PRIDE POWER

The Young Person's Guide to LGBTQ+



Harriet Dyer

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The ABCs of LGBTQ+

It's true that it looks like a bit of a tongue-twister (and getting the letters in the right order is not as easy as it sounds!), but in recent years the original LGBTQ+ term has widened even further to include more identities. It's now a useful umbrella term which covers all non-conforming genders and sexualities and even includes those people who don't want to be assigned to a gender.

So what do the letters stand for?

L = lesbian

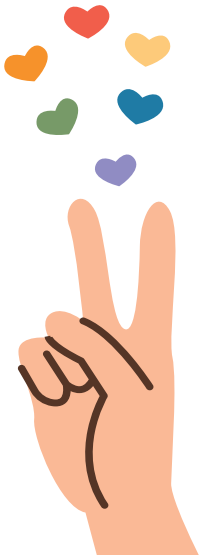
G = gay

B = bisexual

T = transgender

Q = questioning or queer (The letter Q can be written twice to represent both)

+ = this symbol represents the wider community within the LGBTQ+ community to include everyone, and to ensure there's room for new language and terminology that better describe identities as language evolves.



You may sometimes see a longer acronym: LGBTQIA2S+. This contains every identity mentioned above, while also adding:

I = intersex

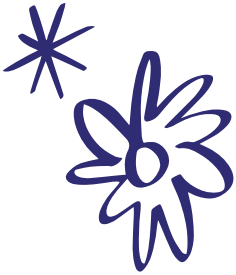
A = asexual

2S = two-spirit, a gender identity used specifically by Native American cultures.

Some people prefer to use the term queer rather than LGBTQ+ because it doesn't name specific identities, while others believe the term queer avoids prioritizing some identities or making reference to the gender/sexuality binary. What do you think?

A note

There are lots of great arguments in favour of using different variations of the acronym, such as LGBTQIA2S+, but for the purposes of ease and quick understanding, LGBTQ+ has been the acronym of choice in this introductory book.



It's always
wrong to hate,
but never
wrong to love.

LADY GAGA



CHAPTER 1

All About Pride

This chapter is all about:

- The Pride movement
- Celebrating who we are
- Raising awareness of the issues faced by the LGBTQ+ community
- Exploring the importance of equality and acceptance

Pride

Pride means having a deep sense of satisfaction in our own achievements, our values and the way we choose to live. We should all carry a sense of pride in ourselves and support others to feel the same. This is why the Pride movement came into being, because for a long time the LGBTQ+ community has been persecuted for not conforming to traditional expectations of gender and society. The Pride movement embodies acceptance for all genders, and in this chapter, you will discover the true meaning of Pride Power by learning about its beginnings and discover more about the rainbow-coloured celebrations that happen throughout the world every June.

The term 'Pride' was first used in 1967 by a group calling themselves Personal Rights in Defence and Education (PRIDE) who were protesting in Los Angeles against the arrests of their LGBTQ+ patrons. Although the group disbanded, the name was used again years later to embody the Pride movement we know today, which has developed and grown across the world into a big, bright

celebration of all things LGBTQ+. The Pride movement has influenced the changing attitudes towards the LGBTQ+ community and the change in laws across the world also represent this. But we still have some way to go for true equality and acceptance.

Change is made one step at a time... Now, let's step up and make a difference, together!



What is Pride?

Pride is a celebration of people coming together in love and friendship, to show how far LGBTQ+ rights have come. It's also an opportunity to shine a light on the areas where there is still work to be done. Every year, usually in June, there are Pride festivals and events held in countries across the world. This month of celebrations, known as Pride Month, marks the anniversary of the Stonewall riots, which began outside the Stonewall Inn, Greenwich Village, New York City, in June 1969.

An American lady called Brenda Howard is known as "The Mother of Pride" after



organizing the first ever gay Pride march on 28 June 1970. However, the suggestion to call the movement "Pride" came from L. Craig Schoonmaker, an activist and member of the New York planning committee. His reasoning was that many people were repressed and did not know how to come out and be proud of who they were. The movement encouraged people to think about who they are and say to themselves, "Maybe I should be proud."

Since the 1970s, Pride events across the world have grown bigger, bolder and, well... prouder!

