



Unite the union – CELEBRATING LGBT HISTORY MONTH 2017

1290
Punishment for homosexuality was first mentioned in English common law.

1972
Gay News, the first UK gay newspaper was founded. First UK Pride carnival and march took place in London to raise awareness of LGBT discrimination and promote understanding and cooperation.

1988
The first national conference for lesbians and gay men with disabilities. Section 28 made it illegal for local authorities to "intentionally promote homosexuality". This was repealed in 2000 in Scotland and 2003 in the rest of the UK.

1885
Labouchere Amendment known as 'The Blackmailer's Charter' made homosexual acts illegal.

1973
First national gay rights conference organised by Campaign for Homosexual Equality was held in Morecombe. GLF set up a helpline, the first of its kind.

1989
European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation was founded. Stonewall Group was set up in response to Section 28.

2004
Sexual Offences Act sweeps away the Victorian Laws making male homosexual acts punishable. Recognition of homophobic assault as a "hate crime". Legal right for trans people to live in their identified gender and change the sex on their birth certificate.

1895
Oscar Wilde was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with hard labour, setting a precedent for the treatment of gay men in 20th century.

1974
1st national lesbian conference. 1st International Gay Rights Conference was held in Edinburgh which led to the formation of ILGA, International Lesbian and Gay Association in 1978. Founding of 'Schools Out', campaigning for LGBT equality in education. Scottish Minority Group was formed.

1990
'Outrage!' was founded by Peter Tatchell and others to challenge homophobia and safeguard the human and sexual rights of LGBT people.

2005
First LGBT History Month took place to mark and celebrate the lives and achievements of LGBT people. Same sex partners could legally register their partnership with equal rights to benefits, housing, inheritance, immigration, pensions etc.

1951
Roberta Cowell, the first known male-to female trans person underwent surgery. She was able to legally change her name and gender.

1979
Women's Liberation Movement held its first lesbian conference. Gay Life, the first ever gay TV series, commissioned by London Weekend Television.

1992
Press for Change, a campaigning organisation for trans people was formed. London hosted first Europride. World Health organisation removed homosexuality from its classification of illnesses.

2008
Civil partners Martyn Hall and Steven Preddy won their case, in 2011, against hotel owners who refused to accommodate them in 2008. This was one of the first legal cases taken under the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007 (now part of the Equality Act 2010).

1957
Wolfenden Report made recommendations on legalisation of homosexuality for consenting adults over 21 in private. The British Homosexual Law Reform Society, founded the following year, campaigned for the introduction of these recommendations.

During the 80s
a number of unions set up lesbian and gay (later to include bisexual and trans) structures to give a voice and take action on LGBT equality.

1997
Equality Network founded in Scotland working for LGBT rights and equality. Angela Eagle, became the first 'out' lesbian MP.

2010
The Equality Act 2010 came into force. It brought together all previous equality legislation providing protection on grounds of sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief. The Equality Duty was extended to sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

1964
Arena Three, the first lesbian magazine (1964 private subscription, 1969 from newsagents) was published by Minorities Research Group.

1980
Male homosexuality was decriminalised in Scotland and in Northern Ireland in 1982. The first black lesbian & gay groups were founded.

1998
First TUC Lesbian and Gay Conference which became LGBT in 2002.

2011
First conviction of transgender prejudice in Scotland when Chloe Dow won her case against Terry Porter who threatened and abused her. Civil Partnership Act and Certain Rights and Obligations of Cohabitants Act 2010 came into effect in Ireland on 1st January 2011.

2012
Premier League football teams sign Government's Charter Against Homophobia and Transphobia in Sport.

1967
Homosexual acts in private for consenting adults over 21 was decriminalised in England and Wales. Committee for Homosexual Equality was formed.

1982
Terrence Higgins Trust was launched, named after the man thought to be the first to have died with AIDS in the UK. Following the case of Jeff Dudgeon, gay activist in Belfast, male homosexual acts were decriminalised in Northern Ireland.

2000
The age of consent was equalised for gay men at 16. "Betty's Bus" (Betty Gallacher - Ex Chair of Unite's National LGBT Committee) became a much loved and permanent fixture on Pride marches.

2013
In Northern Ireland, gay couples were given the right to adopt.

2014
Same-sex marriage was legalised in England, Scotland and Wales.

1970
London Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was founded. First UK gay demonstration took place in London.

1985
South Wales miners joined the Pride march to thank lesbian and gay people for their support during their strike. The TUC & Labour Party adopted lesbian and gay equal rights policies.

2003
After years of lobbying, particularly by the trade union movement, finally discrimination at work on grounds of sexual orientation became illegal.

2016
Government will examine the "spousal veto" clause in Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 in England and Wales. Scottish legislation does not include such a provision.

UK has 35 "out" LGB MPs and MSPs. Surviving civil partners and same-sex spouses became entitled to a survivor pension but there is inequality in the amounts they receive compared to opposite sex couples.

