

Pride Month

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What is Pride Month?

Pride Month is a month-long observance in celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people. It also includes the history, culture, and contributions of these people and their communities. It is not limited to people with these sexualities or gender identities. Pride Month also celebrates and is celebrated those with a range of other identities considered outside of the cisgender heterosexual (cisgender heterosexual) mainstream, including people who are intersex,

nonbinary, asexual, pansexual, aromantic, two-spirit, or who identify in other ways or questioning their sexual or gender identity or expression. This event is commonly celebrated with parades and other large, celebratory gatherings that are devoted to individual displays of pride and expression, including displays of the rainbow Pride flag and other flags representing people with different identities.



Pride Month is commonly called Pride for short, as in *I can't wait for Pride!* The letter P in Pride is capitalized because it is used as a noun to collectively refer to events during this month or as an adjective in terms like Pride parade.

Where Does Pride Come From?

The observance of Pride Month (and earlier events like Gay Pride Day) traces back to a parade held in New York City in 1970 to mark the one-year anniversary of what became known as the [Stonewall Uprising](#). This event, sometimes referred to as the Stonewall Riots or simply as Stonewall, started on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn, a New York City bar frequented by gay and gender-nonconforming people. During that time, terms like LGBTQ didn't exist yet.

This historical moment began with a police raid on the bar, which at the time was a common occurrence supported by discriminatory laws. The police arrested several people, including gay people, drag queens and transgender activists Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. Many of them resisted, sparking protests that lasted for the next several days, during which



there were many incidents of police violence against the protesters. Though such resistance had occurred before, the Stonewall protests are widely thought to have increased the momentum of the movement for equal rights for members of the LGBTQ communities.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Stonewall Uprising and how it sparked the beginning of the gay rights movement in America.

Marsha P. Johnson (left) and Sylvia Rivera, were LGBTQ activists and in 1970, they founded the trans-youth organization STAR – Street Transvestite (now Transgender) Action Revolutionaries – that housed and fed homeless trans youth in New York City.

Today, many Pride Month events are a combination of celebration and activism during which people show pride in identities that have made them and continue to make them targets of marginalization and oppression, including through discriminatory laws.