

Acute Training Solutions

Equality & Diversity - UK LGBT Timeline

1290	1533	1603
First mention in English common law of punishment for homosexuality.	"The Buggery Act" brought in by Henry VII who pronounced the act of buggery an unnatural act against the will of God and man and a felony punishable by "hanging from the neck until dead".	James I strictly enforced the buggery act but it is well documented he preferred the company of men which he bestowed on male favourites. It is also documented him having a lifelong relationship with the Duke of Buckingham, whom James also referred to as his "Sweet child and wife".
1699	1813	1805-1835
The Society for the Reformation of Manners organises the arrest of a group of men referred to as "Mollies" (gay men) in Windsor. Arrests of Mollies continued with the most famous raid being carried out at Mother Clap's Molly house in 1726.	There were 22 convictions in England and Wales for "assault with intent to commit sodomy and other unnatural misdemeanours".	A total of 1,920 executions were carried out of which 12.5% was for "sodomy" or "unnatural misdemeanours"
1863	1870	
The Offences Against the Persons Act is amended to remove the death sentence for Buggery when the penalty became imprisonment for 10 years to life.	Ernest Boulton and William Park were arrested in London. They were otherwise known as Mrs Stella Graham and Miss Fanny Winifred Park, the two men were arrested for dressing as women while attending the Strand Theatre. They were subjected to an illegal medical examination and on recommendations of the doctor, were charged with sodomy. Their trial caused a sensation and is, the first time the "homosexual subculture" came into popular knowledge and evidenced homosexuality was flourishing sub-culture.	
1885		1895
The "Labouchere" Amendment is made into criminal Law making all male homosexual acts ("acts of gross indecency") illegal and punishable with up to 2 years hard labour. This is the first and most important piece of legislation as it affected homosexual men and became known as "The Blackmailers Charter". Queen Victoria was famously linked with saying "women do not do such things".		Oscar Wilde was prosecuted for gross indecency and sentenced for 2 years hard labour, upon his release he left England for France and never returned.
1921		1942
An amendment was proposed to the 1885 Criminal Law Amendment to make an act of "gross indecency", with the same punishments given to gay men. This proposal was defeated because it was believed few women could comprehend such acts existed. Accepting the proposal would be only draw attention to such acts and therefore open them up to a new "audience".		Sir Harold Giles and his colleague Ralph Millard carried out the UK's first recorded phalloplasty surgery in the world's first sex change operation of a woman into a man on the young aristocrat, Michael Dillon.

1951	1952	1954
<p>Sir Harold Gillies carries out the UK's first male to female operation on Robert Cowell who became Roberta Cowell. UK's first Trans woman.</p>	<p>Prosecutions for homosexual acts increased to 670 for sodomy, 3,087 for attempted sodomy and 1,686 for gross indecency. Where as in 1938 there were only 134 prosecutions for sodomy, 822 for attempted sodomy and 320 for gross indecency.</p>	<p>Alan Turin committed suicide and was considered to be the father of modern computing and deciphering the German "Enigma" code. He was arrested for gross indecency and was given the option of imprisonment or "orango-therapy" which involved the injection of female hormones. A blue plaque has been erected in Hampton where he lived for a short period.</p>
1957		
<p>The Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution report known as the Wolfenden report, after the chairman of the committee Lord Wolfenden. Disregarding the conventional ideas of the day, the committee recommended "homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence" and found "homosexuality cannot legitimately be regarded as a disease, because in many cases, it is the only symptom and is compatible with full mental health in other respects".</p> <p>Following its publication on September 4 RD Reid Wrote to the Spectator to call for a society to help victims of police entrapment. With 33 signatories this rallied Wolfendens supporters and on May 12 the Homosexual Law Reform Society was formed. The groups first public meeting attracted over 1,000 people when homosexuality was illegal.</p>		
1958	1967	1970
<p>The Lord Chamerlain's ban on plays with homosexual themes is limited, allowing representation in theatre and cinema.</p>	<p>England and Wales homosexuality is legalised between two males over the age of 21, consenting in private. The laws did not affect Scotland or Northern Ireland. Due to the words being restrictive, for example the term "in private" wasn't deemed to mean away from public view, as a locked hotel room was deemed to be a public space so gay men were still prosecuted all the same.</p>	<p>The Gay Liberation Front was founded in Britain on 13 October 1970. It was a modest beginning, with 19 people meeting in a basement in London School of Economics. But it grew rapidly and proved to be a defining watershed moment in British gay history. From 1970onwards, thanks to GLF, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) mindset changed forever, from victims to victors.</p>
1971	1974	1975
<p>Campaign for Homosexual Equality was formed, whose activities included canvassing for further law reforms, providing educational material for use in schools, and attempting to influence the provision of medical, psychiatric and social services. They were concerned not only with further law reforms but also with fighting the discrimination, prejudice and social isolation faced by many gay and lesbian people.</p>	<p>Campagin for Homosexual Equality group produced a report on the lack of service provision for older LGB people entitled "Needs for Elderly Gay Men and Lesbians" which was submitted to Age Concern England and was included in their 1974 Manifesto Conference.</p>	<p>Action for Lesbian Parents founded after 3 years high profile custody cases where lesbians were refused custody of their own children.</p> <p>British Home Stores sacked openly gay trainee Tony Whitehead; a national campaign subsequently picketed their stores.</p>

