

All About LGBT History Month

What Is LGBT History Month?

Every February, LGBT History Month is celebrated in the UK. The aim of LGBT History Month is to raise awareness of the prejudice often faced by those in the LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus) community and to promote tolerance.

It is hoped that LGBT History Month can help to remove many years of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community and make the LGBT community more visible to everyone in society.

When Was the First LGBT History Month?

The first LGBT History Month was over twenty years ago in October 1994 in the USA. LGBT History Month was created by a teacher named Rodney Wilson who wanted to teach people about gay history. He hoped that the more people who knew about LGBT history, the less LGBTQ+ people would feel a minority and the more visible the LGBTQ+ community would be in society.



In the past, LGBTQ+ people have been afraid to attract attention for fear of consequences such as verbal abuse, attacks and exclusion. They have been intimidated and many hid parts of their lives. There have been many LGBTQ+ people who have been verbally and physically abused, even murdered, simply for being who they are.

LGBT History Month is celebrated every October in the USA and Canada. Wilson's idea of LGBT History Month has grown into a global event and is celebrated all around the world.

In 2003, the UK government passed laws which protected LGBT people in work and ended a law called Section 28, which prevented teachers talking to children in schools about LGBTQ+ issues.

In 2004, teachers Sue Sanders and Paul Patrick created the LGBT History Month UK. They had seen how important Black History Month had been in schools in tackling racism and highlighting the importance of Black history. Their aim was to raise the profile of LGBTQ+ people and issues in schools across the country.

All About LGBT History Month

How Is It Celebrated?

LGBT History Month is a time of celebration with over 1500 events organised in 2018 for LGBT History Month. These included festivals, theatre performances, art exhibitions and conferences. All the events are organised by volunteers who rely on sponsors and fundraising to cover costs. It is hoped there will be more events in 2021!

The theme of each year's LGBT History Month is always different and the theme for 2020 is 'peace, reconciliation, activism.' People are encouraged to celebrate diversity in their schools by celebrating LGBT History Month.

The Rainbow Flag

The rainbow flag is a very recognisable symbol of the LGBTQ+ community. It was created by an artist named Gilbert Baker. The colours were chosen to represent the diversity and differences of people within the LGBTQ+ community.



It is a positive symbol of all people being equal and being proud of who they are.

Important Individuals and Events

There are many significant events which are remembered during LGBT History Month. One of these is the Stonewall riots in New York in 1969. The riots occurred because of a police raid on the Stonewall Inn. Police raids were common because to be gay or dressed in clothes which are not stereotypically for your gender was illegal. This raid was important because the LGBTQ+ community fought back and inspired the Pride events which take place all over the world every year.

Important individuals, such as Harvey Milk and Gladys Bentley, are also celebrated. Milk was a politician and the first openly gay man to be elected to the US office.

Why Is LGBT History Month Important?

In 2010, the UK government passed a law called the Equality Act. This law made it compulsory to actively challenge any LGBTphobia (hatred toward LGBT) and negativity, as well as meet the needs of all students, including LGBT.

So not only is LGBT History Month very important for teaching children the history and story of the LGBTQ+ community, it also highlights that it is illegal to ignore the LGBTQ+ community.