

# LGBTQ+ FIRSTS

## THE LONG ROAD TO EQUALITY

This LGBTQ+ History Month, a month-long observance of the fight for LGBTQ+ equality, our PRISM Network invites you to take a step back in time and reflect on how far the rights movement has come.

**27 BCE**  
First recorded same-sex marriage

The Roman Empire is established under the rule of Augustus. The first recorded same-sex marriage occurs during his reign

**1912 – 1954**  
First general purpose computer

Alan Turing's work in theoretical computer science is widely regarded as having provided the first model for a general purpose computer

**1969**  
Stonewall riots

June 28, 1969: From a small bar in Greenwich Village, NYC, the Stonewall riots of 1969 were a catalyst for the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement in the United States

**1972**  
Legal right to change sex

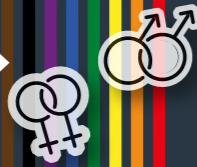
Sweden becomes the first country in the world to give trans individuals the legal right to change their sex, and provides free hormone therapy

**1978**  
The rainbow flag

June 25, 1978: the original rainbow flag designed by Gilbert Baker, flies in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The rainbow flag has now become a key symbol of the LGBTQ+ community worldwide

**2009**  
First openly gay head of government

February 1, 2009: Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir is elected Prime Minister of Iceland, becoming the first openly gay leader of government in the world



**1791**  
First to decriminalise

The French Penal Code of 1791 is the first Western code of law to decriminalise homosexuality

**1967**  
57 years ago  
July 27, 1967: 57 years ago this summer, the Sexual Offences Act 1967 partially decriminalised homosexuality

**1972**  
First UK Pride  
July 1, 1972: The first official UK Gay Pride Rally takes place in London. Today, LGBTQ+ Pride events are held annually throughout the world to mark the Stonewall riots

**1977**  
First openly gay US public official  
November 8, 1977: Harvey Milk becomes one of the first openly gay public officials in the United States, when he is elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

**1998**  
First gay member of the House of Lords  
July 18, 1998: Waheed Alli becomes the first openly gay member of the House of Lords. Waheed is a media entrepreneur and was previously the chairman of Asos

**2022**  
First same-sex marriages in Chile  
March 2022: Following a law change, same-sex marriage is legalised. This also enables greater parental legal rights and responsibilities for married LGBTQ+ parents

**2020**  
First openly gay member of a US president's cabinet  
President Biden chooses Pete Buttigieg to be his Transport Secretary. Pete came out as gay in 2015

**2018**  
Progress Pride Flag  
Graphic designer Daniel Quasar adds five lines to the Rainbow Flag to emphasise the importance of "inclusion and progression". The colours of these lines include black and brown to represent marginalised LGBTQ+ communities of colour, along with pink, blue and white, which represent the Trans Pride Flag

**2017**  
Ireland's first openly gay head of government  
June 14, 2017: Leo Varadkar is appointed Taoiseach, prime minister of Ireland, making him the country's first openly gay head of government

**2015**  
First country to legalise same-sex marriage by referendum  
May 22, 2015: Ireland votes by a large majority (62%) to legalise same-sex marriage, becoming the first country in the world to do so by a referendum

**2013**  
Queen's Counsel  
Caroline Harrison becomes the first trans QC



**2023**  
First time a court has recognised the rights of a same-sex couple in South Korea  
February 2023: A South Korean court ruled that a same-sex couple should receive the same benefits as different-sex couples through the National Health Insurance Service

**2021**  
First active NFL player to come out  
Carl Nassib, defensive end for the Las Vegas Raiders, uses an Instagram post to come out as gay

**2019**  
First Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage  
May 24, 2019: Taiwan becomes the first country in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage

**2017**  
UK Government announces 'Turing's Law'  
Thousands of gay and bi men convicted of now abolished sexual offences are posthumously pardoned under 'Turing's Law', named after Alan Turing – creator of modern computing

**2016**  
First openly gay bishop of the Church of England  
September 2, 2016: Nicholas Chamberlain becomes the first openly gay bishop of the Church of England

**2014**  
First same-sex marriages in England and Wales  
March 29, 2014: the first same-sex marriages take place in England and Wales

**2014**  
Openly bi CEO of Lloyds  
January 2014: Inga Beale becomes the first female and openly bi CEO of Lloyds of London

## THERE IS STILL PROGRESS TO BE MADE

**70**  
countries criminalise same-sex relationships

**11**  
of these countries either "allow" the death penalty for same-sex relationships or there is evidence of its occurrence

**2/3**  
(64%) of LGBTQ+ people have experienced anti-LGBT+ violence or abuse

**2 in 5**  
bi people (38%) aren't out to anyone at work about their sexual orientation

**2 in 5**  
trans people (41%) have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity

**1 in 8**  
LGBT+ people (13%) have experienced some form of unequal treatment from healthcare staff because they're LGBT+

**42%**  
of LGBT+ school pupils have been bullied in the past year, double the number of non-LGBT+ pupils (21%)