

# The Gilbert Baker Pride Flag

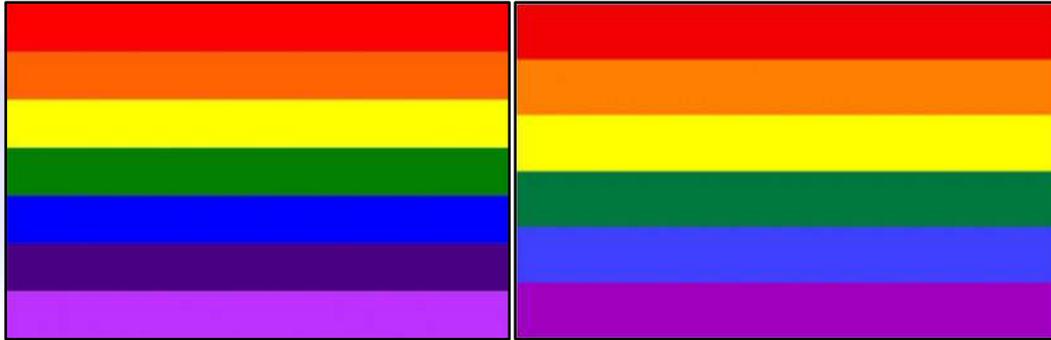


The flag that started it all ... It was created in 1977 by Gilbert Baker, an artist, activist, and openly gay military veteran. "A new symbol for what Artie Bressan had called 'the dawn of a new gay consciousness and freedom.'" Tasked by Harvey Milk, a historic figure in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights, to create a flag for the queer community, Baker created a rainbow flag with eight different colors.

"A Rainbow Flag was a conscious choice, natural and necessary. The rainbow came from earliest recorded history as a symbol of hope. In the Book of Genesis, it appeared as proof of a covenant between God and all living creatures. It was also found in Chinese, Egyptian and Native American history. A Rainbow Flag would be our modern alternative to the pink triangle. Now the rioters who claimed their freedom at the Stonewall Bar in 1969 would have their own symbol of liberation." Excerpted from GilbertBaker.com

- Hot Pink = sex
- Red = life
- Orange = healing
- Yellow = sunlight
- Green = nature
- Turquoise = magic & art
- Indigo = serenity
- Violet = the spirit of LGBTQ people

## 1978 Pride Flags – 7, then 6, stripes



**History:** Following the assassination of Harvey Milk in 1978, demand for the Pride flag increase. Gilbert Baker found the pink fabric hard to come by, so he decreased the number of colors on the flag to seven in order to keep up with demand.

With only seven colors, activists noticed it was impossible to split in half to be displayed more easily in public, and so the turquoise stripe was eliminated as well.

# Philadelphia's People of Color Inclusive Flag



**History:** This flag was created in 2017 to give representation to black and brown people in the LGBTQIA+ community and the unique challenges they face. For Pride Month, Philly added two colors — black and brown — to the existing pride flag, and hoisted it outside City Hall. The colors, according to the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs' More Color More Pride campaign, represented inclusion of people of color in the LGBTQIA+ community.

A source told Philadelphia Magazine, "With all of the black and brown activism that's worked to address racism in the Gayborhood over the past year, I think the new flag is a great step for the city to show the world that they're working toward fully supporting all members of our community."

# Progress Pride Flag



**History:** Non-binary American artist and designer Daniel Quasar (xe/xyr pronouns) developed this flag in 2018. It is based on the iconic rainbow flag from 1978. The redesign celebrates the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community and calls for a more inclusive society.

Quasar added a five-colored chevron to the classic Rainbow Flag to place a greater emphasis on “inclusion and progression.” The flag includes black and brown stripes to represent marginalized LGBTQIA+ communities of color, along with the colors pink, light blue and white, which are used on the Transgender Pride Flag.

# Agender Flag



**Agender:** People who identify as having no gender or as gender neutral. The term Agender can be literally translated to 'without gender'. Agender folks may have any type of expression and use any set of pronouns or no pronouns.

**History:** The Agender flag has seven horizontal stripes and was created in the year of 2014 by Salem X. Agender folks may identify as having no gender, having an undefinable gender, not aligning with any gender, gender-neutral or neutrois, or choose not to label their gender.

