



1924

The Society for Human Rights is founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago. It is the first documented gay rights organization.

"Nobody believes we can do it —reporters, opponents— except ourselves."

— Henry Gerber

June 28, 1969

Police raid the Stonewall Inn in New York City. Protests and demonstrations begin, and it later becomes known as the impetus for the gay civil rights movement in the United States.

"We have to be visible. We should not be ashamed of who we are."

— Marsha P. Johnson

June 28, 1970

Community members in New York City march through the local streets to recognize the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. This event is named Christopher Street Liberation Day and is now considered the first gay pride parade.

"We have to come out into the open and stop being ashamed, or else people will go on treating us as freaks. This march is an affirmation and declaration of our new pride."

— Michael Brown

Did You Know?

The design was to represent gay and lesbian diversity around the world. Each color represents an aspect of being part of the LGBTQ+ community.

The colors are symbolic as follows:

- Red stands for life
- Orange stands for healing
- Yellow stands for the sun
- Green stands for nature
- Blue stands for harmony
- Purple stands for the soul

Did You Know?

Same-sex marriage is legal in 30 countries around the world. Switzerland became the latest nation that will go into effect on July 1, 2022.

"Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts."

— Barbara Gittings

Did You Know?

Young people who are LGBT and who are "out" to their immediate families report feeling happier than those who aren't.

"Openness may not completely disarm prejudice, but it's a good place to start."

— Jason Collins

Marsha P Johnson (1945-1992)

Marsha P Johnson was a gay liberation activist and an African-American transgender woman. Known as an outspoken advocate for gay rights, Marsha was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising in 1969.

She co-founded the gay and transvestite advocacy organization S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), alongside close friend Sylvia Rivera.

Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002)

Sylvia Rivera was a Latina American gay liberation and transgender rights activist significant in the LGBT history of New York City and the US as a whole. Rivera, who identified as a drag queen, was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance, and co-founded the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) with Marsha P. Johnson, a group dedicated to helping homeless young drag queens, LGBTQ+ youth and trans women.

Bayard Rustin (1912-1987)

Despite efforts, even within the civil rights movement itself, to overshadow him because he refused to be closeted, history was never able to blot out the fact that Bayard Rustin was the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, at which Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his groundbreaking "I Have a Dream" speech.