CELEBRATING THE SPECTRUM
A HISTORY OF LGBTQ+ PROGRESS AND FSU’S PRIDE STUDENT UNION
The information in the historical sections of this book, particularly in those detailing the influential people and the state of marriage equality have been fact-checked against reliable and reputable websites and online news articles. Any errors or misprints are completely unintentional, and we ask readers to bring these to our attention so that we may correct them for future editions.

The viewpoints and commentary expressed in the quotes, interviews and stories in this publication are solely those of the people expressing them and are not in any way reflective of the views of Florida State University, Student Government Association or Student Publications.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We owe our biggest thanks to the Florida State University Student Government Association for their generous resources, and to Pride Student Union and its executive board. Some people whose knowledge and insight were particularly helpful are Joshua Kinchen, Lee McNeil, Giovanni Rocco and Jonathan Horton. Last but not least, thanks to every student who shared stories with us. These are truly the heart of Pride Month.

This edition of Celebrating the Spectrum was published in Fall Semester 2014
CONTENTS

Introduction.................................................................................................................................5
History of LGBTQ+ Rights at Florida State University.........................................................6
Pride Month at Florida State University..................................................................................8
Coming Out.................................................................................................................................10
Influential Figures and Facts of LGBTQ+ History .................................................................12
Historical Events in Detail.......................................................................................................16
LGBTQ+ Special Dates ...........................................................................................................18
Local Resources .......................................................................................................................19
Love and Hate LGBTQ+ Groups.............................................................................................20
Notable Organizations..............................................................................................................22
Progress at Home and Around the World .............................................................................24
Personal Gender Pronouns.....................................................................................................25
Glossary of LGBTQ+ Terms..................................................................................................25
A HISTORY OF LGBTQ+ PROGRESS AND FSU’S PRIDE STUDENT UNION

The diversity of humanity is as numerous as the colors in a rainbow, and nowhere is that more apparent than in the field of sexuality and gender. Yet for centuries, societies and cultures all over the world have insisted that these categories are and should be strictly binary, and anyone daring to challenge this must have something wrong with them. In the 20th century, there were numerous attempts to create change, but until 1969, the path to equality was one step forward and two steps back. Human rights organizations and support groups fell apart only a few years after their establishment. Gay bars would start up only to be raided by police and shut down. All over America, society silenced LGBTQ+ people.

Then, on the night of June 28, 1969, the course of LGBTQ+ rights changed forever. When police descended upon the Stonewall Inn of Greenwich Village in New York, the LGBTQ+ patrons fought back after decades of suffering from police brutality and negligence. This became what is now known as the infamous Stonewall Riots. It was the most noted, or most important refuse to back down from police pressure in public, and from then on, people began to find the courage to fight for equal rights. Only a year later, America saw its first pride parade, and in 1979, the community held its first March on Washington.

Fast forward to the twenty-first century, and the amount of progress is astounding. Millions of American citizens are now legally permitted to marry their loved ones, and LGBTQ+ people are freer than ever before to be who they are without fear of discrimination or backlash. However, there are still miles to go, and that is what LGBTQ+ History Month emphasizes. Every October, the heroes of the past are honored and remembered so
that their work may continue in the present and future. This is a celebration that **Pride Student Union (Pride)** works diligently to bring to Florida State University so that the campus may be inclusive, diverse, sensitive and open-minded.

Pride held a variety of events throughout the month intended to educate and inform participants on the LGBTQ+ spectrum and the issues facing the community today. The most notable is the annual March to the Capitol held on National Coming Out Day. Students walked nearly two miles displaying signs they had made themselves and protested in front of the Capitol in downtown Tallahassee.

**Student Publications** seeks to commemorate the history of both Pride and the fight for LGBTQ+ rights in America. Included in the back of this book is a list of Tallahassee resources for anyone in need of support.

Through education and understanding, we can make a difference. By celebrating this vital part of human rights history, we ensure that the inhumane treatment of LGBTQ+ people and the long struggle for equality will not be forgotten, so that we may never repeat the mistakes of our past.

Devyn Fussman  
Florida State University Student Publications 2014

*This acronym is used to refer to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer and other sexual/gender identities. The Trans denotes transgender, genderqueer and any other related identity. These are the preferred acronyms as of December 4, 2014.*
The history of Pride Student Union and Seminole Allies & Safe Zones is a rich one. Pride began as three groups founded in 1969 as a response to the Stonewall Riots: the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Alliance and the People's Coalition For Gay Rights. Only the latter stayed active long enough to become an ancestor of what is now Pride.

In the 1970s, the most active LGBTQ+ organization was Gay Peer Counseling, which met in what was then known as the University Mental Health Center, now the Student Counseling Center. Dr. Lucy Kizirian ran the program and trained volunteers to speak on LGBTQ+ issues. The group placed an ad in The Florida Flambeau stating that anyone who wanted to talk about anything related to being gay was welcome to visit. Lee McNeil, assistant director of IT Security at FSU, who at the time was a work-study student for the Mental Health Center, turned this program into the Gay Peer Volunteers (GPV) in the academic year of 1978-1979. The change resulted from students who wanted to join the group but had no desire to counsel; instead they wished to perform more far-reaching services to educate the community.

Around this time, the GPV met with Charlie Reed, who was head of the Board of Regents for FSU, and requested that sexual orientation be added to the anti-discrimination policy. He refused, claiming that because the state of Florida did not include sexual orientation, there was no reason for FSU to do so. Despite other Florida universities agreeing to make the change, FSU did not do so until decades later, under former President Barron.

By 1989, the GPV had become the Gay and Lesbian Student Union and was pushing a reluctant SGA Senate for agency status. Ten years after she had graduated, McNeil returned
to FSU as a specialist in student counseling and felt that the GPV was still needed, so she founded the Gay and Lesbian Allies (GALA). During this time, she spoke at classes and offered workshops for Student Affairs titled “Promoting Awareness of Sexual Orientation.” GALA was similar to GPV in the counseling provided; members were taught to pay attention to the emotions of the people they counseled.

“People would tell me that just being listened to was the most important thing,” McNeil said. “GALA gave them a place to come speak without being judged.”

After McNeil left to pursue a career in Information Technology, GALA was turned over to Family Tree, a community center for the LGBTQ+ people of Tallahassee. The remaining members trained with Family Tree, and GALA was run by Gail Palo, FSU’s associate director of Health and Human Services. McNeil continued to be involved in the background despite no longer serving as a counselor.

In 1994-1995, the 47th Senate passed Bill #76, making what was then the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Student Union an official agency. Sometime between October 1998 and February 1999, the 51st Senate passed Bill #31, which added “Transgendered” to the end of the name. In 2005-2006, the 58th Senate passed Bill #61, changing the name for the last time to Pride Student Union.

Today Pride is located in the heart of campus and SGA and remains active. The resource center is open every weekday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. It offers free HIV testing twice a month every semester and several times during summer sessions. The tests take twenty minutes and are provided by the FSU Health and Wellness Center, with friendly and encouraging staff members counseling. Pride seeks to create a more open, approachable environment that is free of judgment. Everyone is welcome to visit and speak or learn without fear, either in the resource center or with a Seminole Ally.

The ancestor to what is now Seminole Allies & Safe Zones became official in March of 1997, partly because of the administration’s refusal to fund an LGBTQ+ committee or office. This group differed from the others in that it was solely based in support, not political action. Co-founders Lee McNeil and David Prophitt devoted six months to careful planning and crafting materials. Safe Zone-Tallahassee (as it was called then) gained 50 members the first day of its operation, a number that grew to 600.

