



**Just Now**

*a toolbox  
for teaching  
human rights*

# **LGBTQIA+ Rights**

JustNow timeline cards set

The “JustNow – A Toolbox for Teaching Human Rights” project is focused on the development of methodological-didactical materials relating to human rights education, combined with simulation games and diversity learning in non-formal and formal youth educational work.

**This timeline cards set focuses on teaching about the evolution of the LGBTQIA+ Rights (movement) through history up until today, covering some key milestones, leading figures, events, legislation and organizations. The cards can be used in history or civic education, or in other non-formal education settings. Where possible, it is advised that educators supplement the cards with local (history) examples.**

The cards were created using images and information researched online, with sources noted on the back of the cards. The cards are created for exclusively non-profit educational purpose and use, in classrooms or non-formal educational settings.

Created by: JustNow project team

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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# Additional terms

**Cis-gender** - people who identify with their birth sex and are aligned with gender constructs

**Transgender** - people whose gender identity is different from their gender assigned at birth

**Queer** - umbrella term for sexual and gender minorities and a sexual orientation, intentionally vague which allows different interpretations

**Intersex** - People who are born with any of the several variations in sex characteristics including chromosomes, gonads, sex hormones or genitals that do not fit the typical definitions of male or female bodies

**Asexual** - People, who do not experience sexual attraction to anyone. Asexuality is more of a spectrum.

**Androgynous** - partly male and partly female/ combination of masculine and feminine characteristics





# Sappho

c.630 BCE-c.570 BCE

Lesbos is a small island in the Aegean Sea (whose residents are indeed called "Lesbians") and is known as the home of Sappho, the lyric poet who wrote a number of passionate odes to female-female relationships. While the vast majority of Sappho's work has been lost to history, her one complete surviving poem is "Ode to Aphrodite" (also known as "Hymn to Aphrodite"), a prayer to the goddess of love from an unnamed speaker who desperately seeks the affections of a young woman. While there has been much debate about whether Sappho herself was actually attracted to women, many have deemed her an international symbol for LGBTQIA+ individuals.





# Han Dynasty

206 BC - 220 AD

Aligning with the Confucian central value of being neutral and benevolent, in ancient China, same-sex sexual behaviors and polygamy were well-received and tolerated. Positive descriptions of homosexual behavior, or *Nan-Feng* as it was called, in historical records and in Chinese literature can be dated back to the Han dynasty (206 BC–220 AD). Traditional Chinese gay culture changed with the introduction of monogamy from the West, and the establishment of conservatism and homophobia.





# Buggery Act

## 1533

The Buggery Act 1533, formally An Acte for the punishment of the vice of Buggerie (25 Hen. 8 c. 6), was an Act of the Parliament of England that was passed during the reign of Henry VIII.

The Act defined buggery as an unnatural sexual act against the will of God and Man. This was later defined by the courts to include anal penetration and bestiality. The act remained in force until it was repealed and replaced by the Offences against the Person Act 1828, and buggery remained a capital offence until 1861, though the last executions were in 1835.





# Karl Heinrich Ulrichs

## 1825 -1895

Karl Heinrich Ulrichs was a pioneer of the modern LGBTQIA+ movement. He was a writer and published essays, openly addressed being homosexual and pointed out the need to reform the German laws against homosexuality.

There are streets named after him in Munich, Berlin and Hannover in Germany. In the picture you can see the erection of the new street sign in Berlin in 2013.





# Section 377 - Colonial Rule in India

## 1861

British colonial rule in India, led by Charles Canning (first viceroy of India), introduced Section 377, a law that criminalised sexual acts 'against the order of nature', which was based on the 1533 buggery act, established in England. Although Section 377 never explicitly mentioned homosexuality, it has historically been interpreted to prohibit homosexual acts. Throughout pre-1700s Indian history, there's evidence that homosexuals have been treated no differently from their heterosexual counterparts. In terms of legislation, Section 377 was one of the most long-lasting laws in the former colonies, being only suspended by the Supreme Court of India in 2018. The British colonisers also labelled the transgender population 'unlawful' in 1871.