- Black = the absence of gender
- White = the absence of gender
- Grey = semi-genderless
- Green: Represents non-binary genders

# Ally Flag



**Ally:** someone who supports LGBTQIA+ people in partnership with them and advocates for them, even without having a direct stake in the cause, such as a cisgender person who actively supports transgender rights. They recognize the discrimination faced by members of the LGBTQIA+ community because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. Being an ally is not considered an identity; it is an ongoing process that requires action and continuous learning.

**History:** This flag is said to represent "all straight and cisgender people who are proud allies of the LGBTQIA+ community", and is thought to have been created sometime in the 2000's.

- Black & White = heterosexual genders. It is also the "straight flag", which consists of black and white stripes. The straight flag was created in an attempt to offset and nullify the LGBTQ pride flag. Invented in the 1900's by social conservative groups composed of predominantly male figures as a political stance against gay pride, these groups believe that there is no need for gay pride or LGBTQ pride because nobody talks about straight pride.
- "A" shape rainbow = someone acting as both an activist and an ally.

# Androsexual Flag



**Androsexual:** Individuals who experience sexual attraction toward men, males, and/or masculinity, regardless of whether they were assigned male at birth.

**History:** The origins of the flag are murky and not well documented. Most likely the left side flag originates from the same designer as the gynosexual flag. The top stripe is pink rather than blue on the gynosexual flag, where the purple stripe at the bottom is inverted, turning it from purple to green.

- Sky Blue = attraction to men
- Dark Maroon = stability / support
- Violet = attraction regardless of gender history

# Aromantic Flag



**Aromantic:** often shortened to “aro”, describes people who do not experience romantic attraction, or if not strictly aromantic, little to no romantic attraction.

**History:** There have been three aromantic pride flags: the four-stripe design with green, yellow, orange, and black was the first. Then came the five stripe design of dark-green, light-green, yellow, grey, and black created by Tumblr user Cameron (@cameronwhimsy) from Australia in 2014.

The third and most recent design is the most widely accepted version, replacing the yellow of the second flag with a white stripe. This flag was designed by Cameron as well, updating the design themselves on November 16, 2014.

- Dark Green = aromanticism
- Light Green = the aromantic spectrum
- White = platonic and aesthetic attraction, as well as queer/quasi platonic relationships
- Grey = grey-aromantic and demiromantic people
- Black = the sexuality spectrum

# Asexual (ACE) Flag

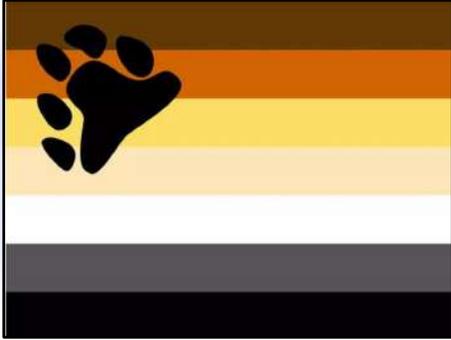


**Asexual:** The lack of sexual attraction to all genders.

**History:** The Agender flag was born out of several years of discussion and votes on the AVEN (Asexuality Visibility and Education Network). A final decision was made in 2010.

- Black = the absence of gender; asexuality.
- Grey = semi-genderless; the grey area between sexual and asexual.
- White = sexuality
- Purple = community; it was also the primary color of AVEN's website (David Jay, the founder of AVEN, used purple because of an obscure legend about how amethyst could prevent a person from being drunk.)

# Bear Pride Flag

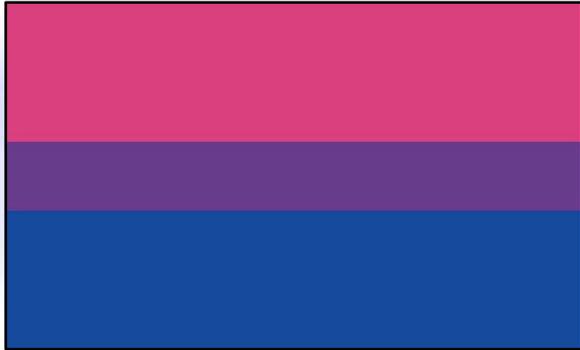


**Bear:** One of the many long-standing gay subcultures, a bear is a large, hairy queer man who self-identifies with the 'bear' label. Being a bear combines gender expression, gender identity, and sexuality; a large, hairy straight man would not be a bear.