After Safe Zone members used a grant from the Parents’ Fund to mail out educational materials to faculty and staff, the organization received a hateful letter from someone who was only identified as “Judy,” stating that employees should not be receiving these materials, among other critical comments. The letter was called “The Judy Letter” and was taped to the wall of the Safe Zone meeting place. Whenever someone questioned why the group was needed, the allies only needed to point to The Judy Letter and say, “That’s why.”

The group emphasized that having allies was more important than having a “safe space,” because if a homophobic person ever walked in, that space would no longer be safe. The mission encouraged people who were LGBTQ+ friendly to identify themselves, usually with a pink triangle, so that LGBTQ+ students, faculty and staff could speak about their sexuality and gender identity without fear of being targeted.

Until 2012, Safe Zone-Tallahassee consisted mostly of passing out resource materials to anyone who requested them, despite an influx of donations on the local and national level. Then-SGA Director Vicki Dobiyanski spoke with the Counseling Center about revamping the program to become more interactive, campus-wide and community-engaged. A new coordinator was hired and the entire model was redesigned, which included the new name. Today Seminole Allies & Safe Zones provides multiple workshops at various levels to all students, faculty and staff.
Each year the dedicated students of Pride Student Union pool their talents and dedication together to create a celebration of progress, diversity and history for the entire Florida State community. Although Pride Month is traditionally in June and LGBTQ+ History Month is in October, Pride Student Union combines both celebrations for the month of October, since most of the student body is not present on campus in June.

One of the most well-attended events is the Amateur Drag Show, where any student is allowed to perform on stage, with the chance to win a spot in the Annual Spring Drag Show. Tickets sell out with each performance, and Club Downunder is packed to capacity, with lines wrapping around the Oglesby Union. Music blares, drag kings and queens strut across the stage, and audience members interact with the performers. The show provides an avenue for students looking for a place to express their creativity and gender expression.

A classic feature of Pride Month at Florida State is the Rainbow Door, which connects the event with National Coming Out Day on October 11. Every year on this day, the board members setup a rainbow door on Union Green, inviting anyone and everyone to “come out of the closet” or celebrate being out by walking through the door with a sign stating their identity.

During this time, Pride also holds an annual March to the Capitol, a powerful experience that has been a tradition for seven years. The march requires a considerable amount of time and networking from Pride’s executive board, with a permit process involved coupled with the need to have as wide a variety of speakers as possible. Escorted by the FSU Police Department, students marched from the Westcott building to the Capitol in the hopes of bringing political awareness to the LGBTQ+ community and especially queer and trans people rights, shouting chants as diverse
as they were.

“Hey, hey, ho, ho, homophobia’s got to go!” “What do we want? Equality! When do we want it? Yesterday!” “Over and over they trip us with laws, over and over we fight for the cause!”

When the students reached their destination, they listened to speeches from board members Jonathan Horton and Rosanna Rizo in addition to members of the community. Among them were Jim Van Riper, board chair of Equality FL; Andy Janecek, secretary and president of FL GLBT Democratic Caucus; and Eugene Butler, a former FSU student senator. They spoke of the progress made and still to come, assuring students that people against LGBTQ+ rights are on the losing side of history, just like those who were against civil rights for women and African Americans.

These are only a few of the many events Pride hosts for the month, and each one promotes the goal of education and acceptance of others and ourselves. “One constant of Pride Month that we always try to adhere to is the awareness of all identities within the LGBTQ+ community,” said Giovanni Rocco, Pride’s political action coordinator. “One of the most important aspects of Pride Month is a willingness to learn more and challenge traditional views.”

Students remember the victims of hate crimes, share their stories, celebrate progress and become educated members of society. Pride offers seminars for anyone who wants to learn about topics such as sex ed and sexual health, terminology, intersecting identities, support resources, prejudice within the LGBTQ+ community and much more.

Pride Student Union and its month have transformed over the years, but its goal will always remain the same: providing a place on campus where the FSU community can feel comfortable sharing stories such as those we’ve published here.
My name is Yarelis Nicole Rivera Vega, and until I was fourteen I was so deep in the closet, I was still in Narnia. From 2008 until 2013 I hid my bisexuality from my family. A handful of my friends knew, but my immediate family did not. This is my coming out story.

Coming out to my mother was hard. I grew up in a traditional Catholic household all my life. I finally decided that it was time to come out to my parents after five years of hiding who I was. I thought coming out would be easy. I came out to my sister, my brother and some of my friends first, and they all told me it was painfully obvious that I wasn't straight. I didn't know my mother was that oblivious. I came out as bisexual to her in an email. I knew that if I called her or told her in person she would lecture me before I got a chance to explain myself. She was devastated. She couldn't understand, and I suppose she still doesn't understand, how “God could give her this miracle and then take it away from her.” The miracle was me, seeing as I was born two months and nine days premature. I came out almost dead. She wouldn't dare tell my father, not then. After all, he was being deployed to do a nine-month tour in Afghanistan. I came out to her late March of 2013. We still don't
The following is a personal narrative written by Yarelis Nicole Rivera Vego, a junior at Florida State majoring in criminology with a minor in psychology, who generously volunteered to describe her coming out experience.

COMING OUT

Talk about it. If you think the way I came out to my mother is rough or strange, it doesn't hold a candle to what happened with my father.

Let's fast forward to Mother's Day 2014. My now ex-girlfriend's parents find a phone she's not supposed to have. On that phone they found inappropriate pictures of my girlfriend and myself. My girlfriend at the time is 17 and I am 19. Her parents threaten to press charges for possession of child pornography. I started panicking and I talked to my mother and tell her how badly I messed up. I say, “Ma, you gotta tell Dad. He has a right to know what's going on.” That night my mother tells my father that his “perfect” baby girl is not only bisexual, she has a girlfriend, and she may be facing prison time for a very serious crime. It is one bombshell after another.

Jump forward two weeks. I take a greyhound bus to Texas, which is where my parents are. My father picks me up from the station; it's an hour ride back home. He tells me that he does not approve of my choices. I know he doesn't mean the pictures. I ask him why he isn't freaking out and his answer is shocking to me. He tells me that he's not going to freak out because my mom already is and if they both freak out then it isn't helpful to anyone. But he doesn't accept it. He tells me “Yara, bad news doesn't get better with time.”

My mind starts to think in “What if” questions, so I ask one. “Daddy, what if I marry a woman?” His response, similar to that of my mother, hurts. “I don't know. We'll cross that bridge IF we get there.” It's not, “Of course we'll be there and support you on one of the happiest days of your life.” It's “I don't know.”

I know I have to give them time. They've been raised for 49 and 45 years to think in one way, to think that being anything other than straight is wrong, it's a sin, and those who are “that way” will burn in hell. I know they won't change overnight but I want them to understand that this is not a phase. This is not something I CHOOSE to be. THIS is who I am, this is how I was born, and this is how God Himself made me.

They tell me they love me unconditionally because they are my parents, but they put a condition on that love when they hesitated to accept me. I know I can't bring home a woman, not if I want to maintain the peace. I know as long as we don't talk about it, there will be peace. But the road to Peace is paved in War, so when does the battle begin?
The following is an alphabetical compilation organized by subject of historical people, organizations and events that have influenced the LGBTQ+ rights movement (for better or worse). Many are often remembered during LGBTQ+ History Month.