# The Bugis People of South Sulawesi

## 1920s

The Bugis people of South Sulawesi recognized five genders: makkunrai (cisgender female), oroané (cisgender male), bissu (androgynous), calabai (transgender male) and calalai (transgender female). The bissu, now almost extinct, were seen to both encompass and transcend all other gender types and were therefore highly respected. During the Dutch colonial era in Indonesia, indigenous gay communities existed alongside their Dutch counterparts, since the Dutch never criminalized homosexual acts as the British did.





# Nazi raid of the Institute of Sexology

## 1933

On May 6, 1933, Nazi demonstrators raided the libraries of the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft, a German name that roughly translates to the Institute of Sexology. The Institute was a privately operated research space for studies of human sexuality. More than 20,000 books were taken from shelves and burned days later in the streets by Nazi youth groups. It was a devastating blow to the life's work of Magnus Hirschfeld, the institute's founder. Hirschfeld, who was Jewish and gay, was a pioneer for rights and liberation in Berlin's thriving LGBTQIA+ community. He founded the institute in 1919, after beginning his career as an activist in 1896 with his pamphlet *Sappho and Socrates*, about a gay man who took his own life after he felt he was being coerced into a straight marriage. Hirschfeld's early publications laid the groundwork for his profile to rise until he became one of the most prominent LGBTQIA+ activists in the world.



# Persecution of homosexuals by the Nazis

## 1933 - 1945

Gay men (and to some extent lesbians) were perceived by the Nazi ideology as posing a threat to the “German people”. From the mid-1930s, Heinrich Himmler took over the enforcement of anti-gay laws and made them more sweeping. More than 100,000 men identified as homosexual were arrested and many were sent to concentration camps, where between 5,000 and 15,000 of them died. In Sachsenhausen, most gay men were imprisoned in the ‘sissy blocks’ and weren’t allowed to mix with other prisoners. They often worked longer shifts and were given more physical labour assignments in all weather conditions. Nazis believed that hard labour – work in gravel pits, cement plants and brickworks – could “turn” gay men straight. Nazi scientists also castrated and experimented on inmates in perverse attempts to find a “cure” for their sexuality. Homosexuals were assigned a pink triangle. Many were beaten to death not only by guards but also other inmates who identified them by their pink triangles.





# Roberta Cowell

## 1918-2011

Roberta Elizabeth Marshall Cowell was a British racing driver and Second World War fighter pilot. She was the first known British trans woman to undergo sex reassignment surgery.

She had become acquainted with Michael Dillon, a British physician who was the first trans man to get a surgical procedure, after reading his 1946 volume *Self: A Study in Endocrinology and Ethics*. This work proposed that individuals should have the right to change gender, to have the kind of body they desired. The two developed a close friendship. Secrecy was necessary for this as the procedure was then illegal in the United Kingdom under so-called "mayhem" laws and no surgeon would agree to perform it openly.



# The Sexual Offences Act 1967

The Sexual Offences Act 1967 is an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that legalized homosexual act in England and Wales, on the condition that they were consensual in private and between two men, who had reached the age of 21.

The law was extended towards Scotland by the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 and to Northern Ireland by the Homosexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1982.





# Stonewall Uprising

June 28, 1969

The Stonewall Uprisings were a series of protests, following the violent police raid at the New York gay club 'The Stonewall Inn' on Christopher Street, on the 28th of June in 1969. This raid was the tipping point leading to a six day protest of people from the community, who rose up against the discriminatory law, which classified being gay as a mental illness, and the frequent victimisation and abuse of gay people by police and other members of society.

To commemorate the first anniversary of the Stonewall Uprisings, the first Pride parade was held on June 28, 1970. It became a worldwide yearly movement named as Christopher Street Day (CSD), taking place every year on this date.





# First rainbow flag

## 1978

Gilbert Baker was an American artist and civil rights activist who designed and stitched the first rainbow flag in 1978 for San Francisco Pride. The flag has since become the widely-known symbol of the LGBTQIA+ movement.





# LGBTQIA+ flags

The LGBTQIA+ community has adopted certain symbols for self-identification to demonstrate unity, pride, shared values, and allegiance to one another. LGBTQIA+ symbols communicate ideas, concepts, and identity both within their communities and to mainstream culture. There are many sexualities on the queer spectrum and many different flags to represent each one of them.





