

A GUIDE TO LGBTQ+ FLAGS



THE PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG



In 2018 graphic designer Daniel Quasar redesigned the common LGBTQ+ pride flag (6 stripes) to make it more inclusive. The addition of white, pink and blue stripes represent Trans communities, and the Brown and Black stripes represent communities of colour, who face multiple systems of oppression. This is now widely recognised as the most progressive flag.

THE TRANSGENDER FLAG



The Transgender Flag was first created in 1999 by Monica Helms, a Transgender woman. The blue and pink stripes represent the traditional colours of boys and girls and the white reflects people who are in transition, intersex or have an otherwise undefined gender. Trans people are among the most marginalised in society, and therefore it is important that they can be seen in their own flag.

THE NON-BINARY FLAG



In 2014, Kye Rowan designed the Non-Binary flag, inspired by the Genderqueer flag made by Marilyn Roxie in 2010. The yellow stripe signifies people who identify outside of the cisgender binary of male or female and is widely seen as the Non-Binary colour. The white stripe stands for multigender people. The purple stripe, similar to the lavender colour in the genderqueer flag, represents people who identify as a blending of male and female genders. Finally the black stripe, or the absence of color, signifies those who are agender or who feel they do not have a gender.

THE INTERSEX FLAG



The Intersex flag has changed over time, and Morgan Carpenter chose the colours of the current Intersex flag in 2013 which are deliberately not associated with traditional gender constructs. The circle represents the wholeness and validity of the Intersex community. Intersex people are routinely misunderstood and misrepresented in society, therefore deserve to be celebrated by their own flag.

THE BISEXUAL FLAG



In 1998 Michael Page created the Bisexual Pride Flag. The pink represents being attracted to the same gender, and the blue being attracted to a different gender. The purple blend captures the definition of Bisexuality; being attracted to two or more genders. Biersasure is common in society and even within LGBTQ+ communities, hence the importance of Bisexual recognition in this flag.

THE PANSEXUAL FLAG



The Pansexual flag was created in 2010. The pink on the flag represents attraction to women, blue represents attraction to men, and yellow stands for attraction to those who identify with another/no gender. Pansexuality and Bisexuality are similar, the former meaning attraction to people irrespective of their gender.

THE LESBIAN FLAG



The Lesbian flag has undergone revisions over the years, for example it used to have a red-lipped kiss on it. In 2010 this was created by Natalie McCray and by in large seen as the most appropriate Lesbian flag, though the pink is still seen as prescriptively feminine by some.

THE GENDERFLUID FLAG



In 2012 J Poole created the Genderfluid flag. It has five horizontal stripes: the pink stripe for femininity, the blue stripe for masculinity, the purple stripe for both masculinity and femininity, the black stripe for the lack of gender, and the white stripe for all genders.

BUT IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT FLAGS...

It's important to remember that LGBTQ+ existence extends way beyond colours on a flag, and they are sources of great debate within such communities. This post did not even cover all of the flags out there!

There are infinite ways to experience being LGBTQ+ and no one should tell another person which is the right way for them.

For most societies worldwide, there is a long way to go for LGBTQ+ communities to be treated with equity. That is a reason why events like LGBTQ+ History month are so important, to better understand LGBTQ+ life.

So, fly your flags high and proud, continue to create new and inclusive designs... but remember that much more can be done!