Influential People

Alfred Kinsey was a biologist and sexologist who, in 1948 and 1953, wrote *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*. These works, now known as The Kinsey Reports, provoked years of controversy, partly because they described the commonality of masturbation and pre-marital sex. He founded the Institute For Sex Research at Indiana University and was the first to perform major research on sexuality. He also developed what is called the Kinsey Scale, a 0-6 measure rating of homosexuality.

Bayard Rustin was a civil rights activist for African Americans and gay people. He is known for his 1986 speech, “The New N***ers Are Gays.” Despite Rustin having helped to organize the March on Washington and having taught Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. nonviolent tactics, his role was silenced due to public discomfort regarding his sexual orientation. African American leaders forced him to resign because they felt his openness about his sexuality would undermine the cause. On November 20, 2013, President Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Bayard Taylor published his novel, *Joseph and His Friend: A Story of Pennsylvania* in 1870, which is thought to be the first “gay novel” in America. The story describes young and wealthy Joseph’s account of discovering he loves his friend Philip more than he loves his wife. Despite a lack of positive reception by the general public, Taylor considered the novel to be his best.

Brandon Teena was a transgender man who was raped and stabbed in the chest on December 31, 1993, at the age of 21 in a murder similar to Matthew Shepard’s. The criminals were two men who had attacked him out of rage over his gender identity. Teena’s death was used as a vehicle for lobbying hate-crime legislation.

Brenda Howard was a bisexual rights activist who was involved in LGBTQ+ rights for more than thirty years, which included the 1993 March on Washington. Her work in coordinating a rally to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots earned her the title “Mother of Pride.” She was one of the first to use the term “Pride” in conjunction with the celebrations. In 2005, PFLAG created the Brenda Howard Memorial Award, which was the first to be named after an openly bisexual person.

Bruce Voeller was a gay activist and AIDS researcher who gave the disease its post-1980s name. AIDS had previously been called “Gay Related Immune Deficiency Disorder,” and Voeller succeeded in changing it to acquired immune deficiency syndrome, emphasizing that homosexuality was not the cause. In 1973, Voeller also established the National Gay Task Force and served as director until 1978. This organization arranged the first meeting between LGBTQ+ leaders and the White House, which was the first time LGBTQ+ people were welcome there and were officially allowed to discuss their rights.

Cheryl Chase is the founder of the Intersex Society of North America and an activist for intersexuals. She was born with ambiguous genitalia for reasons unknown to doctors and had part of them removed when she was 18 months old, after which she became mute for six months. In 2004, she convinced the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to hold hearings regarding medical procedures performed on intersex infants. Chase continues to advocate open communication between intersex children and their parents about the condition, rather than resorting to surgery to fix the problem.

Christine Jorgensen, in 1952, became one of the most important Americans to have sex reassignment surgery. This was the most noted time the stability and rigidity of gender were questioned, and it raised the debate of what determined sex and what set it apart from gender. Jorgensen became a spokesperson for Trans people and encouraged them to update their birth certificates after being told she couldn't marry her fiancé since her sex was listed as male.

Coretta Scott King, the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, was an early supporter of LGBTQ+ civil rights. In 1983 she attempted to include gay people and lesbian
women in the Civil Rights Act amendment, and in 2003 she invited the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to the 40th anniversary of her husband’s “I Have a Dream” speech. She received severe backlash from African American pastors who were angry at the thought of comparing LGBTQ+ rights to civil rights.

David Jay is the founder of the Asexuality Visibility and Education Network (AVEN), which is considered the official website for asexuality. He has appeared on TV and in the 2011 documentary *Asexual*. AVEN is known as the most global online asexual community with more than 70,000 members and a wealth of information on this understudied topic.

Ellen DeGeneres, on February 25, 2007, became the first openly gay person to host the Academy Awards. She came out as a lesbian publicly in 1997, an act that stunted her career for some time. Despite this, she has acquired an abundance of Emmys, People’s Choice Awards, a Saturn Award (the only voice performance to ever receive one), and more in addition to a happy marriage with her partner, Portia de Rossi.

Emma Goldman was the first person to declare support publicly for homosexual rights, a feat that was unheard of at the turn of the century. She also advocated birth control and contraceptives for women and women’s freedoms. She was arrested multiple times, blamed for the assassination of President McKinley and eventually deported to Russia for her actions.

Evelyn Hooker was a psychologist who, in 1957, became famous for a paper she’d written titled “The Adjustment of the Male Overt Homosexual.” She ran tests with other experts on self-identified male homosexuals and heterosexuals to determine their mental health. The experiment concluded that homosexuality is not a mental disorder since there was no noticeable difference between the two in terms of mental state. This contributed to a change of heart in the medical community and paved the way for the removal of homosexuality from the APA’s *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

Frank Kameny was fired from his position as astronomer in the U.S. Army for being gay, which led him to become one of the most significant people in American LGBTQ+ history. He protested his dismissal to the U.S. Supreme Court, making his case the first civil rights claim based on sexual orientation. He also became the first openly gay candidate for the U.S. Congress in 1971 and created the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Washington, D.C. His home is considered a historic landmark, and his picket signs are preserved in the Smithsonian Museum under “Treasures of American History.”

Gigi Raven Wilbur served as a coordinator for BiNet USA, helped organize the first Celebrate Bisexuality Day in 1999 and won a Globe Award from the American Institute of Bisexuality for outstanding service. “The bisexual community has grown in strength,” she said, “but in many ways we are still invisible. I too have been conditioned by society to automatically label a couple walking hand in hand as either gay or straight, depending upon the perceived gender of each person.”

Harry Hay was one of America’s earliest LGBTQ+ rights activists and the founder of the Mattachine Society. He has been called “the father of gay liberation” and served as chairman of the Los Angeles Committee to protest the exclusions of gay people from the military. After the Stonewall riots, Hay became the Gay Liberation Front’s first chairperson and helped to organize pickets of homophobic establishments. He was also one of the first to discourage assimilation for the gay community, fearing that the cultural minority would lose its unique traits by doing so.

Harvey Milk won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977, making him the first openly gay person to be elected to public office. He passed a citywide gay rights ordinance and became an icon for the gay community despite his short career, which ended when he was assassinated on November 27, 1978, at age 48. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 and is the first openly gay person to be featured on an American postage stamp.

Hida Viloria is an intersex activist and chairperson for Organisation Intersex International. Though Viloria was
never subjected to a genital reassignment surgery, she was inspired by people who were in 1996, when she participated in the first international intersex retreat. In 2007, she appeared on *Oprah*, where she is quoted as saying, “Society pressures you to choose sides, just like they pressure mixed race people to decide if they’re really black or white.” On International Human Rights Day of 2013, she became the first openly intersex person to speak at the United Nations.

**Janet Mock** is a Trans woman activist whose bestselling memoir *Redefining Realness* made the *New York Times* bestseller list. She and her book have appeared in magazines and on TV all over America, and her work has been nominated for a GLAAD Media Award and a Women’s Media Center Award. Mock continues her activism through transgender-specific programs for LGBTQ+ youth at the Hetrick-Martin Institute. She is also a Contributing Editor to *Marie Claire* and host of shiftMSNBC’s “SoPOPular!”

