



HOW TO BE AN ALLY 2SLGBTQQIA+ HISTORY, MEANINGS, TERMS, AND DEFINITIONS

WHAT DOES 2SLGBTQQA+ STAND FOR?

2S - Two Spirited

L - Lesbian

G - Gay

B - Bisexual

T - Transgender

Q - Queer

Q - Questioning

I - Intersex

A - Asexual

+ - Everything else

Why are there so many letters? The original acronym of LGBT is still used and still valid, the additional letters are including crucial groups to the 2SLGBTQQA+ community. The addition of 2S for Two Spirited is a step towards decolonizing gender identity and expression. Without the addition of 2S to the acronym we would be forcing indigenous people into the colonized interpretation of gender identity. By including Queer in the acronym, we include the many different orientations (such as pansexual) that may also identify as 'Queer'. Questioning acknowledges the many members of the community who are undecided, fluid, or as the name suggests questioning their sexuality and/or gender identity.

Questioning is a valid state, that may continue for that person's entire life and therefore deserves recognition. Intersex is a vital addition as it is the most stigmatized, as most people are assigned sex and gender at birth, intersex babies and children may also be forced into surgery in order to be better "assigned". Intersex people deserve recognition and to be acknowledged as whole beings that do not need to be changed, for they are complete as they are or choose to be. The addition of Asexual is important as it is one of the least acknowledged orientations by society, and along with intersex one of the most misunderstood. And again like Intersex there is a societal misunderstanding that these individuals are "missing" something, when in actuality they are complete. And lastly the + sign, sometimes not included in the acronym, is necessary as it includes every other orientation and expression that does not fall under any of the other letters definitions. The 2SLGBTQQA+ acronym is fluid, and despite the criticism that it is too much or too confusing, it like the 2SLGBTQQA+ community, is not going anywhere and will continue to grow and evolve.

HOW TO BE AN ALLY TO 2SLGBTQQIA+

- Learn about the different gender and sexual identities on the 2SLGBTQQIA+ Spectrum
- Show support for the 2SLGBTQQIA+ members in your life (i.e., hanging a pride flag)
- Use appropriate pronouns. Make a habit of asking for pronouns, and, when appropriate, introduce yourself with your preferred pronouns. By adding your pronouns at the end of your name on your email, or social accounts you create a safe space for members of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community to use theirs.
- If someone chooses to come out to you, it is not your place to out them or share their story.
- If someone chooses to share with you, listen. 2SLGBTQQIA+ people face struggles that straight people do not.
- Speak up against prejudice if you hear someone using hate speech. By correcting the behaviour of others, and assuring that discrimination and prejudice are not tolerated, we create a safer space for the community.
- Respect that as an Ally, you are not a part of the 2SLGBTQQIA+ (the A stands for Asexual), and as an outsider respect the boundaries within that.
- Becoming an ally is a learning process: It is okay to ask questions. Be receptive to being corrected if you say something that is offensive or dated.
- Do not assume someone's gender, pronouns, or sexuality. By using gender neutral introductions, we include all.
- Be an active Ally, not an ally in label alone.
- Confront your own prejudices and unconscious bias. Think about "jokes" you have made in the past, and presumptions you have made regarding someone's gender/sexuality. Being an Ally means acknowledging past mistakes and bad behaviour and actively growing and learning from them.



MOMENTS IN 2SLGBTQIA+ HISTORY (CANADA AND USA)

1958: USA RULED IN FAVOUR FOR THE FIRST TIME

The First Time the Supreme Court Ruled in Favor of the LGBTQ+ community - January 1958. After the U.S. Post Office had refused to deliver one of the first gay publications, ONE: The Homosexual Magazine, the issue was taken to court. Ultimately SCOTUS ruled in favor of ONE magazine. This is a landmark case in LGBTQ history because this was the first time the Supreme Court ruled in favor of gay rights.

1969: CANADA DECRIMINALIZATION OF HOMOSEXUALITY

On May 14, 1969 Canada decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults with the passage of the Criminal Law Amendment Act first introduced in December 1968. It receives royal assent on June 27. One day before the Stonewall Riots took place in New York.

1969: USA STONEWALL UPRISING

In the early-morning hours of June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a popular Greenwich Village nightclub, for the second time in a week — a common occurrence in an era when nearly all aspects of LGBTQ life were criminalized. That night, however, the crowd refused to disperse and patrons clashed with police as the confrontation swelled to include hundreds of demonstrators. Riots continued into the following week. The Stonewall uprising galvanized activists across the country and set into motion the modern LGBTQ movement — including pride.

1970: USA FIRST PRIDE PARADES

One year after Stonewall, people commemorated the uprising with marches in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The phrase "gay pride" was also brand-new that year, coined by activists as a shorthand to unite the events planned as part of the movement. In 1971, pride became global, with parades and demonstrations in West Berlin, London, Paris and Stockholm.