# Marsha P. Johnson

1945 - 1992

Marsha P. Johnson was a major transgender rights activist and one of the central figures of the historic Stonewall uprising of 1969. Along with fellow trans activist Sylvia Rivera, Johnson helped form Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries (STAR), a radical political organization that provided housing and other forms of support to homeless queer youth and sex workers in Manhattan. She also performed with the drag performance troupe Hot Peaches from 1972 through the '90s and was an AIDS activist with AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP).



# Dr. John Fryer's Speech at the Annual Convention of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) 1972

*"I am a homosexual. I am a psychiatrist."* - with these words, Dr. John Fryer, presented at the convention as Henry Anonymous, M.D., delivered a 10 minute speech describing the secret world of gay psychiatrists. At the time, homosexuality was categorized as a mental illness, so openly acknowledging it would result in the revocation of one's medical license, the loss of a career and potential criminal charges. For this reason, Dr. John Fryer delivered his speech in front of his professional peers while wearing a rubber Nixon mask, disguising his identity.

The next year, in 1973, the APA reversed its at the time nearly century-old position, removing homosexuality from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (D.S.M.). This removed the legal basis for a wide range of discriminatory practices that gay people had faced (such as right to employment, citizenship, housing, the institution of marriage, etc.



# **“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy**

## **1993**

President Bill Clinton signed a military policy directive that prohibited openly gay and lesbian Americans from serving in the military, but also prohibited the harassment of “closeted” homosexuals. The policy was known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”

Prior to this bill, there was no set legislation on the legality of the LGBTQIA+ community serving in the military. After its signing, more than 12,000 troops have been removed from the military, and this cost millions of dollars in court fees and lost opportunities. The bill also caused many qualified Americans to lose their positions based on discrimination. The bill was repealed in 2010.



**EQUALITY**  
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# Foundation of LGBTQIA+ History Month

## 1994

LGBTQIA+ History Month was founded by high school history teacher Rodney Wilson and was first celebrated in 1994. Wilson chose October for multiple reasons, mainly because National Coming Out Day is Oct. 11. The purpose of this month is to educate, provide LGBTQIA+ icons and acknowledge the important contributions LGBTQIA+ people have made to society.



# Ladlad

## 2003

Ladlad, the world's first and only political party for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Filipinos was founded in the Philippines by Danton Remoto. The party took part in several elections, without succeeding in getting enough votes to enter the parliament. Their slogan 'Bukas Isip, Bukas Puso' stands for "open mind, open heart".



HELLO

MY PRONOUNS ARE

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

# Zanele Muholi

## 2006

Non-binary Zanele Muholi is a visual activist, photographer and fights for LGBTQIA+ rights by portraying Black queer South Africans. In 2006, Muholi developed Inkanyiso (meaning 'illumination' in Zulu) as a digital platform for queer media and activism in response to the lack of visual histories and skills training produced by and for LGBTQIA+ persons. Three years later, it grew into an established organization which also offers a mobile school of photography, educating community members on how to also be agents of documenting the world around them. In 2010, South Africa's then minister of arts and culture, Lulu Xingwana, denounced as "immoral and offensive" one of Muholi's shows because it included images of gay couples.



# LGBTQIA+ rights struggle in Romania

## 2008

While the government adopted anti-discrimination legislation in 2000 and decriminalised consensual same-sex relationships the following year, it did an about-face in 2008 when it changed the civil code to ban same-sex marriage and civil partnerships. Uncertainty over LGBTQIA+ rights manifests in a variety of ways across the Balkan region. The picture shows a protest in Bucharest in 2019.





# Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir

## 2009

Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir became Iceland's Prime Minister and thereby made history as the first openly LGBTQ+ leader of a nation, but to many of her constituents she was just another leader. The country had repealed laws against gay sex in 1940, when it was a dependency of Denmark. In 1996 Iceland became one of the first nations in the world to establish civil partnerships for same-sex couples. In 2006 it followed up by approving adoption rights for gay and lesbian couples. In 2010, a year into Sigurðardóttir's tenure as prime minister, Iceland passed a marriage equality law. She and her partner, author Jonína Leosdóttir, were one of the first couples to take advantage of it. The women, both divorced mothers, had been in a civil partnership since 2002. Sigurðardóttir left office in 2013.





