

LGBTQ History Month October 2020

Background

In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history, and gathered other teachers and community leaders. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur that month. It is celebrated in October to coincide with National Coming Out Day on 11 October and to commemorate the first and second marches on Washington in 1979 and 1987 for LGBT rights

Gay and Lesbian History Month was endorsed by GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Education Association and other national organizations. In 2006 Equality Forum assumed responsibility for providing content, promotion and resources for LGBT History Month. www.equalityforum.com.

Celebrate Our Heritage

The LGBT community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement about our extraordinary national and international contributions.

"LGBTQ History Month sends an important message to our nation's teachers, school boards, community leaders, and youth about the vital importance of recognizing and exploring the role of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people in American history."

George Chauncey
Samuel Knight Professor of American History and Chair of the History Department, Yale University

Decades ago, LGBTQ people were encouraged to "come out of the closet," and as a result people began to realize LGBTQ people existed throughout society--they might even be family, friends, or coworkers. With those acts of courage and greater visibility, the movement was able to shift the conversation toward equality.

<https://lgbthistorymonth.com/background>

LGBTQ Awareness

10/11	National Coming Out Day
10/21	International Pronouns Day
10/21-25	Asexual Awareness Week
10/26	Intersex Awareness Day



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