**History:** The bear flag was created by psychology undergraduate student Craig Byrnes in 1995.

The flag consists of seven horizontal stripes, mirroring the seven rainbow stripes of the Gay Pride flag. The colors of this flag are derived from the animals rather than the people; thus the varying shades of brown, white, and black which are reminiscent of colors found in bear fur.

# Bisexual Flag



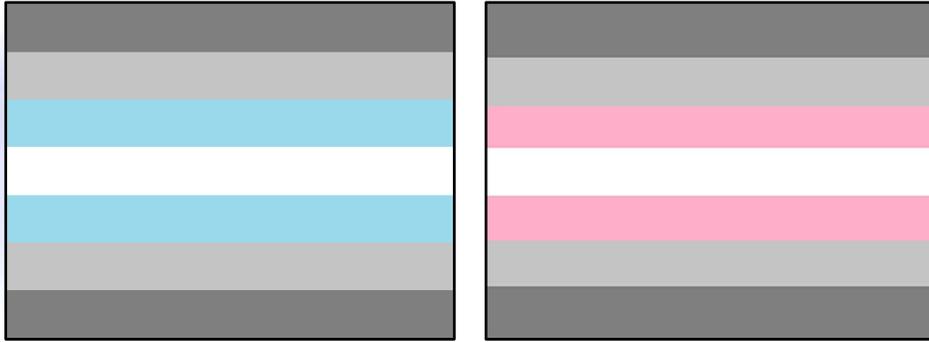
**Bisexual:** describes an attraction to two or more genders on the gender spectrum. Some bisexual people have a preference toward one or several genders and some do not.

**History:** Designed by Michael Page in 1998, and inspired by the “Biangles” design. The intent was to increase the visibility of bisexuals among society as a whole, and within the LGBTQIA+ community, by giving the bisexual community a symbol comparable to the rainbow flag for the greater LGBTQIA+ community.

“The key to understanding the symbolism of the Bi Pride Flag is to know that the purple pixels of color blend unnoticeably into both the pink and blue just as in the ‘real world,’ where bi people blend unnoticeably into both the gay/lesbian and straight communities.” Michael Page, 2001

- Pink = Same Sex Sexual attraction
- Blue = Opposite Sex Sexual Attraction
- Overlap (purple) = Sexual attraction regardless of gender

# Demiboy / Demigirl Flags

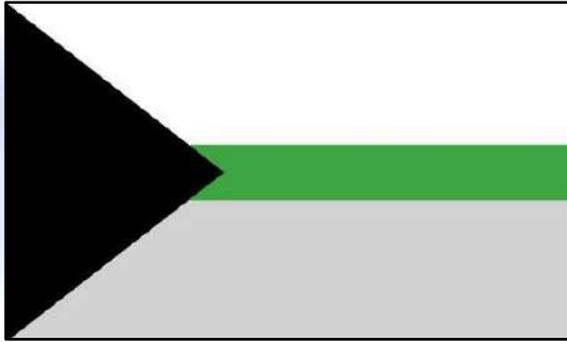


**Demiboy:** Someone who partially identifies as a man or boy. In addition to feeling partially like a boy or man, demiboy also feel partly outside the binary. That can include anything under the non-binary umbrella like agender, genderqueer, or xenogenders for example. Likewise, demigirl is someone who partially identifies as a woman or girl. In addition to feeling partially like a girl or woman, demigirls also feel partly outside the binary. That can include anything under the non-binary umbrella like agender, genderqueer, or xenogenders for example.

**History:** The origins of the demiboy and demigirl flags are vague, originating in the vastness of DeviantArt and Tumblr. Adoption within the community is still debated, with many variants appearing on both sites such as Tumblr. Here's our best guess on the meaning of the colors:

- Shades of Gray = the partial nature of gender.
- Light Pink = traditional color for femininity.
- Light Blue = traditional color for masculinity
- White = non-binary part of the gender

# Demiromantic

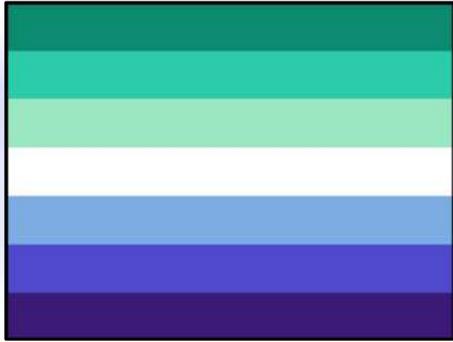


**Demiromantic:** romantic attraction can only be experienced after an emotional attachment has been formed. It is a specific subset of gray (a)romanticism.