# Vietnam decriminalizes same sex marriage

## 2015

The 2000 Law on Marriage and Family explicitly banned marriage between people of the same gender. The updated marriage law, which took effect January 1, 2015 deletes the ban but says, “The State does not recognize marriage between people of the same sex.” Although same-sex marriage is permitted in Vietnam, lawmakers have not granted full recognition to the unions, which do not provide legal protections for spouses.





# Foundation of IE SOGI

## 2016

The UN Human Rights Council created the mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (also referred to as the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, or the "IE SOGI"). It was created to address the concern that despite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights prohibiting it, there are acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity all over the world.





# Transgender ban in US-military

## 2017

President Donald Trump announced via Twitter that “After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US Military...” due to “tremendous medical costs and disruption”. The ban took effect in April 2019, not affecting the roundabout 9000 active duty transgender troops who were already serving, but locking out new recruits.

After Joe Biden took office as the US president, he repealed Donald Trump's ban on transgender Americans joining the military in January 2021.





Photo by charlesdeluvio on Unsplash

# Orlando nightclub shooting

June 12, 2016

Omar Mateen killed 49 people and wounded 53 more in a mass shooting inside Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, United States. Police officers shot and killed him after a three-hour standoff.

It is the deadliest incident in the history of violence against LGBTQIA+ people in the United States. The pictures show some of the victims who were killed.



# Persecution of the LGBTQIA+ people in the Chechen Republic

## 2017

The members of the LGBTQIA+ have to face an immense amount of persecution in the Chechen Republic, an autonomous republic of Russia.

They are detained and arrested by the authorities, which may lead to their untimely death. Families kill their own members in order to uphold their honour. This is termed “honour killings”.

Chechen authorities have denied a media report saying that up to 200 local youths had been detained for interrogations in the wake of a spate of deadly attacks in the volatile Russian region.





# **“LGBT-free-zones” in Poland**

## **2019**

Local municipalities across a third of Poland have adopted resolutions “against LGBT propaganda”, creating what rights groups describe as hostile spaces for anyone who is not heterosexual or committed to the so-called “natural family”. A Polish court has ordered the conservative newspaper Gazeta Polska to halt the distribution of “LGBT-free zone” stickers. This hateful development is driven by Kaczyński, leader of the ruling Law and Justice party, who has called LGBTQIA+ rights a ‘threat’ to Poland.





Photo by Norbu GYACHUNG on Unsplash

# Biggest Pride celebrations 2019

On the 50th anniversary of the Christopher Street Day, the largest gay pride celebration in history happened in New York with approximately 5 million people attending.

To get impression from this parade, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SVSWRoY6x0>





# German law for protection against conversion therapy

## 2020

On June 12, 2020, the law on protection against conversion treatments was enacted in Germany. It prohibits conversion therapy for minors up to the age of 18 and includes a ban on advertising. It also protects adults insofar as conversion therapies are also prohibited for them if their consent was obtained due to a lack of will (Section 2 (2) of the Act). Conversion treatments are also prohibited in eight US-States as well as in Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador & Argentina.

Pictured on the cover, German Health Minister Jens Spahn, stated, "*Homosexuality is not an illness and therefore does not need therapy.*"





# Nigerian and Kenyan LGBTQIA+ movies

## 2018, 2020

The Kenyan movie “Rafiki” tells the story of romance that grows between two young women, Kena and Ziki, amidst family and political pressures around LGBTQIA+ rights in Kenya.

The Nigerian movie ‘Ife’ is the first-ever pro-lesbian movie produced in Nigeria. The Same-Sex Prohibition Act, signed into law in 2014, prohibits marriage or public show of same-sex “amorous” relationship in Nigeria. Individuals found guilty of breaking the law are liable to serve a jail term ranging between 10 – 14 years.