1971: CANADA FIRST GAY RIGHTS PROTEST

On August 28, 1971, roughly 100 people from Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and the surrounding areas gathered in the pouring rain at Parliament Hill for Canada's First Gay Liberation Protest and March. They presented a petition to the government with a list of ten demands for equal rights and protections. Simultaneously, another much smaller group of roughly twenty gay activists demonstrated at Robson Square in Vancouver.

1973: CANADA/USA HOMOSEXUALITY IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED A MENTAL ILLNESS

As attitudes changed, learning how to be accepting came into the national purview, and studies were released. The American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

1973: CANADA PRIDE WEEK '73 EMERGENCE & SHIFT TO GAY LIBERATION

Pride Week 1973 was a national LGBT rights event held in August 1973 in several Canadian cities, including Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Saskatoon and Winnipeg. Programming included

an art festival, a dance, picnic, a screening of a documentary and a rally for gay rights that occurred in all the participating cities. This event represented the shift from the homophile movement into the gay liberation movement, showing the emergence of the concept of gay pride.

1974: CANADA TIPPING POINT: THE BRUNSWICK FOUR

In January, The Brunswick four are arrested at the Brunswick Tavern in Toronto. Some historians believe that the arrest and its consequences was a key incident ushering in a more militant gay and lesbian liberation movement in Canada, much as the Stonewall Inn Riots politicized gays and lesbians in the United States. This was also one of the first occasions that a gay or lesbian topic received extensive press coverage in Canada. The women brought charges against the officers subsequently for verbal and physical police harassment, however the officers were acquitted due to their switching their hats and badge numbers making them unable to be accurately identified.

1976: CANADA MONTREAL OLYMPIC 'CLEANUP'

From Feb 1975 to June 1976, Police raids ramp up at Club Baths, Neptune Sauna and across gay and lesbian bars in Montreal's Stanley Street gay village, this event was widely perceived as mayor Jean Drapeau's attempts to "clean up" the city in advance of the 1976 Summer Olympics.

1977: CANADA MONTREAL RAIDS

On the night of Oct. 22, 1977, Montreal police raided Truxx and Le Mystique, two gay bars on Stanley St. This raid was more of a military operation than a normal police intervention: 50 police officers, wearing bulletproof vests with guns (including machine guns) drawn, went in and arrested 146 patrons, all homosexual men, as part of what was at the time the biggest mass arrest since Trudeau had declared the "War Measures Act" during the October Crisis. The men who were arrested were crowded into holding cells for more than eight hours, and forced to take venereal disease tests. They were also forbidden from calling their lawyers. The very next day, 2,000 people took to the streets, blocking the corners of Ste. Catherine St. W. and Stanley St. to protest what had happened on the previous night. Police and protestors naturally clashed. In an effort to get the crowd to disperse, police rode their motorcycles into the crowd, clubbing protestors, who in turn threw beer bottles at the police.

1977: CANADA QUEBEC ADDS SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

Signed in law on December 16, 1977 - Quebec includes sexual orientation in its Human Rights Code, making it the first province in Canada to pass a gay civil rights law. The law makes it illegal to discriminate against gays in housing, public accommodation and employment. The amendment was in response to an especially brutal police raid on the Montreal gay bathhouse called Truxx. The raid was widely publicized and threatened the newly elected Parti Québécois's image as a progressive party. By 2001, all provinces and territories took this step except Alberta, Prince Edward Island and the Northwest Territories.

1978: USA THE PRIDE FLAG IS BORN

Glibert Baker, created the first Pride flag from strips of fabric dyed in trash cans in the attic of San Francisco's Gay Community Center before the city's 1978 Pride parade. Each of the flags original

eight colors had a meaning. Pink for sex, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sun, green for nature, turquoise for magic, blue for peace and purple for spirit.

1978: USA AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT IS CREATED

While the Pride movement brought LGBTQ+ life out of the shadows, the HIV/AIDS epidemic plunged the community into crisis. The AIDS Memorial Quilt was displayed for the first time on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., during the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. That weekend, half a million people visited the quilt, which covered a space larger than a football field and included 1,920 panels. The largest community art project in the world, the quilt is both a celebration of the lives lost to AIDS-related causes and a powerful reminder of diseases deadly toll.

1981: CANADA 'OPERATION SOAP' POLICE RAIDS

On Feb. 5, 1981 Toronto police stormed four gay bathhouses in the city as part of what they called "Operation Soap," and arrested just under 300 men. For the majority, charges were later dropped or dismissed. Rallies were held in response to the injustice and to this day it is often referred to as Canada's Stonewall. To this day, "Operation Soap" is one of the largest mass arrests in Canada and it was 35 years later in 2016 that Toronto's police chief formally apologized for the raids.

1981: CANADA FIRST LESBIAN PRIDE MARCH IN CANADA

"Look over here, look over there, lesbians are everywhere!" was the chant of over 200 women who marched from Robson's Square in Vancouver to the West End Community Centre in Canada's first lesbian pride march which took place on the weekend of the fifth Binational Lesbian Conference. They were there to: "Define what it means to be lesbian and come out, not just as individual women, but as a movement" Dorothea Kidd, Organizer.