**History:** Flag created by Tumblr user QueerAsACat in 2015; rarely used.

- White: sexuality
- Black: asexuality
- Grey: grey-sexuality (between sexuality and asexuality)
- Green: the opposite color of romanticism (usually red).

# Gay Male (MLM) Flag



**Gay Male:** homosexual men who love other men (MLM). It can describe all kind of gay men, including (but not exclusive to) ARO, ACE, questioning, non-binary, and gender-non-conforming men.

**History:** The creator used the original design proposed design by Tumblr moderator Hermy as inspiration and refined the gay man flag colors, adding meaning to the different stripes.

- Aquamarine Green = Community; also Nature, as love between men often still gets seen as "unnatural" to some people.
- Shamrock Green = Healing
- Teal Green = Joy.
- White = Gender Non-Conforming & Trans Men.
- Jordy Blue = Pure Love. Represents how some MLM might be stereotypical while other might not be. Some are also in-between or fluid in their identity. But all deserve the same respect.
- Blue = Fortitude
- Indigo = Diversity

# Genderfluid Flag



**Genderfluid:** Those who have a gender expression/expressions or identity/identities that are not constant or fixed.

**History:** Created by JJ Poole in 2013 to represent people whose gender identity and/or expression is fluid and may fluctuate at different times or in different circumstances.

The flag's five horizontal-colored stripes represent the diversity of gender fluidity, genderfluid identity, and the genderfluid community. Genderfluid people may also identify as a part of the non-binary community, transgender community, or as multigender. Genderfluid people may have multiple gender identities, expressions, or use multiple sets of pronouns that fluctuate sometimes, constantly, or in a pattern.

- Pink = femininity
- White = lack of gender
- Purple = a combination of both masculinity and femininity
- Black = all genders, including genders that do not align with femininity or masculinity
- Blue = masculinity

# Gynephilia Flag



**Gynephilia:** Gynephilia is a term used in behavioral science to describe sexual orientation as an alternative to gender binary homosexual or heterosexual conceptualization. Gynephilia is the sexual attraction to women or femininity regardless of one's own sex or gender identity (i.e., both heterosexual men and lesbian women could be described as gynephilic in their sexual attraction).

**History:** The origins of the flag are unknown, and its adoption within the community is still debated, with many variants appearing on sites such as Tumblr. Here's our best guess on the meaning of the colors:

- Black = gender neutrality or rejection of the straight-gay binary and the female-male binary
- Gray = the gray area between genders, reflecting that many gender non-conforming people identify as gynephilic
- White = equality, intersexuality, transitioning or neutral gender, or the idea that attraction to females does not necessarily a result of masculinity or femininity
- Pink = a tribute to attraction to all female identified people.)= attraction to women & femininity

# Gynesexual Flag

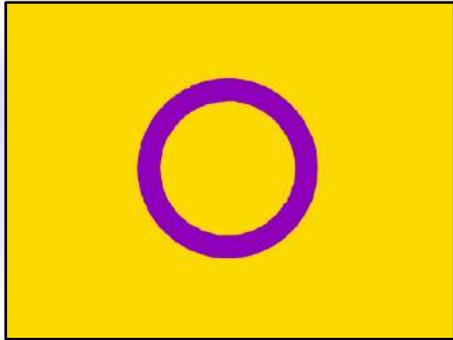


**Gynesexual:** Individuals who experience sexual attraction toward women, females, and/or femininity, regardless of whether they were assigned female at birth.

**History:** The origins of the flag are murky and not well documented. Most likely the flag originates from the same designer as the androsexual flag. The top stripe is blue rather than pink on the androsexual flag, where the green stripe at the bottom is inverted, turning it from green to purple.

- Dusty Pink = attraction to women & femininity
- Dark Maroon = stability / support
- Green = attraction regardless of gender history

# Intersex Flag



**Intersex:** An umbrella term for people who are born with or develop sex characteristics that differ from the binary notions of a "male" or "female" body. These variations may involve one's hormones, chromosomes, external and internal reproductive organs, or secondary sex characteristics. These differences can be noticed at birth or later in life.

**History:** Morgan Carpenter of Intersex Human Rights Australia created this flag in July 2013. Their intention was to create a flag "that is not derivative but is yet firmly grounded in meaning".