**Kye Allums** was the first openly transgender individual to become an NCAA Division 1 college athlete when he was a student at George Washington University. Allums has acted as a transgender advocate and LGBTQ+ youth mentor, sharing his experiences by speaking at high schools. *Time Magazine* has recognized him as one of 21 transgender people who have influenced American culture.

**Laverne Cox** is a Trans woman and an actress best known for playing a Trans character in *Orange is the New Black*. She uses her role as an opportunity for speaking and writing about the issues Trans people face in some of the most nationally recognized media outlets, such as NPR, CNN, Huffington Post and ABC. She also draws from her personal experiences, having grown up in a transphobic community. Cox has won several awards for her activism, including a GLAAD award, Woman of the Year and was honored by *The Guardian* as one of the world’s most influential LGBTQ+ people. She is also the executive producer of MTV’s “The T Word”, which showcases the lives of Trans youth from all over the country.

**Mary Griffith** is an ex-evangelical Christian who, after her gay son Bobby committed suicide in 1983, became an activist for LGBTQ+ rights. She became the president of the San Francisco Bay chapter of PFLAG and a nationally known speaker, urging parents to listen to their children and refrain from shaming them so that tragedies like Bobby’s may be avoided. Her story is detailed in the book and movie *Prayers For Bobby*.

**Matthew Shepard** was the victim of one of the most violent hate crimes in history on October 6, 1998, of which he died six days later at 21. He had been abducted, robbed, tied to a fence and beaten so severely that his face was completely covered in blood, with the exception of the part where his tears had washed it clean. Matthew’s mother, Judy Shepard, fights for LGBTQ+ rights and created the Matthew Shepard Foundation. In 2009, Congress passed the Matthew Shepard Act, which expanded federal hate crime law to include gender and sexual orientation.

**Michael Sam** was drafted into the St. Louis Rams as a defensive end in the 2014 NFL Draft, making him the first openly gay player to be drafted into the NFL. He was expected to be passed over as a result of his announcement, but his teammates were supportive. The Westboro Baptist Church’s protest of his return to Missouri was blocked by students who formed a human wall in front of the church members as a counter-protest.

**Rachel Maddow** is the first openly gay anchor to host an American prime-time news program, the Emmy Award-winning “Rachel Maddow Show.” The show also received an award from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in 2010. In 2008, Maddow was listed in *Out*’s 100 list of “gay people and women who moved culture.”

**Ryan White** was expelled from school in 1985 after contracting HIV from a tainted blood treatment, despite doctors’ insistence that he posed no threat to students. A poor understanding of AIDS and blatant homophobia led parents and teachers to protest his attendance, and he fought for his right to attend school. White's legal battle
garnered media attention and contributed invaluably to AIDS research and education, sparking several charities and proving to the world that AIDS was not a homoseul-related disease as was previously thought.

Stephen Donaldson was a bisexual political activist who began his career by attempting to start a Student Homophile League (now known as Columbia Queer Alliance) at Columbia University. He later received criticism from the gay community for identifying as bisexual and falling in love with a woman. He joined the New York bisexual movement, which was even more despised than the gay rights movement because, unlike homosexuality, bisexuality supposedly could not be segregated.

Sylvia Rivera was a Trans woman who founded the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance and Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR). She became homeless at eleven due to her family’s transphobic attitudes and was taken in by local drag queens. Rivera’s activism began during the Civil Rights Era, when she fought for African Americans and women and protested against the Vietnam War. She is most remembered for fighting for groups that were marginalized during the “gay rights” movement, such as Trans people and LGBTQ+ people of color.

LGBTQ+ American History Timeline

1924 - Harry Hay founds the Society For Human Rights
1950 – The Mattachine Society is founded
1952 - Christine Jorgensen becomes the first American to have sex reassignment surgery
1953 - President Eisenhower signs Executive Order banning homosexuals from federal employment
1955 - Fred Phelps founds the Westboro Baptist Church
1957 - Evelyn Hooker publishes “The Adjustment of the Male Overt Homosexual”
1958 - One, Inc. v. Olsen
1966 – The Mattachine Society organizes the Sip-In
1969 - Stonewall Riots
1971 – The Southern Poverty Law Center is founded; Frank Kameny sues for discrimination claims
1972 - PFLAG is formed
1973 - APA declassifies homosexuality as an illness
1977 - Harvey Milk is elected
1978 - Harvey Milk is murdered
1979 - White Night Riots; National March on Washington
1980 - Democrats become the first political party to include gay rights in their agenda
1983 - Coretta Scott King attempts to include LGBTQ+ rights in the Civil Rights Act
1985 - Ryan White is diagnosed with AIDS and fights to attend school
1986 - Bayard Rustin delivers “The New N***ers Are Gay” speech
1990 - World Health Organization declassifies homosexuality as a mental illness
1991 – The WBC starts picketing
1993 - Brandon Teena is murdered; Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell is enacted
1996 - DOMA is signed into law
1998 - Matthew Shepard is murdered in a hate crime
2002 - German government issues apology for Holocaust persecution
2003 - Lawrence v. Texas
2004 - Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize marriage equality
2007 - Ellen DeGeneres becomes the first open lesbian to host the Academy Awards
2008 – Debut of Rachel Maddow show
2009 - Matthew Shepard Act is passed
2010 - Kye Allums becomes the first openly transgender athlete in the NCAA
2011 - Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell is repealed; the Girl Scouts allow a transgender member
2012 - President Obama expresses support for marriage equality; Chick-fil-A controversy
2013 - DOMA and Prop 8 are struck down; marriage equality logo goes viral; PFLAG changes its name; Bayard Rustin is awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
2014 - Executive Order 13672 is passed; Boy Scouts allow gay members

Celebrating the Spectrum / 15
Under Nazi Germany, books about sexuality were burned and between 5,000 and 15,000 gay people (lesbian women were not heavily persecuted) were sentenced to concentration camps. They were treated exceptionally cruelly by their captors and fellow prisoners, and were castrated by court order. Unlike the other minorities, gay people were not liberated after the war ended but were instead re-arrested and imprisoned based on evidence of their “crimes.” They were also used in experiments by Nazi doctors hoping to find a “gay gene” so they could create a cure. Governments did not acknowledge the persecution until the 1980s, and Germany did not apologize until 2002. The Holocaust was when the symbol of the pink triangle originated; it was used in Nazi camps to denote gay people.

The Lavender Scare is a reference to the LGBTQ+ persecution that was rampant in the 1950s. The psychiatrists of the time considered homosexuality to be a mental illness, and therefore any homosexual employee was more likely to provide information to communists. Joseph McCarthy and Roy Cohn (who, ironically, is believed to have been a closeted gay) used their influence to get hundreds of gay people fired from government jobs. Historians have largely ignored this event in favor of the Red Scare, though the number of people harmed by the latter was significantly smaller.

The 1950s and 60s saw a crackdown on homosexuality and other “un-American” activities. After WWII, thousands of LGBTQ+ service members were dishonorably discharged, and by 1953, an executive order was issued to fire homosexual federal employees. Police frequently raped lesbian women and drag queens and did not intervene when civilians beat LGBTQ+ people. The FBI kept lists of known homosexuals, and bars catering to them were shut down. LGBTQ+ people were often arrested, publicly humiliated in newspapers and committed to mental institutions.

One, Inc. v. Olsen was a landmark Supreme Court case held in 1958. The U.S. Post Office and the FBI determined that a pro-gay magazine (the first of its kind) called ONE was obscene material and therefore could not be mailed. The company sued and lost the first court decision in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, but won their appeal to the Supreme Court. This case was the first time in history that the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a free press with respect to homosexuality, though it was the only such ruling for decades.

