

# A Brief History of the Evolution of the Pride Flag

The rainbow flag is a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer pride commonly used at LGBTQIA+ rights events worldwide. The colors reflect the diversity of the community in addition to the spectrum of human sexuality and gender. Over the years, the flag has been updated and changed to be more inclusive of LGTBQIA+ individuals and their allies. In addition to the rainbow, there are many other flags and symbols used to communicate specific identities within the community.

## Original Pride Flag 1978



Designed by artist Gilbert Baker at the request of San Francisco City Supervisor and first openly gay elected official in the history of California, Harvey Milk, the original rainbow flag made its debut at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade celebration on June 25, 1978. After the assassination of Harvey Milk in November 1978, demand for the flag greatly increased. Baker dropped the hot pink strip from the flag as that particular color was not readily available. In 1979, he modified it again to become the 6-stripe rainbow flag that is still used today in addition to many other renditions.

## More Colors More Pride Flag 2017



In June 2017, under the leadership of Amber Hikes, the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs unveiled the “More Colors More Pride” flag. This version of the Pride flag includes a black stripe and a brown stripe to draw attention to underrepresented people of color within the community. Hikes states that the flag was designed to “reinforce our strides towards combatting discrimination within our community, honor the lives of our black and brown LGBTQ siblings, and uplift our shared commitment to diversity and inclusion within our community.”<sup>2</sup>

## Progress: A Pride Flag Reboot 2018



In June 2018, designer Daniel Quasar released a new design aiming to incorporate elements from both the Philadelphia flag and trans pride flag to place a greater emphasis on inclusion and progression. The Progress flag adds a chevron pattern to the original 6-stripe rainbow representing marginalized people of color, trans individuals, and those living with HIV/AIDS (and those who have been lost). Quasar hopes that his design will place greater emphasis on inclusion and progression and said “We need to always keep progress moving forward in all aspects of our community.”<sup>1</sup>

## Intersex Inclusive Pride Progress Flag 2021



Designed by Valentino Vecchietti of Intersex Equality rights UK, this design builds on Daniel Quasar’s 2018 Progress Pride flag by adding a yellow triangle and purple circle as a tribute to the 2013 intersex flag designed by Morgan Carpenter, Australian bioethicist and researcher. The updated design reflects the need to include underrepresented intersex people in the broader Pride imagery.

The Pride flag has been a working document since the beginning. Vecchietti’s design marks a return – and then some – to the splendor of Gilbert Baker’s original design, featuring 11 distinct colors and a visually-arresting layout. As Vecchietti put it on Twitter: “Intersex inclusion – we need to see it!”<sup>3</sup>

### References:

1. Daniel Quasar redesigns LGBT Rainbow Flag to be more inclusive (dezeen.com)
2. Why Philly decided to redesign the iconic Pride flag - Curbed Philly
3. The Progress Pride Flag Is Getting an Intersex-Inclusive Makeover | them.