1985: CANADA MOVING TOWARDS EQUALITY

The Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights released a report titled "Equality for All" on October 16, 1985. The committee writes that it is shocked by the high level of discriminatory treatment of homosexuals in Canada. The report discusses the harassment, violence, physical abuse, psychological oppression and hate propaganda that homosexuals live with on a daily basis. The committee recommends that the Canadian Human Rights Act be changed to make it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation. It would take another ten (10) years before this is achieved.

1988: CANADA FIRST OPENLY GAY MEMBER OF CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

British Columbia MP Svend Robinson came out as Canada's first openly gay member of parliament. Robinson publicly announced he was gay during an interview with CBC reporter Barbara Frum. Robinson was the lone publicly gay MP for another six years, until Quebecois R  al M  nard came out in 1994, followed by B.C. MP Libby Davies who was the first lesbian to come out in 2001.

1990: W.H.O REMOVE HOMOSEXUALITY FROM DISORDER LIST

May 17, the World Health Organization (WHO) voted to remove 'homosexuality' from being designated a mental disorder in the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10).

1991: CANADA TORONTO ENDORSES PRIDE

City of Toronto officially endorses the Lesbian and Gay Pride Day in Toronto.

1992: CANADA FEDERAL COURT LIFTS BAN AGAINST GAYS AND LESBIANS IN THE MILITARY

In January 1990, Michelle Douglas, a lesbian woman who had been dismissed from the armed forces launched a lawsuit against the military for compensation for her dismissal and to challenge its discriminatory policy against gay and lesbian service members. On 27 October 1992, the day the trial of her case was to begin, the armed forces agreed to settle and as part of the settlement the Federal Court signed a judgment granting declarations that Douglas's section 15(1) rights had been violated and that "the Defendant's poli[cies] ... regarding the service of homosexuals in the Canadian Armed Forces are contrary to the Charter." Later that day, the Chief of Defence Staff issued a statement that "Canadians, regardless of their sexual orientation, will now be able to serve their country ... without restriction".

1994: CANADA SAME-SEX COUPLES GAIN LEGAL ADOPTION RIGHTS IN ONTARIO

An Ontario Court judge finds that the Child and Family Services Act of Ontario infringes Section 15 of the Charter by not allowing same-sex couples to bring a joint application for adoption. Concluding that "I cannot imagine a more blatant example of discrimination," Justice Nevins ruled that the definition of "spouse" should be amended to include partners of the same sex and that the four lesbians have the right to adopt their partner's children. On May 24, 1995 Ontario becomes the first province to make it legal for same-sex couples to adopt. British Columbia, Alberta and Nova Scotia follow suit, also allowing adoption by same-sex couples. Other provinces are looking into the issue.

1996: CANADA BILL C-33: SEXUAL ORIENTATION INCLUDED IN CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Receiving royal assent on June 20, 1996, the federal government passed Bill C-33, adding "sexual orientation" to the Canadian Human Rights Act which covers federally-regulated activities. Parliament enacted Bill C-33, An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act, to include sexual orientation among the Act's prohibited grounds of discrimination. Bill C-33 had the effect of codifying the law as stated in the Ontario Court of Appeal's Haig (1992) decision and since practised by the Canadian Human Rights Commission and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. This inclusion was a clear declaration by Parliament that gay, lesbian and bisexual Canadians are entitled to "an opportunity equal with other individuals to make for themselves the lives they are able and wish to have [...]"

2002: CANADA STEPS TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY BEGINS

The road to Marriage equality began on July 12, 2002, when Justice LaForme, for a unanimous Ontario Superior Court of Justice, released a landmark decision that would pave the way towards gay marriage in Ontario and across North America. The Ontario Superior Court ruled that

prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying is unconstitutional and violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The court gave Ontario two years to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples. As a result of the Ontario ruling, the Alberta government passes a bill banning same-sex marriages and defines marriage as exclusively between a man and a woman. The province says it will use the notwithstanding clause to avoid recognizing same-sex marriages if Ottawa amends the Marriage Act.

2003: CANADA SAME-SEX COUPLE MARRY IN ONTARIO

Michael Leshner and Michael Stark became the first same-sex couple to be issued a marriage license and marry in Toronto, Ontario after the ruling by the Ontario Court of Appeals. The unanimous Court found that the exclusion of same-sex couples was a clear violation of the Charter of Rights & Freedoms, the court ruling allowing same-sex couples to marry would take effect immediately. In the next two years, seven provinces and one territories also legalized same-sex marriage B.C (2003) Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland, Quebec, Yukon (2004), and New Brunswick (2005).