“The Sip-In” was an attempt by members of the
Mattachine Society to challenge laws that allowed employees to refuse service to gay people. It took place in 1966 at a restaurant called Julius in New York City. Three members identified as homosexual before ordering a drink, and were denied service due to the New York State Liquor ruling that gay customers were considered disorderly. The Mattachines challenged the law in court, and it was decided that gay people had the right to assemble peacefully. This led to the first of many legally licensed gay bars.

The Stonewall Riots were a series of violent outbreaks by members of the LGBTQ+ community in response to a police raid at the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969. This is considered a turning point in LGBTQ+ history and the birth of the civil rights movement. Bars were one of the few establishments that welcomed openly LGBTQ+ people, and police raids were common. This time the patrons fought back and advocated places where gay people and lesbian women could be open about their orientations without being arrested.

America’s First Gay Pride Parade was proposed on November 2, 1969, to commemorate the Stonewall Riots. The parades were first held throughout the 1970s in New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Atlanta. These marches inspired the growing activist movement and soon became annual events in cities worldwide. The mood of the parades became less serious in the 1980s, and titles like “Gay Liberation” and “Gay Freedom” were dropped in favor of “Gay Pride.”

The White Night Riots were a violent response to the lenient sentence given to Dan White, the murderer of Harvey Milk. White received lightest possible conviction, enraging San Francisco’s gay community. This was especially the case when they learned that White had gotten off by using the “Twinkie Defense,” which meant he claimed to have had a reduced mental capacity due to eating too much junk food. The riots caused thousands of dollars’ worth of property damage, dozens of arrests and several lawsuits. When gay leaders refused to apologize for the outbreaks, the gay movement began to gain political power.

In 1979, the gay rights movement organized the first National March on Washington. Later in 1979, many people in Sweden called in sick with a case of “homosexuality,” as it was still considered an illness. Within a few months, Sweden removed that definition. In 1980, the Democrats became the first political party to endorse LGBTQ+ rights, with President Barack Obama being the first president to include support for LGBTQ+ rights as part of a presidential campaign.

DOMA is an acronym for the Defense of Marriage Act, which was signed into law by President Clinton in September 1996. Until the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of DOMA on June 26, 2013, this law defined a recognized marriage as only one man and one woman and said that no state was required to recognize a same-sex marriage performed elsewhere. This excluded same-sex couples from a myriad of benefits and protection laws guaranteed to heterosexuals. There was a large backlash from right-wing groups when it was removed.

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) was the pre-2011 U.S. policy on lesbian women, gay people, and trans people in the military. Openly LGBTQ+ citizens were barred from service, but it was illegal to discriminate against those who were still in the closet. DADT stated that the presence of open LGBTQ+ people “would create an unacceptable risk to the higher standards of morale, good order and discipline and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability.” On September 19, 2011, U.S. Navy Lt. Gary Ross became the first active member of the military to marry a same-sex partner. A number of Republican presidential candidates have demanded DADT’s restoration.
Gay Days at Walt Disney World is held on the first Saturday in June and has become one of the biggest pride events in the world. Though Disney has not sanctioned Gay Day and instructs its employees to treat the day like any other, a nearby resort has come out as the “official” Gay Day hotel. Because Disney has historically been a conservative company, right-wingers have reacted harshly to its lack of resistance. The Southern Baptist Convention boycotted Disney for eight years, and one organization flew banners over the parks to warn heterosexual families.

Lawrence v. Texas is a 2003 Supreme Court case that ended by striking down Texas’s sodomy laws and invalidating them in thirteen other states. This effectively legalized same-sex sexual activity in the United States. It also made clear that consensual and private homosexual sex is protected under the right to liberty section of the Constitution.

Proposition 8, a 2008 California proposition created to ban marriage equality in the state, was not repealed until the Supreme Court case in 2013. Opponents of marriage equality created it after the state’s ban had been deemed unconstitutional, with Prop 8 declaring, “Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.” It did not affect domestic partnerships or reverse marriages that had already been performed, but it prevented any further unions from occurring. Protests abounded all over the country, and marriage equality supporters worked for years to have it repealed, with numerous lawsuits filed to challenge it.

### LGBTQ+ SPECIAL DATES

Note that these are mostly American-founded special dates and that other countries may have their own LGBTQ+ special dates, or celebrate the international ones on different dates than those listed.

- **Asexuality Awareness Week:** October, varies each year
- **Celebrate Bisexuality Day:** September 23
- **Bisexual Awareness Week:** the Sunday before Celebrate Bisexuality Day
- **Day of Silence:** April (day varies)
- **LGBTQ+ History Month:** October
- **Harvey Milk Day:** May 22
- **International Day Against Homophobia:** May 17
- **International Holocaust Remembrance Day:** January 27
- **International Transgender Day of Visibility:** March 31
- **Intersex Awareness Day:** October 26
- **Intersex Day of Remembrance:** November 8
- **National Coming Out Day:** October 11
- **Pride Month:** June
- **Spirit Day:** October 17
- **Stonewall Riots Anniversary:** June 27
- **Transgender Day of Remembrance:** November 20
- **World AIDS Day:** December 1
# LOCAL RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Pride Student Union Resource Center</strong></th>
<th><strong>Capital City GLBTA Democratic Caucus</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tallahassee LGBT Business Partners</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Seminole Allies &amp; Safe Zones at Florida State University</strong></th>
<th><strong>Family Tree</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tallahassee PRIDEFEST</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Big Bend Cares</strong></th>
<th><strong>Going Places Street Outreach</strong></th>
<th><strong>Tallahassee Prime Timers (Men Only)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2-1-1 Big Bend</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mixit Tallahassee</strong></th>
<th><strong>Transgender Tallahassee</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P.O. Box 10950 Tallahassee, FL 32303-2950 850-617-6348</td>
<td>P.O. Box 6694 Tallahassee, FL 32314 <a href="http://www.mixittallahassee.com/">http://www.mixittallahassee.com/</a></td>
<td>Waterworks 1133 Thomasville Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-222-1128 <a href="http://www.transgendertallahassee.com/">http://www.transgendertallahassee.com/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Branching Out LGBT Community Newspaper</strong></th>
<th><strong>Oasis Center for Women and Girls</strong></th>
<th><strong>United Church in Tallahassee</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Capital City AIDS Network</strong></th>
<th><strong>PFLAG of Tallahassee</strong></th>
<th><strong>Refuge House</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1720 South Gadsden Street, Ste. 223A Tallahassee, FL 32301 850-942-6222</td>
<td>1407 S. Meridian St. Tallahassee, FL 32301</td>
<td>P.O. Box 20910 Tallahassee, FL 32316 850-922-6062 <a href="http://www.refugehouse.com/">http://www.refugehouse.com/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Transgender Tallahassee** Waterworks 1133 Thomasville Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-222-1128 http://www.transgendertallahassee.com/ | **United Church in Tallahassee** 1834 Mahan Drive Tallahassee, FL 32308 850-878-7385 http://www.uctonline.org |
The following lists national organizations in America that work tirelessly either to make LGBTQ+ rights happen, or to keep them illegal.

