



easy news

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LGBTQ+ History month


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February is **LGBTQ+** History Month. It is a time when people across the world remember LGBTQ+ people from history and LGBTQ+ people share their experiences.



The 'L' in LGBTQ+ stands for the word **lesbian**. This is a woman who is attracted to other women.



The 'G' in LGBTQ+ stands for the word **gay**. This means a man who is attracted to other men, but can also be used as a general term to describe women who are attracted to women.



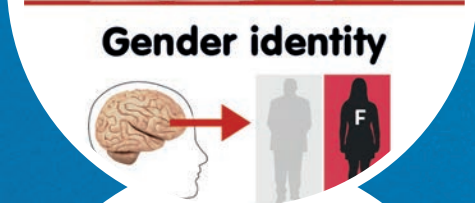
The 'B' in LGBTQ+ stands for the word **bisexual**. This is a person who is attracted to both men and women.



The 'T' in LGBTQ+ stands for the word **transgender**. This is a person whose **gender identity** doesn't match the **sexual identity** they were given on their birth certificate.



Sexual identity is based on whether you were born with a penis or a vagina. Gender identity is based around whether you feel like you are a man or a woman in your brain.



The 'Q' in LGBTQ+ stands for **queer** or sometimes, **questioning**. Queer is a term that can include anyone who is not **straight**. Straight is used to describe a man being attracted to a woman, or a woman being attracted to a man.



Questioning described someone who is still trying to understand their gender identity or who they are attracted to.



The '+' in LGBTQ+ is used to describe anyone who feels part of the LGBTQ+ community, but does not feel they completely fit into one of the groups.



Last year's Census was the first survey to ask people in England and Wales what their gender and sexuality is. More than 1.3 million people said they identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual on the Census.



More than 260,000 people said their gender identity was different to their sex registered at birth on the Census.



People who want to change their gender call themselves **transgender** or **trans**. To legally change your gender in the UK, you can apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate.



The government in Scotland have just tried to change their laws to make it easier for transgender people to change gender, but the UK government blocked the new law so they can't change it.



Treating somebody differently because of their race, religion, gender or sexuality (for example, for being gay) is called **discrimination**.



It is against the law in the UK for anyone to be discriminated against because of their gender, sexuality, disability or race. This is because of The Equality Act 2010.



People usually celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month in June. This is because June was the month in 1969 when the **Stonewall Riots** took place in the USA.



The Stonewall Riots were protests in New York by LGBTQ+ people which happened after police raided a gay bar called The Stonewall Inn. Police were fighting with the people in the bar, hitting them and trying to arrest them.



Whilst a lot of progress has been made, LGBTQ+ people are still discriminated against and treated unfairly in some countries.



LGBTQ+ people in Europe, the USA and other Western countries have better rights than LGBTQ+ people in other countries, such as China and Afghanistan.



In some countries, like Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Qatar, Iran, Barbados, Yemen, Nigeria, Sudan, Malaysia and Malawi, there are laws against being LGBTQ+.



LGBTQ+ people are worried that they will be put in prison, harassed or even murdered if someone finds out that they are LGBTQ+.



Thailand has become the first southeast Asian country to make it legal for two people who are the same sex to get married.



Other countries which have changed laws to give equal rights to LGBTQ+ people include: many European countries, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.



Sweden is said to be the most 'gay friendly' country in the world, with Canada 2nd and Norway 3rd.



There are some people who think being LGBTQ+ is a choice and can be changed using **conversion therapy**.



Lots of people think this is wrong and want this therapy banned.



The UK government have refused to ban conversion therapy. They say the issue is too complicated to be banned at the moment.



Lot of people find telling people they are LGBTQ+ hard, in case it changes the way people treat them. Telling people is called **coming out**.



Lots of famous people have started talking about how they are LGBTQ+ but have not wanted everyone to know.



Dame Kelly Holmes is a British athlete who won the 800m and 1500m athletics at the 2004 Olympics. She came out as gay during Pride Month last year.



Kelly said she thought she would be in trouble if she had told people she was gay when younger because she was in the Army. Gay people were not allowed in the army then.



Jake Daniels is a footballer who plays for Blackpool. He is the first professional male footballer to come out as gay since Justin Fashanu in 1990.



Rugby player Campbell Johnstone came out as gay earlier this year. He is the first New Zealand player to do so.



Many professional sports people find it difficult to come out as LGBTQ+ as they are worried they will be discriminated against, could lose their jobs or suffer abuse on social media.



Lots of people are arguing about whether trans sportspeople should be allowed take part in men's and women's sports events.



Some people say it is unfair because they have different bodies to the other athletes so they might find the sport easier.



Lots of public spaces now have **gender-neutral** bathrooms and toilets. Gender-neutral means people of any gender can use it. Some transgender people are happy about this because they feel more comfortable.



More progress around LGBTQ+ positivity is being made in the entertainment industry.



The singer Sam Smith just became the 1st **non-binary** winner of a Grammy Award for Best Pop Duo Performance with Kim Petras, who is transgender.



Non-binary means someone who does not feel their gender is male or female, and uses pronouns 'they' or 'them' to describe themselves, instead of 'he' or 'she'.



But Sam Smith also faces a lot of hatred online and in the media, especially since they have started to express their LGBTQ+ identity more in their fashion choices and music videos.

**Switchboard**
LGBT+ helpline

If you have been treated badly or been abused because of your sexuality or gender, you can tell the police or **Switchboard** – a charity for LGBTQ+ people.

**Parapride**
Pride. In. Everyone.

If you have a disability and are LGBTQ+, you can find out about accessible events, workshops and research at **ParaPride**.

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