



# LGBT 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Century Heritage Timeline

Tutors Handbook

To be used with LGBT Heritage  
Timeline Bunting

## Introduction

Within the UK, LGBT History Month takes place annually in February, to celebrate the abolishment of Section 28. Schools, colleges and workplaces are encouraged to embrace LGBT history by highlighting LGBT people who have made an influential contribution to all aspects of life. Often sexuality is ignored in traditional teaching of subjects such as history, leaving gay students feeling invisible without any significant role models.

Stonewall is an organisation who support schools and employers in striving towards equality for the LGBT community. They commissioned some research from Cambridge University in 2012 and found that;

**53%** of lesbian, gay and bisexual young people are never taught anything about lesbian, gay and bisexual issues in their lessons.

**34%** lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils who are taught about or discuss gay issues in school say this is done in a way they find positive overall.

**35%** of lesbian, gay and bisexual pupils say their school library doesn't contain books or information about gay people or issues.

The LGBT history timeline was created as an interactive way of presenting some of the significant events and highlighting LGBT people in history, to put into context how the stigma of sexuality has overshadowed some of the great accomplishments made of time. For example, details of the mathematical genius, Alan Turing have been included. His invaluable work in overcoming World War 2 was overshadowed by his suicide following persecution and prosecution around his sexuality.

## LGBT History Activity

The activity is paper based, using bunting that is displayer around a large room. Students are given missing pieces of the timeline and work out where they should be placed, in between some information that is given to them. Once this is completed, the tutor walks the students around the timeline and provides more details of the historical data and ensures that the pieces of bunting added by the students is placed correctly.

## References

Stonewall (2012) *The School Report*

# LGBT 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY HERITAGE TIMELINE

1. PRINT OFF ONE COPY OF FACILITAORS HANDBOOK
2. PRINT OFF ONE COPY OF THE TIMELINE BUNTING TEMPLATE.  
CUT AROUND THE BLUE BUNTING TEMPLATES AND FIX TO  
STRING OR RIBBON (INCLUDING THE BLANK BUNTING OUTLINES)
3. HANG UP AROUND A LARGE ROOM
4. DISTRIBUTE THE RED OUTLINE PEICES OF BUNTING TO  
PARTICIPANTS
5. ASK THEM TO READ THE TIMELINE AND SEE IF THEY CAN PLACE  
THE MISSING PEICES OF BUNING (USING PEG, PAPERCLIP OR  
BLUE TACK)
6. FACILITATOR TO WALK PARTICIPANTS AROUND THE TIMELINE  
TO SEE IF THEY HAVE GUESSED THE CORRECT YEARS, MOVING  
ANY PEICES THAT THEY HAVENT.

# Facilitators Notes

1900

Death of Oscar Wilde.

Married Irish playwright and poet who 1891 had an affair with Lord Alfred Douglas and became notorious following his conviction for gross indecency.

1921

The Amendment Bill was a piece of legislation that would for the first time, make sex between women illegal. The change was rejected by the House of Lords.

# Facilitators Notes

1928

Publication of lesbian novel  
The Well of Loneliness by  
Radclyffe Hall

1933

**A London court heard of "disgusting behaviour" at Selina Hopps dance club in Baker Street. She was accused of knowing the 'sort' of people who frequented her establishment and making substantial profits by encouraging large numbers to frequent the club.**

# Facilitators Notes

1951

**Roberta Cowell**, a former spitfire pilot, World War II prisoner and racing driver, was the first known British male-to-female transsexual to undergo sex gender reassignment surgery

1952

**Alan Turing**, a mathematician and founder of the science of computing. Instrumental in the cryptographic work during World War 2, was convicted of gross indecency

# Facilitators Notes

1954

Alan Turing who had been previously prosecuted for homosexual acts, leading to his apparent suicide

1957

Wolfenden Report recommend decriminalisation of homosexuality

# Facilitators Notes

1959

Screening of ITV 'South'  
thought to be first gay  
related drama on British  
television

1967

Sexual Offences Act  
(England and Wales)  
partially decriminalises  
sex between men in  
private between two  
men aged over 21.  
Excludes the Merchant  
Navy or the Armed  
Forces.



# Facilitators Notes

1969

The **Stonewall Riots** took place at the Stonewall Inn in Christopher Street, New York, on 28 June 1969 when the local gay community fought back against police repression. This event is commemorated in the many organisations with "Stonewall" in their names.

1972

First London Gay Pride March and Carnival. Thought to have up to 2000 people attending

Gay News first published

# Facilitators Notes

1974/5

1974 London Lesbian and  
Gay Switchboard  
Launched

1975 Brighton and Hove  
LGBT Switchboard  
Launched

1978

The rainbow flag was first  
designed by Gilbert  
Barker

# Facilitators Notes

1980

Scotland decriminalises  
homosexuality

1982

The **Terrence Higgins Trust**

(**THT**) is a UK charity working in the fields of HIV and sexual health. It was set up in 1982, and is named after Terrance Higgins who was one of the first known people in the UK to die of AIDS.

1982

The first Gay games were held in San Francisco

1984

Chris Smith, MP, Culture Secretary becomes first MP to come out as gay whilst in office

# Facilitators Notes

1988

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 was passed. This was an anti-gay piece of legislation brought about due to controversy around schools using books such as *Jenny lives with Eric and Martin* (gay couple)

# Facilitators Notes

1991

Bisexual Musician, Singer &  
Songwriter, Freddie  
Mercury dies of AIDS.  
He had initially been  
diagnosed with HIV in  
1987

1993

First major legal challenge was lodged to the European court of human rights for equal age of consent

1993

The first pre-watershead lesbian kiss on British T.V programme Brookside

1994

Age of consent for gay men  
is reduced to 18

1997

American celebrity Ellen  
DeGeneres came out  
publicly on the Oprah  
Winfrey show



# Facilitators Notes

2000

Age of consent is lowered  
equally to the age of 16 in  
England and Scotland

Removal of the ban on gay  
people serving in the  
Royal Forces

2003

Section 28 repealed in  
England and Wales

# Facilitators Notes

2004

Sir Elton John and David Furnish are one of the first couples to have a civil partnerships performed

2005

Chris Smith, MP, Culture Secretary who was the first MP to disclose being gay, announced he is HIV positive

# Facilitators Notes

2013

Government introduced  
Marriage (Same Sex  
Couples) Bill

Posthumous royal pardon  
for Alan Turing

2013

Russia passes a bill that  
bans the 'propaganda of  
homosexuality'

2014

Same sex marriages will  
be legal in the U.K from  
29<sup>th</sup> March 2014



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