

# LGBT Timeline

620bc	Greek poet <b>Sappho</b> born
356bc	Hellenistic ruler <b>Alexander the Great</b> born
1290	First mention in English common law of a punishment for homosexuality
1533	The Buggery Act was passed which made buggery punishable by hanging
1854	Irish writer <b>Oscar Wilde</b> born
1861	The Offences Against the Person Act abolished the death penalty for buggery in England and Wales
1869	First published use of the word 'homosexuality'
1870	Ernest Boulton and William Park, otherwise known as Mrs Stella Graham and Miss Fanny Winnifred Park, arrested in London for dressing as women while attending the theatre.
1885	The 'Labouchere Amendment' was passed which made homosexual acts illegal and it became known as the 'blackmailer's charter'
1893	Welsh actor, dramatist and composer <b>Ivor Novello</b> born
1895	Oscar Wilde sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour for indecency and sodomy
1897	English edition of the book Sexual Inversion by Havelock Ellis and John Addington Symonds published. First book in English to treat homosexuality as neither a disease nor a crime, maintaining that it was inborn and unchangeable.
1917	Welsh lawyer, politician and gay rights campaigner <b>Leo Abse</b> born
1919	Magnus Hirschfeld's 'Institute for Sexual Science', the first clinic to serve transgendered people on a regular basis, open in Berlin
1920s	The term 'gay' comes into usage
1928	First undisguised openly lesbian novel The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall is published and branded obscene by a judge.
1938	Nazis sent thousands of homosexuals to concentration camps where they were worked to death. Homosexuals were made to wear pink triangles.
1939	British actor and gay rights campaigner <b>Sir Ian McKellen</b> born British singer <b>Dusty Springfield</b> born
1948	Alfred Kinsey published Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male. For the first time, a mass produced and widely read document states the prevalence of homosexuality in society. His study Sexual Behaviour in the Human Female was published in 1953.
1951	Roberta Cowell was the first known British male-to-female transsexual to undergo sex reassignment surgery.
1956	The Sexual Offences Act became law which led to a rise in police activity against homosexuals for the rest of the century despite the amendments introduced in the Sexual Offences Act 1967.
1957	The Wolfenden Report was published which made recommendations about legalisation of homosexuality for consenting adults over 21 in private. The publication produced a storm of debate in the press. British actor, comedian and presenter <b>Stephen Fry</b> born
1958	The British Homosexual Law Reform Society was founded which campaigned to introduce the recommendations of the Wolfenden Report. Danish-born English comedienne, author and presenter <b>Sandy Toksvig</b> born
1961	Illinois was the first state in the US to decriminalise homosexuality. Release of the film Victim starring Dirk Bogarde. The first British film with a gay theme looking at blackmail.
1963	The first gay rights demonstration took place in the USA in New York, protesting against discrimination in the military.
1964	<b>Roberta Close</b> born. Brazilian male-to-female transsexual model.
1967	The Sexual Offences Act became law which decriminalised homosexual acts in private for consenting adults over 21 or over.
1969	The Stonewall riots started in New York. It was a spontaneous reaction against police harassment after a gay bar was raided by police. The Committee for Homosexual Equality was formed in Britain.
1970	The first Lesbian & Gay Pride march took place in New York to commemorate the Stonewall riots. The London Gay Liberation Front was founded.
1971	First Gay march in London protesting against the unequal age of consent for gay men (21) took place.
1972	The first UK gay newspaper, Gay News, was founded. The first Gay Pride march and carnival took place in London. Law Lords found the International Times magazine guilty of 'conspiracy to corrupt public morals' for publishing gay contact advertisements
1973	First national gay rights conference held in UK. First UK gay helpline founded in Oxford. First national gay rights conference held by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality in Morecombe.

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First International Gay Rights Conference held in Edinburgh.  
Journalist Jan Morris published *Conundrum*, a personal account of her transition.

