

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 LGBTQIA+ 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



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

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.”



Progress: A Pride Flag Reboot



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."

Intersex Inclusive Pride Progress Flag

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.



Transgender Pride Flag



With its palindromic design, the Transgender flag represents the transgender community and consists of five horizontal stripes. Two light blue stripes for boys, two pink stripes for girls, with a white stripe in the center for those who are transitioning, who feel they have a neutral gender or no gender, and those who are intersex. In 1999, Monica Helms created the transgender flag after she was encouraged by Michael Page, the creator of the bisexual flag, to design a flag to represent her community.

Queer People of Color Pride Flag



The Queer People of Color Flag origins of the original creator are unknown, but it represents the Black Lives Matter Movements and the intersection of the queer and black communities. The flag has become more popular over the years. The raised fist sign represents unity and support as well as defiance and resistance, and various colors of the fist represents diversity.

Pansexual Pride Flag

The Pansexual flag has three horizontal stripes: pink, yellow, and blue. According to most definitions, the pink represents people who are female identified, the blue represents people who are male identified, while the yellow represents nonbinary attraction. The Pansexual flag was first introduced in 2010.



Nonbinary Pride Flag



In 2014, Hye Rowan created the nonbinary pride flag, not to replace the genderqueer flag, but to be flown alongside it. 17-year-old Hye Rowan created the binary flag for existing outside binary which is symbolized by the yellow. The white represents all genders, black is no gender, and purple is a mix of genders.

Ally Pride Flag



Although we are not sure who created the straight ally flag, we do know it was first used in the early 2000s. This specific flag for heterosexual allies was made by combining the straight flag and the LGBTQ pride flag. The straight ally flag doesn't have the original LGBTQ pride flag colors. The flag only uses the more modern six-colored flag without pink and turquoise. The straight ally flag represents unity and support towards the LGBTQ community. The letter 'A' means Ally, black and white stripes represent the straight flag and the rainbow colors in the letter 'A' are for the LGBT community.

Bisexual Pride Flag

In 1998, the bisexual pride flag was created by Michael Page. The flag is pink on the top and royal blue on the bottom, with an overlapping purple stripe in the middle. The pink stripe represents homosexual attractions, the blue stripe represents attractions to different genders, and the resultant overlap color, purple, represents attraction regardless of one's gender identification.



Intersex Pride Flag



Created by Morgan Carpenter of Intersex Human Rights Australia in 2013, Intersex International Australia designed this flag with non-gendered colors that celebrate living outside the binary. Yellow has long been seen as an intersex color or to represent those who do not fit the binary and the flag is a way for the community to unite and unify under a symbol devoid of gender stereotypes.

Lesbian Pride Flag



Created by Emily Gwen in 2018, this modern version adds more colors to celebrate gender non-conformity, independence, community, unique relationships to womanhood, peace, serenity, love, sex and femininity.



References

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