1979	1980	1982
Gay Life, the first ever gay TV series, commissioned for British TV by London Weekend Television.	Scotland legalised homosexuality in private and over the age of 21.	Northern Ireland legalised homosexuality in private and over the age of 21. The Hall-Carpenter Archives was also founded in this year as is the largest source for the study of gay activism in Britain.
1985	1987	
The Greater London Council (GLC) published "Changing the World", a charter of gay rights.	Bill Brownhill, Tory leader of South Staffordshire Council was at the centre of a political storm for calling for the mass extermination of lesbians and gays, to prevent the spread of AIDS. 12 members of the Lesbian & Gay Youth Movement were subsequently arrested during a sit in demonstration and remanded for 10 days. They later took a successful legal action against the police and Crown Prosecution Service for wrongful imprisonment.	
1988		1989
Margaret Thatcher's government introduced Section 28 as part of the Local Government Bill. Section 28 stated a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in Any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as pretended family relationship". This ban led to national protests including 15,000 in Manchester and 10,000 in London.		The Stonewall group is formed by founder member's Ian McKellan and Michael Cashman in response to Section 28. Stonewall organised the first lesbian gay receptions at the Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative Party Conferences.
1992		1994
On May 17 The World Health Organisation removes homosexuality as a mental illness. This date is now recognised as International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) and is used to raise awareness of LGBT rights worldwide. Now called IDAHOT (International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia).		The age of consent for gay men is reduced to 18.
1999		
Friday 30 April at 18:37, a nail bomb exploded in the Admiral Duncan in Old Compton Street, Soho. This was the third of a series of bombs targeted at minority groups by a lone extremist. A husband and his pregnant wife met their best man prior to going to the theatre, the best nab and wife were killed. Trans people also gained legal protection in employment with the implementation of "The Sex Discrimination (Gender Reassignment) Regulations 1999. This made it illegal for employees to discriminate against Trans people and all those who intend to undergo gender reassignment: are undergoing gender reassignment or who have undergone reassignment in the past. The only exception is where an employer can prove a person's gender is a "genuine occupational qualification" for the job.		
2000	2001	2002
The ban on lesbians and gays serving in the military is lifted, after a case was brought before the European Court of Human Rights, which ruled the ban is a breach of human rights.	The age of consent for gay men, lesbians and heterosexuals became equal. The age consent for all is 16 in England, Wales, Scotland, whereas Northern Ireland is 17 for gays and lesbians.	Equal rights are granted to same sex couples applying for adoption and Alan Duncan became the first serving British Conservative Party MP to voluntarily come out publicly as gay.