1975

Action for Lesbian Parents founded after three high profile custody cases where lesbians were refused custody of their children

1978

US politician Harvey Milk is murdered in San Francisco.  
Ian Paisley launched 'Save Ulster from Sodomy' campaign

1979

Gay Life, the first ever gay TV series, commissioned for British TV by London Weekend Television

1980

Male homosexuality was decriminalised in Scotland.  
A Change of Sex is broadcast on the BBC. Following the journey of Julia Grant from male to female, the programme showed the full pain, determination and despair felt by trans people. It was a landmark piece of television, showing a trans person with determination, bravery and guts to fight for their rights, and for once showed a trans person as a complete person who was determined not to become a victim

1982

Male homosexuality was decriminalised in Northern Ireland.  
The Terrance Higgins Trust was launched, named after the first man thought to have died of an AIDS-related illness in the UK.

1983

Peter Tatchell, a Labour Party candidate, defeated in a by-election in Bermondsey after a vicious anti-gay campaign by tabloid newspapers and local Liberals

1984

Chris Smith, was the first MP to come out as gay while in office.

1985

South Wales miners joined the Pride march in thanks for the gay support given during the coalminers strike

1988

Section 28, preventing the 'promotion' of homosexuality by local authorities came into force.  
The first British national conference for lesbians and gay men with disabilities was held.  
Lesbians absented in the House of Lords and also got into the BBC newsroom in protests against Section 28.

1990

The direct action group OutRage! was set up by Peter Tatchell after the murder of actor Michael Boothe.

1991

Lesbian and Gay Police Association formed

1994

House of Commons voted to reduce the gay male age of consent to 18.  
Anna Friel and Nicola Stephenson share British Television's first pre-watershed lesbian kiss on Brookside

1995

Gaytime TV launched

1996

Queer Bashing report and survey launched

1997

British General Election saw two out-gay men elected as MPs, Ben Bradshaw & Stephen Twigg.  
Angela Eagle first British MP to come out voluntarily as a lesbian.  
New Labour Government recognised same-sex partners for immigration purposes.

1998

Matthew Sheppard's murder brought international attention to the issue of homophobic hate crime  
Gay footballer Justin Fashanu commits suicide  
Gregory Woods appointed the first Professor of Lesbian and Gay studies in the UK

1999

German government honoured lesbian and gay Nazi victims.  
Bomb exploded in the Admiral Duncan, a London gay pub. Three people died.  
Trans people gain legal protection in the field of employment.  
Hilary Swank wins Best Actress Oscar for her role in *Boys Don't Cry*, film based on the true story of trans man Brandon Teena.  
Queer as Folk broadcast in the UK

2000

British government lifts ban on gays and lesbians in the military.  
The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act lowers the age of consent to 16, in line with the heterosexual age. Government have to use Parliament Act to force through legislation after Lords reject the Bill

2002

Equal rights are granted to lesbian and gay couples applying for adoption.  
Alan Duncan became first serving Conservative MP to voluntarily come out as gay

2003

Repeal of Section 28. Discrimination at work on the grounds of sexual orientation made illegal by the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003.

2004

Sexual Offence Act sweeps away the Victorian Laws that were discriminatory towards gay men.  
Recognition of homophobic assault as a 'hate crime'.  
Gender Recognition Act enabled trans people to legally change their birth certificate to their 'corrected' gender.  
Gay penguin couple Roy and Silo successfully incubate, hatch and raised their adopted chick Tango in Manhattan Zoo. The penguins inspired the children's book *And Tango Makes Three*

2005

The Civil Partnership Act (2004) is passed, prior to coming into effect in 2005. The Act grants civil partnerships in the United Kingdom with rights and responsibilities identical to civil marriage. Civil Partners are entitled to the same property rights as married opposite-sex couples. Sir Elton John and David Furnish are amongst the first civil partners.

2006

Russell T Davies launches *Torchwood*, a science fiction show featuring bisexual main characters and filmed in Wales.

2009

Wales' most capped rugby player Gareth Thomas comes out.