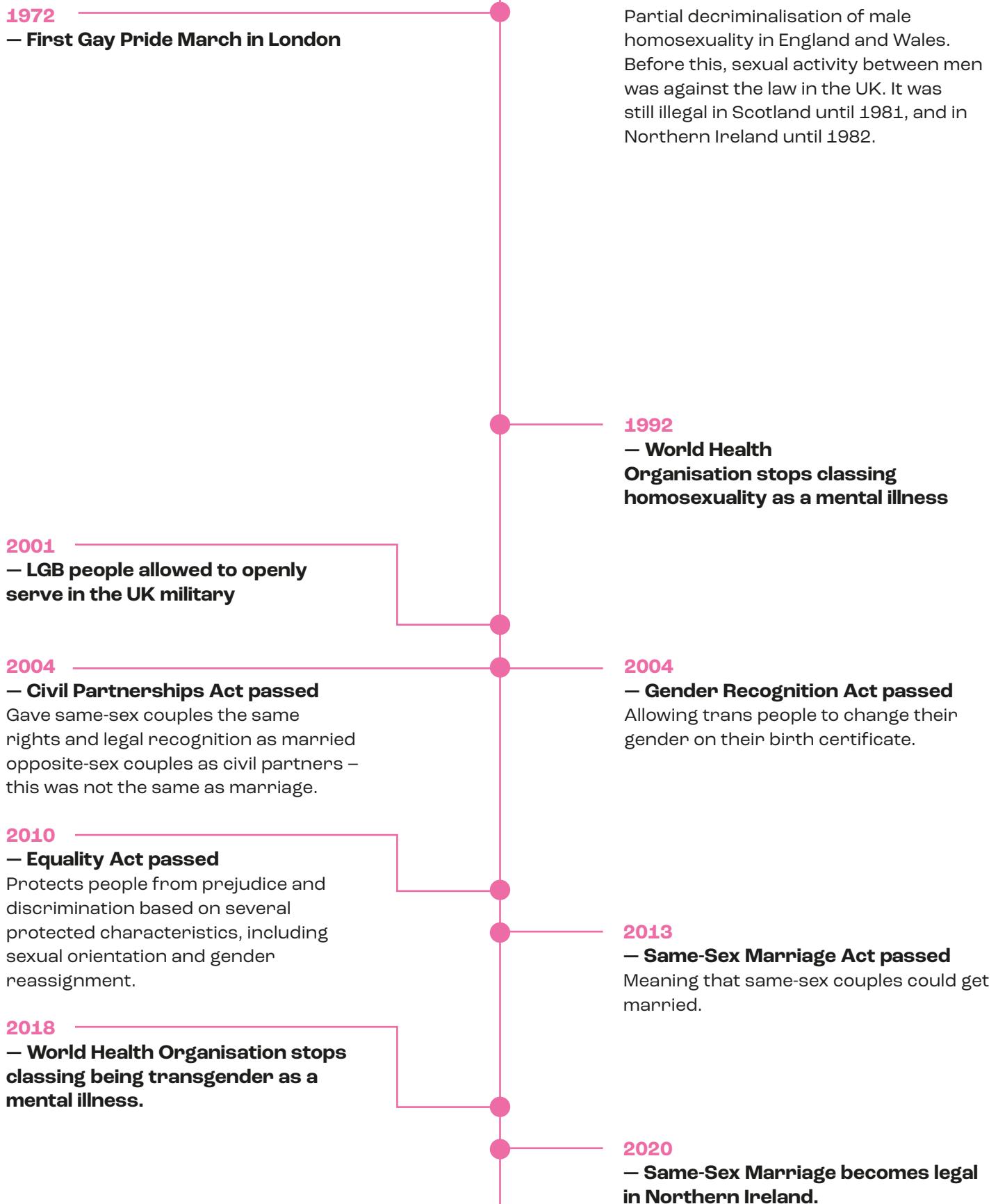
By Gilbert Baker (Vector graphics by Fibonacci) — SVG based on this image, Public Domain



Daniel Quasan's redesigned inclusive Pride flag, 2018.

LGBTQ+ Rights

– A Timeline



Pat Arrowsmith — A Case Study



© Maggie Glover

Pat Arrowsmith was born in Leamington Spa in the UK in 1930. She is a peace campaigner who was one of the co-founders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in 1957. This group campaigns against nuclear weapons, both in the UK and internationally and also against other weapons of mass destruction.

In 1958, Arrowsmith helped to organise a protest against the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment in Aldermaston in Berkshire. The organisers were expecting around 50 people to be involved in the 50 mile march from London, and in the end several thousand people joined the march, which was the first UK protest against nuclear weapons. She was sent to prison later that same year for the first time, serving 11 sentences for her activities protesting.

In 1977, she came out as a lesbian in Who's Who, a reference book that lists information about people who are influential in the UK. When her father died, a condition of her inheriting his money was that

she had to be married. She decided to marry an anarchist poet, Donald Gardner, in 1979 so that she was able to claim the money. On the same day, she had the marriage annulled, and donated some of her money to different causes, including Gay Pride Week 1979 and the lesbian magazine, Sappho.

"My father probably thought that if I had to get married, I would dismiss all notions of leading a gay lifestyle," she said. "I discovered after he died, from his diaries, that he knew I was gay, as he wrote, 'She's not even ashamed of it.'"

Arrowsmith has campaigned for the end of the Vietnam War, the removal of British troops from Northern Ireland and for the end of the Gulf War, as well as campaigning on many issues relating to equality for women and LGBTQ+ people. She was also involved with the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, where thousands of women joined together to campaign for nuclear disarmament in the UK.

"My father probably thought that if I had to get married, I would dismiss all notions of leading a gay lifestyle – I discovered after he died, from his diaries, that he knew I was gay, as he wrote 'She's not even ashamed of it'"

'We have a Dream/Mae Gennym Freuddwyd' banner made for a march from Bath to Greenham in June 1983.

© Thalia Campbell Designs.



Activity

Design and create a badge that could be worn to a Pride event that shows solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community.

The design should include messages relating to peace/equality/human rights and LGBTQ+ people, and colours and symbols relating to peace and the LGBTQ+ community.

Discussion Questions

- ▶ Why are Pride events still important for the LGBTQ+ community—both in the UK and in other countries?
- ▶ The Rainbow Flag is an important symbol for many LGBTQ+ people—what issues might LGBTQ+ people have with the rainbow being used during the COVID-19 pandemic as a symbol of support for the NHS?
- ▶ What other groups of people, both in the UK and internationally, have had to fight for the same rights and freedoms as other people?
- ▶ LGBTQ+ people in the UK now have many rights and freedoms that they did not have 60 years ago. Do you think society in the UK is accepting of all LGBTQ+ people? Do all LGBTQ+ people have the freedom to live in peace?



© Maria Spadafora

Definitions

Lesbian

A woman who is attracted to women.

Gay

A man who is attracted to men (or a woman who is attracted to women).

Bisexual

Someone who is attracted to their own gender and other genders.

Transgender

Someone whose gender identity is different from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Queer

An umbrella term for those whose gender or sexual identity is outside of society's norms.

Non-binary

Someone whose gender identity doesn't fit within the "gender binary" of man/woman.

Pansexual

Someone who could be attracted to people regardless of their gender identity.

Asexual

Someone who experiences little or no sexual attraction.

Cisgender

Someone whose gender identity is aligned with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Heterosexual

A man who is attracted to women, or a woman who is attracted to men.



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