2005: CANADA BILL C-38: CIVIL MARRIAGE ACT

Bill C-38 bill became federal law which gave same-sex couples the legal right to marry. This made Canada the fourth country in the world to allow same-sex marriage. Official Legislative summary: 'This enactment extends the legal capacity for marriage for civil purposes to same-sex couples in order to reflect values of tolerance, respect and equality, consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. It also makes consequential amendments to other Acts to ensure equal access for same-sex couples to the civil effects of marriage and divorce'

2011: USA 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL' IS REPEALED

President Barack Obama overturns the law that prevented out LGBTQ+ community members to openly serve in the U.S. military.

2013: CANADA KATHLEEN WYNNE: FIRST OPEN LGBT PREMIER

Kathleen Wynne wins the leadership of the governing Ontario Liberal Party on the 3rd ballot in its leadership election. Wynne is formally sworn into office on February 11, becoming both Ontario's first female Premier and Canada's first openly LGBT Premier.

2015: USA SEXUAL ORIENTATION ADDED TO MILITARY'S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Though, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was repealed in 2011, sexual orientation was still not a protected class under the Military Equal Opportunity Policy until June of 2015. That year, U.S. Defense Secretary, Ashton Carter announced that sexual orientation would officially be added to the anti-discrimination policy.

2015: USA PRESIDENT OBAMA ACKNOWLEDGES THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN THE STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

For the first time in U.S. history, the words "lesbian," "bisexual," and "transgender," were used in the president's State of the Union address, when President Obama mentioned that, as Americans we, "respect human dignity," and condemn the persecution of minority groups.

2015: USA SCOTUS DECLARES LOVE WINS

On this date June 26th, 2015, the United States Supreme Court declared that same-sex marriage is a federally recognized Constitutional right. After this ruling, all fifty states in America must grant the right to get married to anyone, without bias and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

2016: CANADA PARLIMENT RAISES PRIDE FLAG

For the first time in Canadian history, a pride flag is raised on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

2016: USA NEW YORK CITY'S STONEWALL INN IS RECOGNIZED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT

The gay bar in which Pride gained its historic roots was granted national monument status by the Obama administration. It is the first-ever national monument dedicated to LGBTQ+ history.

2017: CANADA BILL C-16: CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT EXPANDED TO GENDER IDENTITY & EXPRESSION

On June 19, Bill C-16 was passed by the federal government and received Royal Assent. The bill updated the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code to include the terms "gender identity" and "gender expression." The legislation also makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of gender identity or expression. It also extends hate speech laws to include the two terms, and makes it a hate crime to target someone for being transgender. The bill also amends the sentencing principles section of the code so that a person's gender identity or expression can be considered an aggravating circumstance by a judge during sentencing.

2017: CANADA FIRST TRANS PERSON APPOINTED JUDGE IN CANADA

Kael McKenzie (born 1971) is appointed to the Provincial Court of Manitoba making him the first transgender person appointed as a judge in Canada. "I didn't set out to be a trailblazer or to try to have courage. It just happened that way" Kael McKenzie. He is a member of the Manitoba Métis Nation and has also served as the Manitoba chair of the Canadian Bar Association, and president of the provincial Rainbow Resource Centre for Manitoba's LGBT2Q+ community.

2019: USA MARSHA P. JOHNSON AND SYLVIA RIVERA ARE CELEBRATED AND MEMORIALIZED WITH A MONUMENT

Before Pride month began last June, New York City dedicated a new monument to honor the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Inn Riots. Trans activists, leaders in the Stonewall Inn riots, and founders of Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.), Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera are the faces of the monument that will stand in Greenwich Village.

2019: W.H.O DECLARES TRANSGENDER IS NOT A MENTAL DISORDER

On May 23, the World Health Organization (WHO) voted to remove 'transgender' from being designated a mental disorder. The W.H.O will now use the term 'gender incongruence' to describe people whose gender identity is different from the gender they were assigned at birth. This term has been added to the sexual health category of the 11th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-11).

2019: CANADA INTERSEX FLAG RAISED AT CITY HALL

Community group, Intersex London On lobbied the City of London to raise the Intersex flag at city hall for the first time in 2019 to mark Intersex Awareness Day (October 26th). The City of Barrie also raised the intersex flag at City Hall on the same morning.

2020: USA SCOTUS RULES LGBT EMPLOYEES ARE PROTECTED UNDER FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACT

The United States Supreme Court ruled that it is illegal for employers to fire workers because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This ruling came under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

2021: CANADA FIRST OPENLY TWO-SPIRIT MP ELECTED

Blake Desjarlais is elected to the Canadian House of Commons in the 2021 Federal Election as MP for Edmonton-Griesbach, becoming the first openly Two-Spirit Member of Parliament elected to office. Blake, who is of Cree and Métis descent is originally from the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement in northern Alberta. "I really hope through my visibility in Parliament we can start that conversation and hopefully inspire others to see the beauty and uniqueness of Two-Spirit identities, as holistic and whole beings who belong in societies," Blake Desjarlais.