The colors were chosen because neither is associated with the social constructs of gender binary, male or female. As Morgan Carpenter said: "The colors and circle don't just avoid referencing gender stereotypes, like the colors pink and blue, they seek to completely avoid use of symbols that have anything to do with gender at all. Instead, the circle is unbroken and unornamented, symbolizing wholeness and completeness, and our potentialities. We are still fighting for bodily autonomy and genital integrity, and this symbolizes the right to be who and how we want to be."

# Leather Pride Flag



**Leather Pride:** The leather subculture is associated with the dressing styles and sexual practices that involve leather garments. For some, it is an expression of hyper masculinity through erotic fashion, or the engagement in sexual kinkiness or leather fetishization. It is not exclusive to the gay male community.

**History:** Tony DeBlase, a noted artist, writer, editor and publisher, designed the leather pride flag. DeBlase was involved with many leather/SM publications over many years, including Drummer Magazine. DeBlase's idea for a Leather Pride flag was first presented to the community at the International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago on May 28, 1989. It encompasses leather, Levis, BDSM, uniforms, cowboys, latex, and every other fetish that is identified as part of the leather / BDSM / fetish community. And just as the leather community includes all genders and sexual orientations, so the Leather Pride flag is not an exclusively gay symbol.

Tony has said he had no specific associations in mind when he designed the flag. "He preferred individuals or the community assign their own interpretation, symbolism and meanings to the flag. Over the years, this has happened."  
(Lavender Magazine, July 2021)

- Black = black leather
- Blue = blue denim
- White = purity; safety; solidarity with novices in the BDSM community
- Red Heart = respect, understanding, and consent

# Lesbian Flag (Labrys)



**Lesbian:** a term with multiple definitions, it is most often defined as a woman who is attracted to other women romantically, sexually, or both. Generally used as a self-identification of sexual or romantic orientation. Some prefer to use or additionally use "gay" or "gay woman" as an identifier.

**History:** The labrys has been used as a symbol of lesbian and female empowerment since the 1970s. In Greek mythology, the labrys was associated with harvest from the Greek goddess Demeter and the Amazons, a tribe of warrior women. It was adopted by the lesbian radical feminist movement in the 1970's as a symbol of empowerment for women-identified-women. Sean Campbell designed this flag in 2000.

- Purple = women, feminism, and all people who identify as a woman attracted to other women.
- Black Triangle = the triangle was a Nazi symbol for "anti-social" groups, including lesbians.
- Labrys = women empowerment

# Lesbian Flag (Sunburst)



**Lesbian:** A female-identified person who is attracted to other female-identified people, but also a term with multiple definitions. It is most often defined as a woman who is attracted to other women romantically, sexually, or both. Generally used as a self-identification of sexual or romantic orientation. Some prefer to use or additionally use "gay" or "gay woman" as an identifier.

**History:** There are many different versions of “the lesbian flag”; this orange-pink design is often referred to as the sunburst design and is derived from the pink lesbian flag. Introduced on Tumblr by blogger Emily Gwen in 2018. In a Medium article that same year, this flag was proposed as “A Lesbian Flag for Everyone”. The flag seen here has been voted on by approx. 5000 people as a possibility for new lesbian flag.

- Dark orange = gender non-conformity
- Orange = independence
- Light orange = community
- White = unique relationships to womanhood
- Pink = serenity and peace
- Dusty pink = love and sex
- Dark rose = femininity

# Lipstick Lesbian Flag



**Lipstick Lesbian:** A feminine lesbian, and by many definitions, one who only dates other feminine lesbians. A lipstick lesbian is generally the hyper-femme (lipstick-wearing) one in a gay relationship. Originally, the term “lipstick lesbian” was born of the idea that all lesbians look a certain way. Considered an outdated term.

**History:** July 2010, Natalie McCray created “The Official Lipstick Lesbian Flag” posted it with the following announcement:

“The gay community has so many flags that represent all the different sub-communities. Our gay male friends are definitely the most established. They have a flag for the young gays, leather guys, hairy guys, and girly guys. Even the bisexuals have their own flag!!!! So I’ve always wondered...WHERE ARE THE LESBIAN FLAGS???? Are we lacking pride or is our community just too lazy to come up with something? I have taken it upon myself to design the very first lipstick lesbian pride flag. Now we have our own flag to wave at the gay parade!Black = the absence of gender”

There is no consensus on “the” lesbian flag; as noted by the second image above, there are over 50 current versions floating around the Interwebs.