2003	2004	2005
Section 28 is repealed, giving scope for LGB issues to be accorded the same status as other personal and social issues within the education system. Employment Equality (sexual orientation) regulations became law making it illegal to discriminate against lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the work place.	The Civil Partnership Act 2004 enabled same-sex couples to register as civil partners with rights and responsibilities identical to civil marriage e.g. property rights, inheritance tax, social security and pensions, next of kin rights etc... The Gender Recognition Act also came into force which gave trans people the same benefits as befits anyone of their correct gender and they can legally change their birth certificates to their "corrected" gender.	Section 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 empowered courts to impose tougher sentences for offences aggravated or motivated by the victims' sexual orientation.
2006	2007	
The Government also amends the Equality Bill, including a clause to make it illegal to discriminate against lesbians and gay men in the provision of goods and services – from NHS care through to hotels and restaurants gains Royal Assent. Section 28 is also repealed in the Isle of Man.	Stonewall launches 'Living Together: British attitudes to lesbian and gay people', a YouGov survey to investigate the nature of feelings towards lesbian and gay people in Britain.	
2008	2009	
Criminal Justice and Immigration Act: Parliament passes important new legal protections against 'Incitement to Homophobic Hatred'. The proposed new legislation will bring the statutes governing incitements to hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation into line with the long standing laws prohibiting the incitement of hate based on a person's ethnicity. Parliament also passes the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, which gives better legal recognition to same-sex parents.	Prime Minister Gordon Brown makes an official apology on behalf of the British government for the treatment of Alan Turing after WWII. David Cameron apologises on behalf of the conservative party for the introduction of Section 28.	
2010	2011	
The coalition Government published the first ever LGB and T policy program committing it to working towards greater LGB and T equality. The Government introduced a Schools White Paper acknowledges the work of the "Education for All" campaign and encourages all schools to tackle homophobic bullying.	Civil partners Martyn Hall and Steven Preddy were successful in their case against B&B owners Peter and Hazelmary Bull. Hall and Preddy were refused a double room at the B&B on the basis of their sexual orientation. Ruby Thomas, 18, Joel Alexander, 20 were convicted of manslaughter for their involvement in the killing of Ian Baynham as he walked through Trafalgar Square in September 2009. The sentences given were extended by the judge by applying the provision for aggravated sentences enforced by the 2003 Criminal Justice Act.	
2012		
London hosts World Pride, the committee failed to secure funding and drastically cut back the parade and cancels many of the events. Thousands signed a e-petition for the image of Alan Turing father of Computing and of Artificial Intelligence to be placed on the new £10.00 note. April Ashely who transgendered in 1960 was awarded the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to Transgender Equality.		

2013	2014
<p>The coalition government unveils its Marriage (same sex couples) Bill and on May 21 it passes its third reading in the House of Commons by a vote of 366 to 166 and was given Royal Assent on 17 July 2013.</p>	<p>March 29 Same sex marriage becomes legal in England and Wales however those already in a Civil Partnership would need to dissolve this first.</p> <p>Wednesday 10 December changes in The Marriage (same sex couples) law allows those already in Civil Partnership to convert them to marriage from this date.</p> <p>4 December House of Lords debate for the first time, health care for lesbian, bisexual and trans women. Barroness Barker asked the government to put forward a strategy to promote the health of lesbian and bisexual women, to accurately monitor sexual orientation data in the NHS, and to ensure GP's are trained to treat lesbian and bisexual women with respect.</p>
<h2>2015</h2>	
<p>February – a bus commissioned by Transport for London features an iconic rainbow flag design which wraps around the front and side of the bus is unveiled. It will operate for a year on the No 8 route and will pass some of London's iconic landmarks.</p> <p>March – World Rugby signs an historic pledge to eradicate homophobia in the sport alongside International Gay Rugby. As part of the agreement, they pledge to recognise and respect the right of any player, official and spectator to be involved with rugby without discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or identification, as well as the common goal of inclusion and the elimination of homophobia in rugby.</p> <p>April – Will Aydian Dowing may be the first out trans man to appear on the cover of Men's Health magazine.</p>	