2021: CANADA BILL C-4: AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE (CONVERSION THERAPY)

Receiving Royal Assent on Dec 8, 2021, Bill C-4: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy) is passed into law. Bill C4 was the third attempt to criminalize conversion therapy with its predecessors Bill C-8 (43-1) and Bill C-6 (43-2) introduced by the Attorney General of Canada, David Lametti. The bill defines conversion therapy as the "practice, treatment or service designed to change a person's sexual orientation to heterosexual, or to change a person's gender identity to cisgender." This legislation makes providing, promoting or advertising of conversion therapy a criminal offence through the creation of four new Criminal Code offences: (a) causing a person to undergo conversion therapy, (b) subjecting a minor to conversion therapy abroad, (c) profiting from the provision of conversion therapy and (d) advertising or promoting the practice, with penalties of two to five years in prison. It also amends the Criminal Code to authorize courts to order that advertisements for conversion therapy be disposed of or deleted. And whereas, in light of those harms, it is important to discourage and denounce the provision of conversion therapy in order to protect the human dignity and equality of all Canadians; Preamble, Bill C-4 (Royal Assent) December 8, 2021 Conversion Therapy was already banned to different degrees in Ontario, Manitoba, Vancouver, Quebec, Yukon, Nova Scotia and PEI. This bill will ensure it is banned nationwide.



Everyone has their personal story and reason for using a pride flag: it gives those who have felt left out or unseen a sense of belonging; for others it might be their way of coming out and expressing their gender/sexuality; and for many it is a way to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community. It all started in 1977...



Gilbert Pride Flag, the flag that started it all: It was created in 1977 by Gilbert Baker, an artist, activist, and openly gay military veteran. Tasked by Harvey Milk, a historic figure in the fight for LGBTQ rights, to create a flag for the queer community, Baker created a rainbow flag with eight different colors. Inspired by the classic song "Over the Rainbow" from the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*, Baker created a rainbow flag to represent LGBTQ folks. Each color in the flag also had a specific meaning. *Hot Pink symbolizes sex, Red equals life, Orange symbolizes healing, Yellow stands for sunlight, Green represents nature, Turquoise equals magic & art, Indigo stands for serenity, Violet represents the spirit of LGBTQ people.*



The 6-Color Pride Flag is one of the most well-known and used LGBT flags throughout history. This flag includes the colors red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, and violet on it. Hot pink wasn't included in the fabrication of these flags, because the fabric was hard to find. The demand for the flag started to rise after the assassination of gay San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk on November 27, 1978. In 1979, the flag was modified again. Aiming to decorate the streetlamps along the parade route with hundreds of rainbow banners, Gilbert Baker decided to split the motif in two with an even number of stripes flanking each lamp pole. To achieve this effect, he dropped the turquoise stripe that had been used in the seven-stripe flag. The result was the six-stripe version of the flag that would become the standard for future production.



The Philadelphia Pride Flag came out in response to the demand of more inclusivity across the LGBTQ+ community. The flag launched in 2017 as part of the "More Color More Pride" Campaign in Philadelphia and was designed by a small Philly-based PR agency. The addition of black and brown stripes to the traditional pride flag symbolized people of color, who historically were not always included in aspects of the mainstream gay rights movement.



Given the evolving nature of the LGBTQ+ community and society at large, **the Progress Pride Flag** integrates many of these flags into one. Thankfully, it has been redesigned to place a greater emphasis on “inclusion and progression.” Our community is such a huge umbrella of different kind of people and that is what makes us so special, that is what makes us so unique and that is what makes us so powerful. The modern pride flag now includes stripes to represent the experiences of people of color, as well as stripes to represent people who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming (GNC) and/or undefined. Daniel Quasar’s flag includes the colors of the trans flag, as well as black and brown stripes harkening back to 2017 Philadelphia Pride Flag, which sought to further represent the queer and trans identities of black and brown people.

2S



The Two Spirited Pride Flag: The Two Spirit Pride flag overlays two feathers on the rainbow color stripes of the LGBTQ2 community. The feathers represent woman and man, while the circle represents unity in one.

L



The Lesbian Flag is one of the flags fewer people know about. This flag features different shades of pink and sometimes comes with a red kiss on it to represent lipstick lesbians. This flag was created by Natalie McCray in 2010. Some lesbians oppose this flag because of its exclusion of butch lesbians but no other flag has as much popularity as this one. In the new flag, the colors represent the following: Darkest Orange: Gender non-conformity, Middle Orange: Independence, Lightest Orange: Community, White: Unique relationships to womanhood, Lightest Pink: Serenity and peace, Middle Pink: Love and sex, Darkest Pink: Femininity.

G



The Gay Men's Pride Flag is another lesser known pride flag. It features different shades of green, blue, and purple. This modern gay men's pride flag is a revamp of an earlier gay men's pride flag that featured a range of blue tones. That version was problematic because it used colors that were stereotypical of the gender binary. This updated flag is inclusive of a much wide range of gay men, including but not limited to transgender, intersex, and gender nonconforming men.

