

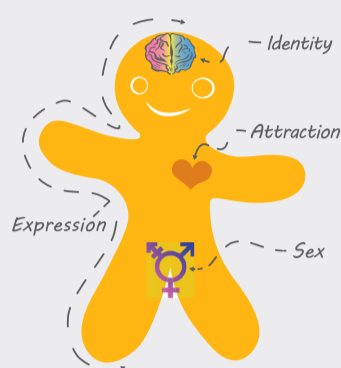
# MILESTONES IN THE UNITED STATES' LGBTQ+ RIGHTS MOVEMENT



The landscape of LGBTQ+ rights has changed dramatically over the past 150+ years, most notably with legislation in 2015 supporting same-sex marriage. It is vital that our workplace recognize what it means to create a culture of inclusion and belonging and to understand what achieving LGBTQ+ equality truly requires.

Below is a timeline that highlights the inception of LGBTQ+ organizations, important first fights against discrimination, and instrumental political and legal changes in the United States.

- 1867** ● [Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs](#), "Father of the LGBT Movement," becomes the first self-proclaimed homosexual to speak out publicly for gay rights at the Congress of German Jurists in Munich.
- 1903** ● The [Ariston Bathhouse raid](#) is the first anti-gay police raid on an establishment located in New York City. It results in 34 arrests, 16 charges of sodomy and 12 trials.
- 1924** ● The [Society for Human Rights](#), the first gay rights organization in the United States, is founded by Henry Gerber in Chicago. It is shut down by police a few months later due to political pressure.
- 1952** ● The American Psychiatric Association (APA) lists homosexuality as a mental disorder in its first publication of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. Immediately following the manual's release, many medical, [mental health and social science](#) professionals criticize the categorization due to lack of empirical and scientific data.
- 1953** ● President Dwight Eisenhower signs [Executive Order 10450](#), banning homosexuals from working for the federal government or any of its private contractors. The Order lists homosexuals as security risks, alcoholics and neurotics.
- 1955** ● [Daughters of Bilitis \(DOB\)](#), the first national U.S. lesbian organization, is founded. DOB hosts social functions, providing alternatives to lesbian bars and clubs which are frequently raided by police.
- 1958** ● In its first case regarding LGBT rights, the Supreme Court protects the First Amendment rights of [ONE: The Homosexual Magazine](#). The suit is filed after the United States Postal Service and FBI declare the magazine to be obscene material.
- 1962** ● [Illinois repeals its sodomy laws](#), becoming the first U.S. state to decriminalize homosexuality.
- 1969** ● The [Stonewall Riots](#) in New York gain national attention for gay rights and are credited with reigniting the fire behind the American LGBT rights movement.
- 1973** ● The APA board votes to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. In the same year, [Lambda Legal](#) becomes the first legal organization established to fight for the equal rights of gays and lesbians.
- 1977** ● [Harvey Milk](#) wins a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and introduces an ordinance protecting gay and lesbian employees from being terminated. Milk also leads a successful campaign against Proposition 6, an initiative forbidding LGBT teachers. In November, [Milk and Mayor George Moscone are murdered](#) by a former board member.
- 1978** ● Inspired by Harvey Milk to develop a symbol of pride and hope for the LGBTQ community, Gilbert Baker creates the first [rainbow flag](#). >>>
- 1979** ● An estimated 75,000 people participate in the [National March on Washington](#) for lesbian and gay rights. LGBT people and straight allies demand equal civil rights and the passage of protective legislature.
- 1982** ● Wisconsin is the first state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations.
- 1983** ● Lambda Legal wins [People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.](#), the first HIV/AIDS discrimination lawsuit. Neighbors attempt to evict Dr. Joseph Sonnabend because he is treating HIV-positive patients.
- 1986** ● In [Bowers v. Hardwick](#), the Supreme Court upholds Georgia's law banning same-sex intercourse.
- 1990** ● President George H.W. Bush signs the [Ryan White Care Act](#), a federally funded program for people living with AIDS. Ryan White, an Indiana teenager, contracted AIDS in 1984 through a tainted hemophilia treatment and was barred from attending school because of his HIV-positive status. White later became a well-known activist for AIDS research and anti-discrimination.
- 1993** ● ["Don't Ask, Don't Tell"](#) allows gays and lesbians to serve in the military if they remain closeted.
- 1994** ● [Deborah A. Batts](#) becomes the first openly gay federal judge.
- 1996** ● In [Romer v. Evans](#), the Supreme Court rules that gays and lesbians have the same rights against discrimination as non-LGBT individuals. That same year, President Clinton signs the [Defense of Marriage Act \(DOMA\)](#) into law. It defines marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman and does not require states to recognize a same-sex marriage from out of state.
- 1997** ● Ellen DeGeneres [comes out](#) as a lesbian on the cover of *Time* magazine, stating, "Yep, I'm gay." DeGeneres' character on her self-titled TV series, "Ellen," becomes the first leading character to come out on a primetime network television show.
- 1998** ● Coretta Scott King, widow of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., calls on the civil rights community to join the struggle against homophobia. She receives criticism from members of the black civil rights movement for comparing civil rights to gay rights.
- 1999** ● California becomes the first state to legalize domestic partnerships for same-sex couples.
- 2000** ● President Clinton declares June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month.
- 2003** ● In [Lawrence v. Texas](#), the Supreme Court overturns an 1986 ruling and declares anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional.
- 2004** ● Massachusetts is the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.
- 2009** ● [The Matthew Shepard Act](#) is passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama, making it a federal crime to assault someone because of sexual orientation or gender identity. This measure expands upon the 1969 United States Federal Hate Crime Law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.
- 2010** ● President Obama signs a law ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."
- 2012** ● Seven LGBT candidates win election into the United States House and Senate.
- 2013** ● The Department of the Treasury announces that legal same-sex marriages will be recognized for federal tax purposes.
- 2014** ● The Department of Justice announces that legally married same-sex couples will receive equal protection in every program it administers.
- 2015** ● The Supreme Court legalizes marriage equality nationwide. In the same year, the Boy Scouts of America President Robert Gats [lifts the ban](#) on gay scout leaders and employees. Additionally, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announces that the [Military Equal Opportunity policy](#) has been adjusted to include gay and lesbian military members.
- 2016** ● President Obama announces the designation of the first national monument to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights—the [Stonewall National Monument](#). It encompasses Christopher Park, the Stonewall Inn and surrounding sites of the 1969 Stonewall uprising. In August, a [record number of "out" athletes](#) compete in the summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.
- 2017** ● Washington, D.C., becomes the first place in the United States where residents can choose [gender "X" on their driver's license](#). In the same year, the United States appeals court rules that federal civil rights law protects LGBT employees from discrimination in the workplace.
- 2019** ● Ten openly LGBTQ people were sworn in as members of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. This year also marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising. Also in this year, [Billy Porter becomes the first openly gay black man to win the Emmy](#) for best lead actor in a drama series.
- 2020** ● The 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals upholds a ruling that the state of Idaho must provide gender confirmation surgery for Adree Edmo, an inmate in the custody of the Idaho Department of Correction. The ruling marks [the first time a federal appeals court has ruled that a state must provide gender assignment surgery to an incarcerated person](#). According to the court opinion, "The gender confirmation surgery was deemed 'medically necessary.'"



## The Gender Bread Person

Learn more about the differences between gender identity, biological sex, gender expression and attraction/sexual orientation.