# Panama issues a statement in favour of transgender people

## 2020

On the 16th of July 2020, the government of Panama issued a statement, denouncing transphobia and calling upon public and private entities to abstain from discrimination against transgender people and announced sanctions for discriminatory behavior during the COVID 19 crisis.

On the cover image: women take part in a Panama City protest against the segregation measures. The sign reads *"I march for trans people imprisoned in their homes because of the choice between prison and violence"*.



# Police raids in Ghana

## 2021

A center for the LGBTQIA+ community in Ghana was raided and shut down by security forces in the West African country in February 2021 after it was opened in January with a ceremony being attended also by the international diplomat community. The community center faced opposition from the start and attracted a lot of anger among locals who called for it to be closed down. Ghana still has discriminatory LGBTQIA+ laws as being in a same-sex relationship can lead to between 3 to 25 years in prison, according to the country's penal code.





# Elliot Page

## December 2020 (coming out as transgender)

Canadian actor Elliot Page, best known for Oscar-nominated performance of a pregnant teenager in Juno, came out as transgender in an emotional Instagram post in December of 2020. (See the Instagram post: [https://www.instagram.com/p/CIQ1QFBhNFg/?utm\\_source=ig\\_embed](https://www.instagram.com/p/CIQ1QFBhNFg/?utm_source=ig_embed))

Since then, the star of The Umbrella Academy became the first transgender man ever to appear on the cover of Time magazine (March 2021), talked to Oprah Winfrey (The Oprah Conversation) about newly introduced anti-trans legislation and his need to speak up for all the transgender youth who don't have access to a platform like his (April 2021), shared his first shirtless photo since undergoing top surgery (May 2021).

*"I see you, I love you, and I will do everything I can to change this world for the better."*



# Harvey Milk

## (1930 - 1978)

Harvey Milk (May 22, 1930 – November 27, 1978) was a respected political activist for the LGBT+ community who became the United State's first openly gay man elected to a high profile public office - to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He served almost eleven months in office, during which he sponsored a bill banning discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment on the basis of sexual orientation. Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated in San Francisco City Hall by Dan White, a disgruntled city supervisor.

The life and career of Harvey Milk have been the subjects of an opera, books, and films. 2008 Gus Van Sant movie 'Milk' (featuring Sean Penn) is based on his life as a gay rights activist and politician.

*'If I'm killed, let that bullet destroy every closet door.'*

Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009. The Harvey Milk Foundation works for equality in the Americas and around the globe. (<https://milkfoundation.org/>)



# CINEMA



# The Danish Girl

## 2015

The Danish Girl (2015), a biographical drama film directed by Tom Hooper, is loosely based on the true story of one of the first known transgender persons to attempt a sex-change operation (i.e. sex reassignment surgery).

The film is based on the novel “The Danish Girl” by David Ebershoff and follows the lives of Danish painters Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener. Gerda Wegener, a Danish artist, paints a portrait of her husband Einar while he's dressed as a woman. After the painting's success, Einar starts to keep the feminine appearance and changes his name to Lili. Gerda gradually learns to support her husband's nature. Lili undergoes five surgeries and eventually dies from complications following a uterus transplant.



# GSA Network

## Founded in 1988

GSA Network is a nonprofit organization that connects LGBTQIA+ youth and school-based Gay-Straight Alliance clubs through peer support, leadership development, and community organizing and advocacy. The goal of most gay-straight alliances is to make their school community safe, facilitate activism on campus, and create a welcoming environment for LGBT students.

It was founded in Oakley, California in 1998 and went on to become a state-wide organisation in 2001. From 2005 they operate at the national level and international level.

In 2016 they changed their name to Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network “to better reflect the diverse range of identities of the youth participating in the programming.”

For more information about the network, see: <https://gsanetwork.org>





# First Legally Recognised Gay Marriage

## 2001

Twenty years ago (on April 1, 2001), Dutch couple Gert Kasteel and Dolf Pasker made history when they tied the knot in the world's first legally-recognised same-sex wedding in the Netherlands.

There are currently 32 countries where same-sex marriage is legal: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uruguay.

For ongoing developments, see Human Rights Campaign:  
[www.hrc.org/resources/marriage-equality-around-the-world](http://www.hrc.org/resources/marriage-equality-around-the-world)