B



The **Bisexual Pride Flag** was created in 1998 by Michael Page. His idea for the flag represents pink and blue blending to make purple. The way that bisexual people can blend into the straight community and the gay community. The colors of the flag also represent attraction to different genders. The pink symbolizes attraction to the same gender, while the blue represents attraction to a different gender. The purple represents attraction to two or more genders, the definition of bisexuality.

T



The Transgender Flag was first created in 1999 by Monica Helms, a transgender woman. Light blue and pink are featured because they're the traditional colors associated with baby boys and girls, respectively. The white stands for those who are intersex, transitioning or those who don't feel identified with any gender. Transgender people have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from the sex that they were assigned at birth. According to Amnesty International, 1.5 million transgender people live in the European Union, making up 0.3% of the population. And more than 1.4 million trans adults living in the U.S., which is about 0.5% of the population. Violence against the queer community affects trans people of color the most. Therefore, the Transgender Flag is so important! The trans community needs representation and resources to be visible without fear.

I



This flag went through a variety of iterations before the current **Intersex Flag** emerged. Previous versions embraced the rainbow that is often associated with queer pride, while others used colors like blue and pink, which are found on the transgender flag. In 2013, Morgan Carpenter chose the colors yellow and purple for the intersex flag. Morgan moved away from the rainbow symbolism and selected these colors because neither is associated with the social constructs of the gender binary. The circle, perfect and unbroken, represents the wholeness of intersex people. It is a reminder that intersex people are perfect the way they are or choose to be.

A



The **Flag for the Asexual** Community was created in 2010 by the Asexual Visibility and Education Network. Asexual is the lack of sexual attraction to others, or a low interest in sexual activity, but asexuality can mean different things to different people, it is best to ask each individual what it means to them. For some people, it may mean that they rely on other types of attraction instead of or in place of sexual attraction. Asexual can be an umbrella term and each color in this flag also represents something unique. Black stands for asexuality. Gray represents demisexuality, for those who develop sexual attraction to someone only after forming a deep emotional bond with them. White stands for the allies of the community. Purple represents the entire community of asexual folks.



The Pansexual Flag was created in 2010. Pansexuality represents those people who feel attracted to a person without thinking about gender. Pansexual people may refer to themselves as gender-blind, asserting that gender and sex are not determining factors in their romantic or sexual attraction to others. This means that they can feel attraction to those who identify as women, men, both or neither. The pink on the flag represents attraction to women, blue represents attraction to men, and yellow stands for attraction to those who don't identify with either gender. Pansexuality may be considered a sexual orientation or a branch of bisexuality, to indicate an alternative sexual identity. Because pansexual people are open to relationships with people who do not identify as strictly men or women, and pansexuality therefore rejects the gender binary, it is often considered a more inclusive term than bisexual.



The Abrosexual Pride Flag has existed since 2015. Abrosexual refers to an individual whose sexuality is changing or fluid. For example, someone could be gay one day, then be asexual the next, then polysexual the next. While it is possible - and even common - for a person's sexual identity to shift or change in some way throughout their life, an abrosexual person's sexuality may change more frequently, over the course of hours, days, months, or years. Because of their inconsistent attraction, some abrosexual people may not feel compelled to seek out a relationship or may prefer a waver ship. The timing of the fluctuations is different for every person; for some the fluctuations may be erratic and for others they may be regular. The sexualities that a person fluctuates between also varies. Some abrosexual people may be fluid between all sexualities, while others may only be fluid between a few.



The Genderqueer pride flag, featuring a lavender, white, and chartreuse stripe, was designed in 2011 by genderqueer writer and advocate Marilyn Roxie. Roxie chose the lavender to represent androgyny as well as queer identities because it's a mixture of pink and blue—colors that are traditionally associated with men and women. The white stripe, as per the transgender pride flag, stands for agender or gender neutral identities. And the chartreuse stripe, the inverse of lavender, represent third gender identities and identities that don't fall within the gender binary.



JJ Poole created the **Genderfluid pride flag** in 2012 because they were disappointed with the lack of symbolic representation for genderfluidity. The flag has five horizontal stripes, which are widely considered to represent femininity (pink); masculinity (blue); both femininity and masculinity (purple); a lack of gender (black); and all genders (white).



Salem X created the seven-stripe **Agender Pride flag** in 2014, which they described in an interview as a time when Tumblr “was seeing a huge influx of identities, pronouns, and other means of personalizing one’s identity.” (Agender refers to someone who does not identify with a particular gender.) The black and white stripes represent an absence of gender, the gray represents semi-genderlessness, and the central green stripe represents nonbinary genders.



In 2014, Kye Rowan created **the Nonbinary Pride Flag** to represent people whose gender identity does not fit within the traditional male/female binary. The colors of the nonbinary flag are yellow, white, purple, and black. The colors each symbolize a different subgroup of people who identify as nonbinary. Yellow signifies something on its own or people who identify outside of the cisgender binary of male or female. A cisgender person would be a person whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth. White, a color that consists of all colors mixed, stands for multi-gendered people. Purple, like the lavender color in the genderqueer flag, represents people who identify as a blending of male and female genders. Finally, black (the absence of color) signifies those who are agender, who feel they do not have a gender. Some non-binary/genderqueer people use gender-neutral pronouns. Usage of singular 'they', 'their' and 'them' is the most common.