### NATIONAL LGBTQ+ RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accord Alliance</td>
<td><a href="http://www.accordalliance.org">http://www.accordalliance.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT UP</td>
<td><a href="http://actupny.org">http://actupny.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocates for Informed Choice</td>
<td><a href="http://aiclegal.org">http://aiclegal.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affirmation: Gay and Lesbian Mormons</td>
<td><a href="http://affirmation.org">http://affirmation.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Foundation for Equal Rights</td>
<td><a href="http://www.afer.org">http://www.afer.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Veterans for Equal Rights</td>
<td><a href="http://aver.us">http://aver.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athlete Ally</td>
<td><a href="http://www.athleteally.org">http://www.athleteally.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atticus Circle</td>
<td><a href="https://www.atticuscircle.org">https://www.atticuscircle.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVEN</td>
<td><a href="http://www.asexuality.org/home/">http://www.asexuality.org/home/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BioNet USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.binetusa.org">http://www.binetusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Pride</td>
<td><a href="http://www.campuspride.org">http://www.campuspride.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere</td>
<td><a href="http://www.colage.org">http://www.colage.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowering Spirits Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.empoweringspirits.org">http://www.empoweringspirits.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality Across America</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/EqualityAcrossAmerica">https://www.facebook.com/EqualityAcrossAmerica</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality Federation</td>
<td><a href="http://equalityfederation.org">http://equalityfederation.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Equality Council</td>
<td><a href="http://www.familyequality.org">http://www.familyequality.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fight OUT Loud</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fightoutloud.org/">http://www.fightoutloud.org/</a> Fight_OUT_Loud/Welcome.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom to Marry</td>
<td><a href="http://www.freedomtomarry.org">http://www.freedomtomarry.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay &amp; Lesbian Advocates &amp; Defenders</td>
<td><a href="http://www.glad.org">http://www.glad.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay &amp; Lesbian Medical Association</td>
<td><a href="http://www.glma.org">http://www.glma.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay &amp; Lesbian Victory Fund</td>
<td><a href="https://www.victoryfund.org">https://www.victoryfund.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GetEQUAL</td>
<td><a href="http://getequal.org">http://getequal.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLAAD</td>
<td><a href="http://www.glaad.org">http://www.glaad.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLIFAA</td>
<td><a href="http://glifaa.org">http://glifaa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Equality Fund</td>
<td><a href="http://www.state.gov/globalequality/">http://www.state.gov/globalequality/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSA Network</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gsanetwork.org">http://www.gsanetwork.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Campaign</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hrc.org">http://www.hrc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration Equality</td>
<td><a href="http://immigrationequality.org">http://immigrationequality.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrity USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.integrityusa.org">http://www.integrityusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Foundation for Gender Education</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ifge.org">http://www.ifge.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keshet (for Jews)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.keshetonline.org">http://www.keshetonline.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPAC</td>
<td><a href="http://www.teamlpac.com">http://www.teamlpac.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambda Legal</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lambdalegal.org">http://www.lambdalegal.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesbian Avengers</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lesbianavengers.com">http://www.lesbianavengers.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Makes a Family</td>
<td><a href="http://familydiv.org/exhibits/love-makes-a-family/">http://familydiv.org/exhibits/love-makes-a-family/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage Equality USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.marriageequality.org">http://www.marriageequality.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Shepard Foundation</td>
<td><a href="http://www.matthewshepard.org">http://www.matthewshepard.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Black Justice Coalition</td>
<td><a href="http://nbjbc.org">http://nbjbc.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Lesbian Rights</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nclrights.org">http://www.nclrights.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Transgender Equality</td>
<td><a href="http://transequality.org">http://transequality.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Abiding Truth Ministries
American Family Association
Americans for Truth About Homosexuality
American Vision
Bethesda Christian Institute
Chalcedon Foundation
Dove World Outreach Center
Faithful World Baptist Center
Family Research Council

PFLAG
http://community.pflag.org

Pride at Work
http://www.prideatwork.org

Queer Nation
http://queernationny.org

Rainbow Sash
http://www.rainbowsash.com

Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders
http://www.sageusa.org

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network
http://www.sldn.org/pages/about-sldn

Soulforce
http://soulforce.com

Southern Poverty Law Center
http://www.splcenter.org

Slyvia Rivera Law Project
http://srlp.org

The Pink Panthers
http://www.thepinkpanthersmovement.com

Think Again
http://thinkagaintraining.com

Trans Student Equality Resources
http://transstudent.org

Transgender Law Center
http://transgenderlawcenter.org

Truth Wins Out
http://www.truthwinsout.org

NATIONAL ANTI-LGBTQ+ HATE GROUPS
The American Psychiatric Association declassified homosexuality as a mental disorder in 1973, removing it permanently from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. The American Psychological Association and the World Health Organization followed suit in 1975 and 1990. The American Academy of Pediatrics has stated that children raised by LGBTQ+ parents have not been found to be any more disadvantaged than those with heterosexual parents. Medical organizations now discourage the use of “cure treatments” for homosexuality.

The Boy Scouts of America prohibits “open and avowed” gay adults from participating in its organization. It also bans both children and adults who identify as atheist or agnostic. Before 2014, gay children were banned from the Scouts as well. The BSA has lost support from both its financial sponsors and conservative members over the debate on their policy. Today openly gay adults are still prohibited from being leaders, though gay youth are allowed. The BSA insists that homosexuality is not compatible with its morals.

Chick-fil-A was at the forefront of controversy in 2012 after its president, Dan Cathy, publicly opposed marriage equality. Reports preceding this indicated that Chick-fil-A had donated millions to organizations that worked to oppose LGBTQ+ rights and “cure homosexuality.” There were a number of boycotts and protests on both sides, including a “Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day,” in which those against marriage equality lined up to eat at the restaurants. Although the company faced a massive backlash, sales continued to soar. In 2013, FSU opened a new Chick-fil-A on campus despite protests from Pride Student Union.

The Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) was America’s first lesbian organization for civil rights. The DOB was formed in 1955 San Francisco by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon as an alternative to gay/lesbian bars, which were often raided by police. Members provided support to women who were afraid of coming out, along with education about their rights. The DOB inspired the rise of dozens more feminist and lesbian organizations.

Exodus International was a famous Christian umbrella network designed to convert people from homosexual to heterosexual and reinforce binary gender stereotypes. The organization closed in June 2013, but many of its ministries continue to operate. In 1979, founder Michael Bussee and ministry leader Gary Cooper divorced their wives and formed a gay relationship with each other. Bussee and several other members later issued apologies for their involvement.

The Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. has traditionally held a “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on sexuality and, unlike the Boy Scouts, has never outright banned lesbian women or gay people. It has, however, rejected discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. In October 2011, a local troop’s decision to reject a transgender girl was overturned by the Girl Scouts of Colorado. The Girl Scouts also allow members to substitute the word “God” in their pledge for another word that aligns more closely with their beliefs.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is America’s biggest nonprofit LGBTQ+ civil rights group. The group has two focuses: one is education and research; the other is LGBTQ+ political and social welfare. HRC advocates marriage equality, hate crime prevention and anti-discrimination laws. It also maintains the Corporate Equality Index, rating corporations on the acceptance level of their workplaces. HRC created the infamous marriage equality logo, which went viral on March 26, 2013, and is one of the most recognized symbols in the LGBTQ+ community.