# Non-Binary (EnBy) Flag

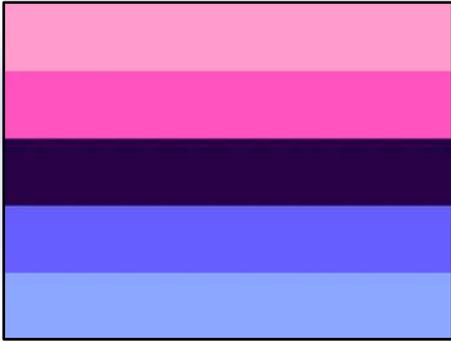


**Non-Binary:** someone who does not identify exclusively as a man or a woman. A nonbinary person may define their gender identity and experience outside of these binary terms. ““Non-binary people may identify as being both a man and a woman, somewhere in between, or as falling completely outside these categories.” (From the Human Rights Campaign website.)

**History:** Kyle Rowan created the non-binary flag in 2014. The four horizontal stripes of the colors- yellow, white, purple, and black are symbolic for Non-Binary peoples' experience. This flag was not created with the intention to replace the Genderqueer flag, but to be flown alongside it.

- Yellow = those whose gender falls outside of and without reference to the binary.
- White = people with many or all genders.
- Purple = those whose gender identity falls somewhere between male/female or is a mix of them.
- Black = people who feel they are without a gender

# Omnisexual



**Omnisexual:** A sexual orientation where one is attracted to all genders or any gender, while having a preference. Often confused with pansexual, omnisexual does have attractions to any and all gender but with a certain preference. Pansexual is attraction to any and all gender without preference.

**History:** The omnisexual pride flag was designed in 2015 by Tumblr user pastelmemer designed to represent the attraction to all genders.

- Pinks = attraction to femininity
- Dark Purple / Black = the attraction to all other genders that are outside of the gender binary.
- Blues = attraction to masculinity

# Pansexual Flag

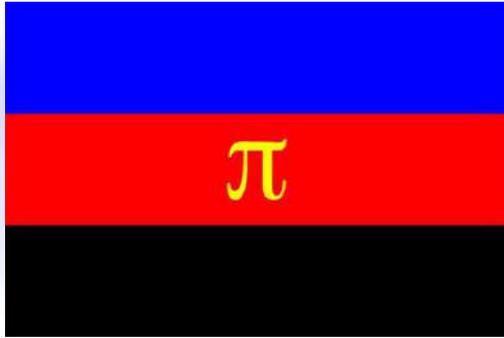


**Pansexual:** someone who identifies as pansexual is sexually attracted to all genders, regardless of a person's gender identity, which may be outside of the gender binary or different from their sex. This differs from bisexuality, which is the attraction to only two genders, male and female.

**History:** The pansexual flag was designed and published by a Tumblr user named Jasper V. in 2020.

- Magenta = attraction to people who identify as female regardless of sex.
- Yellow = attraction to people who identify as genderqueer, nonbinary, agender, androgynous, intersex, or otherwise does not fit into the gender binary of only male or female identification.
- Cyan = attraction to people who identify as male regardless of sex.

# Polyamory Flag



**Polyamory:** A type of ethical non-monogamy, polyamory involves having romantic relationships with multiple people.

**History:** Jim Evans designed the original polyamorous flag in 1995. While it is widely used, it is also widely vilified because it “fails to communicate a message other than ‘Huh?’” ([Polyinthemedia.blogspot.com](http://Polyinthemedia.blogspot.com))

- Blue = openness & honesty among all partners
- Red = Love and Passion
- Black = solidarity with those who must hide their polyamorous relationships from the outside world
- $\pi$  = the Greek letter  $\pi$  (pi), which was originally chosen because it is an irrational number with infinitely many decimal places, a play on polyamorous people “having infinite love”

# Polysexual



**Polysexual:** A sexual orientation where someone is romantically or sexually attracted to some, but not necessarily all, genders. A polysexual person may experience sexual attraction to any number of genders, varying between (at least) two and many. Polysexual individuals may have a preference when it comes to which gender they are attracted to, but this is not always the case.