The Heterosexual Pride Flag. Straight is most viewed as men attracted to women and women attracted to men. The term "straight" is used to describe for both straight men and straight women. While straight is often used to describe non-LGBT people it is possible for straight people to be part of the LGBT community. For example, they might be transgender. They also might be, asexual heteroromantic, or aromantic heterosexual, which also makes them LGBT. However, some believe "straight pride" events are simply the latest manifestation of anti-LGBTQ bigotry. Heterosexual pride parades exist as a response to societal acceptance of LGBTQ visibility and originated in campuses in the 1990s as a backlash tactic. Straight pride is a slogan that arose in the late 1980s and early 1990s that has primarily been used by social conservatives as a political stance and strategy. The term is described as a response to gay pride adopted by various groups (later united under the moniker LGBT) in the early 1970s, or to the accommodations provided to gay pride initiatives.



The Straight Ally flag is using the black-white "colors" of the heterosexual flag as a field, it adds a large rainbow colored "A" (for "Ally") to indicate straight support for the Gay Pride/Equal Marriage movement. A straight ally or heterosexual ally is a heterosexual and/or cisgender person who supports equal civil rights, gender equality, LGBT social movements, and challenges homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. A straight ally believes that LGBT people face discrimination and thus are socially and economically disadvantaged.

DEFINITIONS

Aromantic: Aromantic orientation generally characterized by not feeling romantic attraction or a desire for romance. Aromantic people can be satisfied by friendship and other non-romantic relationships. Many aromantic people also identify with a sexual orientation, such as asexual, bisexual, etc.

Asexual: A broad spectrum of sexual orientations generally characterized by feeling varying degrees of sexual attraction. There are many diverse ways of being asexual. A person who does not experience sexual attraction can experience other forms of attraction such as romantic attraction, physical attraction, and emotional attraction. These may or may not correlate with each other - for instance, some people are physically and romantically attracted to women. However, others might be physically attracted to all genders and only emotionally attracted to men.

Cisgender: A person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.

Cissexism/Genderism: The pervasive system of discrimination and exclusion founded on the belief that there are, and should be, only two genders and that one's gender or most aspects of it, are inevitably tied to assigned sex. This system oppresses people whose gender and/or gender expression falls outside of cis-normative constructs. Within cissexism, cisgender people are the dominant group and trans/ gender non-conforming people are the oppressed group.

Coming Out: Coming out is the process of voluntarily sharing one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity with others. This process is unique for each individual and there is no right or wrong way to come out. The term "coming out" has also been broadened to include other pieces of potentially stigmatized personal information. Terms also used that correlate with this action are: "Being out" which means not concealing one's sexual orientation or gender identity, and "Outing" a term used for making public the sexual orientation or gender identity of another who would prefer to keep this information secret.

Discrimination: Inequitable actions carried out by members of a dominant group or its representatives against members of a marginalized or minoritized group.

Gender: There are currently 52 different gender identities. Gender is defined as a social construct used to classify a person as a man, woman, or some other identity. Fundamentally different from the sex one is assigned at birth; a set of social, psychological and emotional traits, often influenced by societal expectations

Gender-fluid: A person who is gender fluid is flexible in regard to the sex with which they identify. They believe that gender is non-binary, meaning that not all humans fit squarely into either the male or female category.

Gender Non conforming (GNC): Adjective for people who do not subscribe to societal expectations of typical gender expressions or roles. The term is more commonly used to refer to gender

expression (how one behaves, acts, and presents themselves to others) as opposed to gender identity (one's internal sense of self).

Genderqueer: A person whose gender identity and/or gender expression falls outside of the dominant societal norm for their assigned sex, is beyond genders, or is some combination of them.

Heteronormativity: Attitudes and behaviors that incorrectly assume gender is binary, ignoring genders besides women and men, and that people should and will align with conventional expectations of society for gender identity, gender expression, and sexual and romantic attraction. For example, someone assigned female at birth is expected to 1) have a body that is considered "female" by the dominant culture, 2) identify as a girl or woman, 3) act feminine and fulfill the roles associated with girls and/or women, and 4) be romantically and sexually attracted to men.

Heterosexism: The assumption that all people are or should be heterosexual. Heterosexism excludes the needs, concerns, and life experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer people while it gives advantages to heterosexual people. It is often a subtle form of oppression, which reinforces realities of silence and invisibility.

Homophobia: The irrational hatred and fear of 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Homophobia includes prejudice, discrimination, harassment, and acts of violence brought on by fear and hatred. It occurs on personal, institutional, and societal levels.

Internalized homophobia: The fear and self-hate of one's own LGBBTQIA identity, that occurs for many individuals who have learned negative ideas about LGBTQIA+ people throughout childhood. One form of internalized oppression is the acceptance of the myths and stereotypes applied to the oppressed group.

