

PRIDE

PRIDE STARTS

The Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous, violent demonstrations against a police raid that took place at the Stonewall Inn in the early morning hours of 28 June 1969 in New York City.

On 2 November 1969, Craig Rodwell proposed the first gay pride parade. It was proposed in order to commemorate the Stonewall riots.

In New York these became known as Gay Liberation Days. The aim was to reach a considerable number of people with the ideas and ideals of the struggle for fundamental human rights.

The first Gay Pride March took place in New York on Sunday 28 June 1970; the first official Gay Pride march in London was on Saturday 1 July 1972.

AGAINST PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION — FOR LIBERATION

Over the years lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people have experienced considerable prejudice and discrimination.

Police often turned a blind eye to violence, people could be sacked from jobs and arrested for kissing in the street; custody of children was denied while service was refused in pubs. For many years, medical experts practised aversion therapy to 'cure' homosexuality.

In the 1970s the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was a prominent organization in the UK calling for the emancipation of gay people.

A member of GLF, Peter Tatchell, has said: 'equality was a far too limiting agenda. We never wanted equal rights within the social status quo. We saw society as fundamentally unjust, and sought to change it.'

GLF's core message was that genuine emancipation involves 'changing society, rather than adapting to it. This requires nothing less than a full-scale cultural revolution, to overturn centuries of male heterosexual domination.'

PRIDE NOW

In the decades since the first Gay Pride March, marches have developed across the world calling for basic human rights and helping to increase the visibility of LGBT+ people in society.

In the UK, many of the legislative claims — including rights in the workplace, formal recognition of relationships and prohibition of discrimination in the provision of goods and services — have been realised. However, many people still experience homophobia in their places of work and study. UCU and other unions continue to organise for rights, for cultural change, and against discrimination in the workplace and beyond.

However, there are many parts of the world where LGBT+ rights lag significantly behind those in the UK. Some European countries are not covered by EU directives that have driven legislative change in the UK, and any EU countries have not implemented the directives and continue to witness large scale cultural and political homophobia. Homosexuality is still criminalised in over 70 countries worldwide.

EUROPRIDE

Since 1992 Europride has continued claims for fundamental human rights and against homophobia across Europe. UCU supports Europride in solidarity with lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people across Europe, acknowledging that many UCU members work across Europe and wider, and recognising that without EU directives we in the UK may not have witnessed much of the legislative change we have celebrated in recent

years.

UCU @ PRIDE

UCU calls for a real valuing of diversity, embracing the core values of the GLF and Pride movement by campaigning for liberation from the status quo of heteronormative society.

This means not only working for legislative change that protects the rights of all LGBT+ people, but also seeking a significant cultural change wherein the different life experiences of people – regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity - are recognised and respected. UCU marches and organises on 'Gay Liberation Days' for a liberated world where fundamental human rights are realised for all.