The Mattachine Society was one of America’s first and most prominent homosexual organizations designed to unify, educate and provide aid to homosexuals.
Controversy arose over whether the group was loyal to the U.S. since homosexuality was illegal at the time. Its decline was similar to that of certain black civil rights groups in that the Mattachine Society was viewed as too traditional. The turbulent 1960s saw more radical and confrontational activists who were impatient with the society's supposed powerlessness.

The National Transsexual Counseling Unit was the world's first transgender people support and advocacy organization. It was established in response to a 1966 riot in a San Francisco cafeteria, which began when police were called to escort rowdy transgender customers, with an officer manhandling one of them.

PFLAG is an LGBTQ+ support organization boasting more than 350 chapters in the U.S. alone and more than 200,000 members worldwide. It was formerly known as Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays; however, in 2013 PFLAG became known only by its acronym as an attempt to be more inclusive of the entire community. The organization was created to be, and continues to serve as, a bridge between LGBTQ+ people and heterosexual allies. One of their most well known projects is Straight for Equality, an outreach project to empower heterosexual allies who lack a connection to the LGBTQ+ community.

The Society For Human Rights (SHR) was the first recognized gay rights organization in America in 1924. Although the SHR excluded bisexuals and was short-lived, it is viewed as a prelude to the modern gay rights movement. Founder Henry Gerber had been committed to a mental institution in 1917 because of homosexuality. Inspired by the gay rights movement in Berlin, he decided to accomplish a similar goal in the U.S. The SHR produced the first publication catered to gay people, a newsletter called Friendship and Freedom. In 1925, Gerber and the Society's vice president were arrested, with newspapers untruthfully reporting that the Society performed sexual acts in front of children and encouraged men to leave their families.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is the largest Baptist organization in the world and the second largest Christian group in America after the Catholic Church. The SBC opposes marriage equality and asserts traditional gender roles, including male dominance in marriage. The SBC has passed anti-LGBTQ+ resolutions for decades and vehemently opposes diversity training in schools. They have also stated, “even a desire to engage in a homosexual relationship is always sinful, impure, degrading, shameful, unnatural, indecent and perverted.”

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit civil rights organization that classifies hate groups and provides legal representation for victims of hate crimes. They created and maintain an award winning educational website, teachingtolerance.org. The SPLC was originally intended to focus on the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist organizations, but has since taken up the cause of other civil rights movements. In 1987, the SPLC forced the KKK into bankruptcy by taking the Klan to court over the lynching of a black teenager and procuring a $7 million judgment. The organization continues to fight for minority justice, fair treatment of aliens and separation of church and state.

The Westboro Baptist Church is the most famous and arguably the most extreme anti-LGBTQ+ hate group in America. It was founded by pastor Fred Phelps in 1955 in Topeka and is made up almost entirely of his extended family. The WBC is not officially Baptist and has been denounced by several Baptist organizations. The group has protested at funerals of hate crime victims, AIDS victims, American veterans and celebrities, stating that the deaths were a sign of God's rage at homosexuality. National outrage has led to the passing of laws that require any funeral protests to be at least 300 ft. away from the burial.
This table lists the status of marriage equality in foreign countries. Please note that just because a country/territory has marriage equality, that does not mean its citizens are completely accepting. Many parts of the world still lack anti-discrimination laws and other necessary aspects of freedom. There are also some countries where male homosexuality is punishable by law but female homosexuality is not.

Fortunately, change is still happening all over the world, so there is a chance the data may not be current for long. That is why we have only provided a link to the official website for marriage equality in the United States, as the data changes too often for us to ensure accurate printing. It is always advisable that LGBTQ+ citizens research their destinations, both domestic and international, before traveling.

**In the United States:** [http://www.freedomtomarry.org](http://www.freedomtomarry.org)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Netherlands</th>
<th>Belgium</th>
<th>Spain</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Austria</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Ireland</th>
<th>Ireland</th>
<th>Mayotte, Réunion</th>
<th>Martinique</th>
<th>Polynesia</th>
<th>Malaysia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Mayotte, Réunion</td>
<td>Martinique</td>
<td>Polynesia</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A CRIME**

**LEGAL**

- Nigeria
- Mauritania
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Sudan
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Yemen
- Egypt
- Algeria
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Barbuda
- Guyana
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran
- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Brunei
- Burma

**ILLEGAL**

- Nigeria
- Mauritania
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Sudan
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Yemen
- Egypt
- Algeria
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Barbuda
- Guyana
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran
- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Brunei
- Burma

**REGIONAL/IN PROGRESS**

- Nigeria
- Mauritania
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Sudan
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Yemen
- Egypt
- Algeria
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Barbuda
- Guyana
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran
- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Brunei
- Burma

**A CRIME**

- Nigeria
- Mauritania
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Sudan
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Yemen
- Egypt
- Algeria
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Barbuda
- Guyana
- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Bhutan
- India
- Iran
- Maldives
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka
- Brunei
- Burma

24 / Celebrating the Spectrum
### PERSONAL GENDER PRONOUN OPTIONS

It is always best to ask a person which pronoun is preferred, as gender identity cannot always be accurately assumed based on appearance. This is not an exhaustive list and different pronouns are used all over the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subjective</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Possessive Adjective</th>
<th>Possessive Pronoun</th>
<th>Reflexive</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>Him</td>
<td>His</td>
<td>His</td>
<td>Himself</td>
<td>Pronounced as it looks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>Her</td>
<td>Her</td>
<td>Hers</td>
<td>Herself</td>
<td>Pronounced as it looks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sie/Zie</td>
<td>Hir</td>
<td>Hir</td>
<td>Hirs</td>
<td>Hirself</td>
<td>Pronounced zee, here, here, heres, herself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ze</td>
<td>Zim</td>
<td>Zir</td>
<td>Zirs</td>
<td>Zirself</td>
<td>Pronounced as it looks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ey</td>
<td>Em</td>
<td>Eir</td>
<td>Eirs</td>
<td>Emself</td>
<td>Pronounced A, M, air, airs, emself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>Them</td>
<td>Their</td>
<td>Theirs</td>
<td>Themself</td>
<td>Pronounced as it looks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GLOSSARY OF LGBTQ+ TERMS

It’s important to remember that vocabulary is always changing and that people react to certain terms in different ways. As such, there are some words in this list that may trigger emotional responses, particularly in the Trans community. Many of these words are associated with the medical surgery that some Trans people undergo. Most Trans people do not wish to participate in surgery, as it is both risky and extremely expensive. Surgery is not in any way representative of Trans people. These same words are often contested within the LGBTQ+ community; some people consider them derogatory and others may attempt to reclaim them as identities. Terms that may trigger offense or are contested are marked with a †.

**Ableism** - any form of discrimination or prejudice that favors able-bodied people over those with disabilities

**Agender** - people with no gender identity or expression; some may identify simply as humans or consider being agender to be their identity

**All-Gender Restroom** - Public restrooms that are designated by specific signage as able to be used by someone of any gender; at FSU these are usually single-stall, locking restrooms

**Ally** - a member of a dominant* social group who takes a stand against social injustice directly at a marginalized or underrepresented* group or community. This is an agent of social change rather than an agent of oppression.

