

WHAT GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANS PEOPLE HAVE LIVED THROUGH

Different generations.
Different journeys.
Same fight for dignity,
equality and love.



| AGE IN 2026 | GAY MEN | LESBIAN WOMEN | BISEXUAL PEOPLE | TRANS PEOPLE |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 90+ YEARS OLD Born in 1936 or earlier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived when male homosexuality was illegal under the charge of gross indecency. Many lived in fear of arrest, blackmail or violence. Saw homosexuality partially decriminalised in 1967 in England & Wales and 1980 in Scotland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived in a time when lesbian identities were invisible. No legal recognition or protection. Faced societal disapproval and isolation. Saw first hints of visibility in the 1960s and 70s. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Bisexual' identity was rarely understood or accepted. Often forced to choose a side. Lived through decades of erasure and biphobia. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme pathologising and gatekeeping. Gender recognition not possible. Lived in fear of harassment, institutionalisation or violence. No access to affirming care. |
| <p>Key context: Male homosexuality illegal under Labouchere Amendment until 1967 (Eng/Wales) and partially decriminalised in 1967 (Eng/Wales) and 1980 (Scotland) No equal age of consent • No protection from discrimination</p> | | | | |
| 80+ YEARS OLD Born in 1937–1946 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived through the criminalisation of male homosexuality. Saw partial decriminalisation in 1967 (England & Wales) and 1980 (Scotland). Saw the Gay Liberation Front founded in 1970. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grew up during criminalisation. Experienced the early lesbian feminist movement of the 1970s. Few visible role models or safe spaces. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived with myths and biphobia. Rarely saw themselves represented. Saw HIV/AIDS impact bi+ communities from the 1980s. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some access to private transition, but little support. Gender Recognition Act 2004 came late in this decade, raising hope. High rates of discrimination and unemployment. |
| <p>Key context: Partial decriminalisation in 1967 (Eng/Wales) and 1980 (Scotland) • Gay Liberation Front founded in 1970 • HIV/AIDS crisis begins in the 1980s</p> | | | | |
| 70+ YEARS OLD Born in 1947–1956 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Came of age after partial decriminalisation. Found early gay communities and venues in the 1970s. Saw Pride events grow in the late 1970s and 1980s. The HIV/AIDS crisis deeply affected their lives and communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Found lesbian communities in the 1970s. Saw lesbian visibility grow through feminist and lesbian movements. Faced stigma, but also built supportive networks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Began to find language and community. Lived through the HIV/AIDS crisis. Still faced invisibility and biphobia. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May have lived stealth or in fear. Began to access medical options slowly. GRA 2004 brought hope in later years. |
| <p>Key context: First Pride marches in the UK (1970s) • HIV/AIDS crisis (1980s) • Growing visibility of LGBT+ communities</p> | | | | |
| 60+ YEARS OLD Born in 1957–1966 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Came out in the 1980s and 90s. HIV/AIDS devastated many lives and communities. Section 28 (1988–2003) silenced LGBT+ lives in schools. Saw Section 28 repealed in England & Wales (2003) and abolished in Scotland in 2000. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saw lesbian events and groups grow in the 1980s. The Lesbian Custody Project was formed in 1982 to campaign for the rights of lesbian mothers to have custody of their children. HIV/AIDS affected lesbian communities too. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lived through the HIV/AIDS crisis. Section 28 erased bi+ lives in schools. Began to see more bi+ representation in the 1990s and 2000s. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to transition still limited and pathologised. GRA 2004 in their late 30s or 40s brought legal recognition. High discrimination in work and healthcare. |
| <p>Key context: Section 28 enacted (1988) • Scotland abolished Section 28 (2000) • Section 28 repealed in England & Wales (2003) • HIV/AIDS activism and support</p> | | | | |
| 50+ YEARS OLD Born in 1967–1976 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grew up during Section 28 (1988–2003) at school. Saw Civil Partnership Act (2004) in their late 20s/30s. Marriage Equality (2013) was a milestone in their 40s. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School years affected by Section 28. Lesbian Custody Project continued to make change in the 1990s. Civil Partnership Act (2004) and Marriage Equality (2013) recognised their love legally. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grew up with little representation. Section 28 affected their school years. Civil Partnership Act (2004) and Marriage Equality (2013) validated bi+ relationships. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Came of age as awareness grew. GRA 2004 helped more trans people gain legal recognition. Fought for rights at work, in healthcare and in law. |
| <p>Key context: Section 28 (1988–2003) affected under-18s • Civil Partnership Act (2004) • Marriage Equality (2013)</p> | | | | |
| 40+ YEARS OLD Born in 1977–1986 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School years under Section 28 (1988–2003). Came of age during growing acceptance and rights. Age of consent equalised in 2000. Same-sex couples could adopt in 2002. Equality Act 2010 protects against discrimination. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School years under Section 28 (1988–2003). Lesbian Custody Project influenced family law. Age of consent equalised in 2000. Same-sex couples could adopt in 2002. Equality Act 2010 brought stronger legal protection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grew up with more visibility online. Section 28 affected their school years. Age of consent equalised in 2000. Same-sex couples could adopt in 2002. Equality Act 2010 brought stronger legal protection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing awareness of trans rights in their lifetime. GRA 2004 available from mid-20s. Equality Act 2010 offered protection. 2025 Supreme Court ruling on 'sex' affects them and future rights. |
| <p>Key context: Section 28 (1988–2003) • Age of consent equalised (2000) • Same-sex couples could adopt (2002) • Equality Act protects LGBT+ people (2010) 2025 Supreme Court ruling: 'sex' under the Equality Act 2010 means biological sex assigned at birth.</p> | | | | |

KEY MILESTONES THAT SHAPED LGBT+ LIVES



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| 1967 Partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality in England & Wales | 1970 Gay Liberation Front founded | 1980 Partial decriminalisation of male homosexuality in Scotland | 1982 Lesbian Custody Project formed | 1988 Section 28 enacted (affecting under-18s) | 2000 Age of consent equalised | 2000 Scotland abolishes Section 28 | 2002 Same-sex couples could adopt | 2004 Civil Partnership Act | 2010 Equality Act protects LGBT+ people | 2013 Marriage Equality (Same Sex Couples) Act | 2025 Supreme Court rules on 'sex' under Equality Act 2010 |
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Different ages. Different histories. Same future.
Proud of the past. Committed to the future.

