

Why do we have LGBTQ History Month?

The LGBTQ+ right to live an equal life with equal opportunities is a recent concept. Throughout history people who identify as LGBTQ+ have faced intense discrimination in almost every society around the world. In 1967 it became legal for two men to have a relationship, but only in the privacy of their own home. No public affection of any sort was allowed to be shown.

Until 2003 schools were not allowed to “promote homosexuality” and then since the overturning of that Act, the fight to achieve equality has escalated. This month focuses on both looking at LGBTQ cultural history as well as the fight for equality which still continues. History has often been written by the people with the most power and therefore has not always focused on those that were denied equal rights and their experiences. A month dedicated to focusing on the LGBTQ+ fight for equality is therefore needed to change this.

LGBTQ+ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. People use the word LGBTQ+ as a way to identify with and celebrate people of all gender identities and all the ways people love each other.

See below for a more detailed definition of each term, from [GLAAD's LGBTQ Media Reference Guide](#).