* A member of a marginalized or underrepresented group or community can also be this for other members of the same group or community whose identity differs from their own (i.e. a cisgender gay man can be this for trans individuals)

**Androgynous** - A person appearing and/or identifying as neither man nor woman, presenting a gender either mixed or neutral. This term refers primarily to ones gender expression rather than physical traits

**Androsexual/Androphilic** - anyone who experiences sexual attraction toward males and/or masculinity; this term is commonly used by genderqueer people, as the heterosexual or homosexual label does not always apply

**Aromantic** - person who does not experience romantic attraction, or seldom experiences it

**Asexual (Ace)** - person who does not experience sexual attraction, or isn't interested in sex

**Bigender** - person who identifies as two genders, either at the same time or at different points

**Biphobia** - irrational fear of or aversion toward bisexuality and bisexual people; a type of discrimination based on stereotypes
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sex</td>
<td>the physiological and anatomical characteristics of maleness and femaleness with which a person is born or that develops with physical maturity. These markers include internal and external reproductive organs, chromosomes, hormones and body shape. Infants are usually assigned to a sex category (male or female) at birth on the basis of such characteristics (primarily the appearance of the external genitals). We therefore use assigned sex to refer to the sex designation that appears on birth certificates and other legal documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cisgender</td>
<td>Non-trans. From a Latin-derived prefix meaning “on the same side,” as opposed to trans, which means “across” or “on the opposite side of.” This can be used in place of “non-Trans people” or “gender-normative people.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Union</td>
<td>a partnership that is legally recognized by government with rights similar to those of marriage, but often lacking in federal benefits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classism</td>
<td>prejudice or discrimination against or in favor of a particular social class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closeted</td>
<td>refers to LGBTQ+ people who have not revealed their sexual orientation or gender identity, or any aspects thereof.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coming Out</td>
<td>figure of speech that describes the self-acknowledgment or disclosure, often in public, of a person’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demisexual</td>
<td>person who experiences sexual attraction if a strong emotional connection is formed, often (but not always) in the form of romantic relationships; seen in the asexual spectrum (“demiromantic” has a similar meaning).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Partnership</td>
<td>refers to a relationship between two people who live together but are not married.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drag King/Drag Queen</td>
<td>performer who wears clothing typically associated with another gender with exaggerated stereotypical gender characteristics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Femininity</td>
<td>Feminine traits are ways of behaving that our culture usually associates with being a girl or woman.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTM (female to male) Transgender Man</td>
<td>a person who was assigned female sex at birth but identifies as male and may undergo medical and legal procedures to be recognized as such. This term should not be used by cisgender people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay</td>
<td>a man who has significant sexual and/or romantic attractions to other men, or who identifies as a member of the gay community. At times, “gay” is used to refer to all people, regardless of sex, who have their primary sexual and/or romantic attractions to people of the same sex. Lesbian women and bisexuals may feel excluded by this word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>referring to social and cultural classifications rather than biological ones; traits often influenced by societal expectations that classify an individual as masculine or feminine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Binary</td>
<td>concept that there are only two genders and every person must be one or the other; classification of sex and gender into opposite and disconnected forms of masculine and feminine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Dysphoria</td>
<td>long-term discomfort stemming from the awareness that the sex assigned at birth and resulting gender identity are not compatible with one’s emotional and/or psychological identity; the belief that one’s identity is different from the assigned sex.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Expression</td>
<td>people’s behaviors that convey something about their gender identity, or that others interpret as meaning something about their gender identity, including clothing, hairstyle, mannerisms, communication patterns, social roles, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Fluid</td>
<td>someone who moves between genders or has a constantly changing gender identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Identity</td>
<td>a person’s own understanding of themselves in terms of gendered categories like man and woman, boy and girl, transgender, genderqueer and many others. How they feel inside or what they believe themselves to be.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genderism</td>
<td>belief that gender is a binary category with only male and female options, and that the gender is determined or at least connected with the sex assigned at birth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genderless</td>
<td>someone who does not identify with any gender regardless of physical sex, or lacks qualities typically associated with male and female or has qualities for both.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Neutral</td>
<td>refers to a word, object or concept that can be applied to both male and female genders; something that commonly cannot refer to only one gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender-nonconforming or Gender Variance</td>
<td>behavior that does not match societal norms or stereotypes regarding male and female gender, often relating to physical appearance (note that in many cases, “gender diverse” is a more preferred term, as it does not suggest a standard gender).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genderqueer</td>
<td>an identity label sometimes claimed by people whose gender identity does not fit into either of the two culturally accepted gender categories. May be characterized by the desire to challenge norms of gender role/presentation, to “play” with gender, and/or to express a fluid gender identity. As a term of self-identification, it should not be imposed on people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Role</td>
<td>societal norms and expectations that attempt to dictate suitable behaviors for an individual based on assigned sex at birth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Transition</td>
<td>social, medical and/or psychological process of permanently moving from one gender to another to align with one’s internal gender identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grayromantic (or gray-aromantic)</td>
<td>person who rarely experiences romantic attraction; seen as a midway point between romantic and aromantic (“graysexual” has a similar meaning).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Hate Crime | a typically violent crime committed against a group or individual that was motivated by prejudice, typically in the forms of racism, sexism, ...
homophobia or transphobia

**Heterosexism** - any prejudice or discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on the basis that heterosexuality is the normal sexual orientation; regarding LGBTQ+ people as second-class citizens

**Heterosexual** - person who experiences sexual attraction to another gender

**Homophobia** - discrimination, dislike of or prejudice against homosexual people

**Intersex** - health condition present at birth of being physically between and having anatomical characteristics of both male and female sexes; a biological condition that can affect genitals, chromosomes and/or other body structures

**Lesbian** - a self-identified woman who has a significant sexual and/or romantic attractions to other women, or who identifies as a member of the lesbian community. Bisexual women may not feel included by this term. Note that some women may choose to identify as gay instead.

**LGBT/GLBT** - acronym for Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Trans, or Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Trans

**Masculinity** - Masculine traits are ways of behaving that our culture usually associates with being a boy or man.

**MTF (Male to Female) Transgender Woman** - a person who was assigned male sex at birth but identifies as female and may undergo medical and legal procedures to be recognized as such. This term should not be used by cisgender people.

**Openly Gay** - refers to an individual who has explicitly disclosed and acknowledged, often in public, their sexual orientation and/or gender identity (people can also be referred to as openly bi, trans, queer, etc.)

**Oppression** - acts of domination, cruel or unjust treatment or control by certain groups toward others, often caused by prejudice and power

**Out** - refers to someone whose sexual orientation and gender identity is known by others, whether it is by choice or not

**Outing** - act of revealing, often in public, a person's sexuality or gender identification

**Pangender** - someone who does not identify with either of the binary genders and therefore does not wish to be labeled as such; can also mean “all genders”

**Pansexual** - person who is attracted to people of any sex or gender; open to relationships with people who do not identify as male or female

**Polyamory** - having more than one intimate or romantic relationship at a time with the consent of everyone involved

**Privilege** - special right, treatment or advantage granted only to particular and often dominant groups of people or to individuals

† **Queer** - an umbrella identity term taken by people who do not conform to heteronormative and/or gender binary norms; a reclaimed derogatory slur taken as a political term to unite people who are marginalized because of their non-conformity to dominant gender identities and/or heterosexuality.

---

**Celebrating the Spectrum** / 27
Written and compiled by Devyn Fussman, writer and social media coordinator for Student Publications

Edited by Marvin Harris, SGA assistant director, and Joshua Kinchen, advisor for Pride Student Union and coordinator of Seminole Allies & Safe Zones

Publication designed by Tony Nguyen, media specialist

Cover photo by Lauren Alsina, photographer for Student Publications