Internalized oppression: The fear and self-hate of one or more of a person's own identities that occurs for many individuals who have learned negative ideas about their identities throughout childhood. One form of internalized oppression is the acceptance of the myths and stereotypes applied to the oppressed group.

Intersex: People who, without medical intervention, develop primary or secondary sex characteristics that do not fit "neatly" into society's definitions of male or female. Many visibly intersex people are mutilated in infancy and early childhood by doctors to make the individual's sex characteristics conform to society's idea of what normal bodies should look like. Intersex people are relatively common, although society's denial of their existence has allowed very little room for intersex issues to be discussed publicly.

LGBT: Abbreviation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender. An umbrella term used to refer to the community as a whole.

Microaggressions: Brief and subtle behaviors, whether intentional or not, that communicate hostile, derogatory, or negative messages of commonly oppressed identities. These actions cause

harm through the invalidation of the target person's identity and may reinforce stereotypes. Examples of microaggressions include a person who is not white being told they speak "good English" or someone saying something is "gay" to mean they think something is bad.

Misgendering: Attributing a gender to someone that is incorrect/does not align with their gender identity. Can occur when using pronouns, gendered language (i.e. "Hello ladies!" "Hey guys"), or assigning genders to people without knowing how they identify (i.e. "Well, since we're all women in this room, we understand...").

Non-Binary: A gender identity that embraces full universe of expressions and ways of being that resonate with an individual. It may be an active resistance to binary gender expectations and/or an intentional creation of new unbounded ideas of self within the world.

Oppression: exists when one social group, whether knowingly or unconsciously, exploits another social group for its own benefit.

Orientation: Orientation is one's attraction or non-attraction to other people. An individual's orientation can be fluid and people use a variety of labels to describe their orientation. Some, but not all, types of attraction or orientation include: romantic, sexual, sensual, aesthetic, intellectual and platonic.

Privilege: A set of unearned benefits given to people who fit into a specific social group.

Pronouns: Linguistic tools used to refer to someone in the third person. Examples are they/them/theirs, she/her/hers, he/him/his. Pronouns have been tied to gender and are a common site of Misgendering (attributing a gender to someone that is incorrect.)

Queer: This can include, but is not limited to, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and asexual people. This term has different meanings to different people. Some still find it offensive, while others reclaim it to encompass the broader sense of history of the gay rights movement. Can also be used as an umbrella term like LGBT, as in "the queer community."

Questioning: The process of exploring one's own gender identity, gender expression, and/or sexual orientation. Some people may also use this term to name their identity within the LGBTQIA community.

Spectrum: A range or sliding scale. Aspects of one's identity like sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression exist on a spectrum. For example, with sexual orientation, the attraction to men, women, or someone of another gender all exist on separate spectrums. Someone might feel a little attracted to men, very much attracted to women, and moderate attraction to people outside this binary.

Stereotype: A generalization applied to every person in a cultural group; a fixed conception of a group without allowing for individuality. When we believe our stereotypes, we tend to ignore

characteristics that don't conform to our stereotype, rationalize what we see to fit our stereotype, see those who do not conform as "exceptions," and find ways to create the expected characteristics.

Transgender: Used most often as an umbrella term, some commonly held definitions: 1. Someone whose gender identity or expression does not fit (dominant-group social constructs of) assigned birth sex and gender. 2. A gender outside of the man/woman binary. 3. Having no gender or multiple genders.

Transition: Transitioning is the process of taking steps to live as one's true gender identity. Transitioning is different for each individual and may or may not involve medical interventions like taking hormones or having surgery. Some people may not choose to transition in certain ways for a variety of reasons. The extent of someone's transition does not make that person's gender identity any less or more valid. Transitioning may include socially transitioning, such as going by certain pronouns or going by the Lived Name that affirms one's gender identity. Transitioning may involve making changes to one's physical appearance, such as wearing certain clothing, wearing one's hair in a different style or length, or more complex changes such as medically transitioning through hormones or surgery. Transitioning can also involve changing legal documents to match one's authentic sense of self.

Trans-Feminine: Trans-feminine is a term for any person, binary or non-binary, who was assigned male at birth and has a predominantly feminine gender identity or presentation.

Trans-Masculine: Trans-Masculine identities are those of people who were assigned female at birth, but do not identify as female.

Transphobia: The fear or hatred of transgender people or people who do not meet society's gender role expectations.

Two Spirit: A cultural and spiritual identity used by some First Nations peoples to describe having both masculine and feminine spirits. For some, Two-Spirit describes a societal and spiritual role that people played within traditional societies, as mediators, keepers of certain ceremonies, transcending accepted roles of men and women, and filling a role as an established middle gender. The term is a translation of the Anishinaabemowin term *niizh manidoowag*, two spirits. The use of these terms by people who are not descendants of the First Nations is considered cultural appropriation.

SOURCES FOR INFORMATION GATHERED

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