

LGBTQIA+ UK HISTORY

Queerly beloved, 2024 sees the 20th anniversary of the Civil Partnership Act for same-sex couples and 10 years since these civil partnerships could be called marriages under the Marriage Act. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the Gender Recognition Act, giving people with gender dysphoria legal recognition. Since then, it feels like the progress made for LGBTQIA+ rights has slowed or even gone backwards. We continue to fight. We fight for the trans community whose human rights are often in jeopardy. We fight against conversion therapy. We fight for people who deserve to access the same fertility rights as heterosexual couples. We fight for the communities in countries where it is still illegal to be gay and punishable by the death penalty. The first Pride was a protest and we continue that spirit to raise awareness of the injustice people still face and to gather support from allies.

1967

The Sexual Offences Act decriminalised homosexual acts between two men, both over the age of 21 in England and Wales. The age of consent for heterosexuals was 16.

1972

The first UK Gay Pride march was organised in London with around 1,000 people marching through the capital.

1980

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act is passed in Scotland, decriminalising private homosexual acts between two men over the age of 21.

1982

The Homosexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order was passed, which saw the decriminalisation of homosexual acts.

1988

Section 28 of the Local Government Act was passed which denied local authorities the ability to support its LGBTQIA+ constituents and prohibited the "promotion of homosexuality" in schools.

1992

Homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organisation's classification of mental disorders.

1994

The age of consent for gay and bi men was lowered to 18 after an amendment was brought to parliament to lower it to 16.

2001

UK Government lifts ban on lesbians, gay and bisexual people openly serving in armed forces.
Age of consent for gay and bi men lowered to 16, making it equal to heterosexual and lesbian acts.

2002

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 allowed gay and lesbian single people, as well as same-sex couples, to adopt or foster a child in the UK.

2003

Repeal of the Section 28 clause across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It had been repealed in Scotland in 2000.

The Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations made it illegal for employers to discriminate against LGBTQIA+ people in the workplace.

2005

After the Civil Partnership Act is passed in 2004, the first civil partnership ceremonies happen across the UK.

The Gender Recognition Act gives trans people full legal recognition in their appropriate binary gender.

2010

The Equality Act (2010) legislates for equal treatment in access to employment regardless of the seven protected characteristics.

2014

In 2013, the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act is passed and the first same-sex marriages take place in England, Scotland and Wales.

2019

The World Health Organisation removes transgender from their classification of mental disorders.

2020

Same-sex marriage legalised in Northern Ireland.

2022

The UK Government said it will ban conversion therapy aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation, but not their gender identity.

2023

In 2022, the Scottish Parliament passed the Gender Recognition Reform Bill, making it simpler for people to change their legal gender in Scotland, however in 2023, the UK Government blocks the bill from receiving royal assent.



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Building Equality is an alliance of construction consultants, engineers, developers, contractors, and institutions who are passionate about working together and harnessing our collective power to drive LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the construction, engineering and built environment industry. Our vision is to have a construction industry that is wholly welcoming, inclusive and supportive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender + other related communities.



www.buildingequalityuk.com



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Creating an inclusive built environment