**History:** It was designed by Tumblr user fuckyeahpolysexuality in 2012.

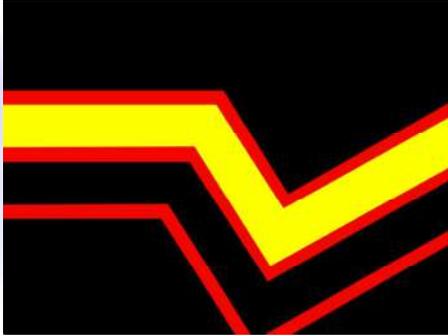
- Pink = attraction to femininity
- Green = attraction to non-binary (or otherwise gender non-conforming) people
- Blue = attraction to masculinity

## Religious Variants



For some, there exists inherent conflict between religion and their sexual orientation; others have found a path to reconcile the two. Here are some examples of Pride flags representing different religions: (from upper left, clockwise) Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Paganism.

# Rubber / Latex Pride Flag



**Rubber/Latex Fetish:** A fetish is defined as “a form of sexual desire in which pleasure and gratification are derived from a particular object or part of the human body.” Rubber fetishism, or latex fetishism, is the fetishistic attraction to people wearing latex clothing or, in certain cases, to the garments themselves.

**History:** Peter Tolos and Scott Moats designed this flag in 1995. It does not represent any specific sexual orientation or gender identity, rather, it represents the rubber or latex fetish subculture in the LGBTQ+ community.

- Black = desire for the latex and / or rubber look and feel
- Red = the blood passion for rubber
- Yellow = a drive for intense rubber play and fantasies
- The kink in the bands of color = the fact that rubber fetish is a kink

# Transgender Flag



**Transgender:** People whose gender identity doesn't align with the sex they were assigned at birth.

**History:** Created in 1999 by Monica Helms, a transgender navy veteran. The design and colors were carefully chosen by Helms. Since its debut, the trans pride flag has grown to be the prevailing symbol of the transgender community.

- Light Blue = the traditional color for boys.
- Light Pink = the traditional color for girls.
- White = those who are intersex, transitioning, or see themselves as having a neutral or undefined gender.

WE'RE ONLY GOING  
TO GET BROWNER  
AND QUEERER  
AND WITCHIER  
AND LOUDER  
AND STRONGER  
AND PROUDER  
AND WATCH THE  
DINOSAURS DIE OUT.



# History of Pride



Pride parades these days are often associated with parties, bright colors, big crowds, flamboyant displays ... but it is easy to lose sight of the origin of this symbolic festival.

Pride stands for liberation, equality, dignity, and visibility.

In 1969, homosexuality in New York was still illegal, and anyone could be arrested for what was considered non-confirming behavior or choice of attire. The Stonewall riots were a series of spontaneous demonstrations by members of the gay community in response to a police raid that began in the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Lower Manhattan in New York City. Patrons of the Stonewall, other Village lesbian and gay bars, and neighborhood street people fought back when the police became violent. Members of the LGBTQIA+ community at the bar resisted arrest, and over the next six days, sent a loud and clear message to the authorities – they were no longer going to accept inequality and indignity.

By taking part in Pride Month, you are showing your support for everyone in the community and fighting back against intolerance.

# Research Sources



**We read dozens of web pages to put together all this information. We have tried to be as accurate as possible. Here are some of our major sources:**

<a href="http://Bbc.com">Bbc.com</a>	<a href="http://OutrightInternational.org">OutrightInternational.org</a>
<a href="http://Blogs.egu.eu">Blogs.egu.eu</a>	<a href="http://QueerInTheWorld.com">QueerInTheWorld.com</a>
<a href="http://CRWFLags.com">CRWFLags.com</a>	<a href="http://Rainbowpedia">Rainbowpedia</a>
<a href="http://Deepl.com">Deepl.com</a>	<a href="http://RockyMountainFlag.com">RockyMountainFlag.com</a>
<a href="http://EqualityMaine.org">EqualityMaine.org</a>	<a href="http://Seventeen.com">Seventeen.com</a>
<a href="http://GRPride.org">GRPride.org</a>	<a href="http://TheAdvocate.com">TheAdvocate.com</a>
<a href="http://Immature-techno-geek.neocities.org">Immature-techno-geek.neocities.org</a>	<a href="http://UNCO.edu">UNCO.edu</a>
<a href="http://LesbianFlagHistory.Tumblr.com">LesbianFlagHistory.Tumblr.com</a>	<a href="http://Vox.com">Vox.com</a>
<a href="http://LGBTQ.WFU.edu">LGBTQ.WFU.edu</a>	<a href="http://Wattpad LGBTQ+ Pride Party">Wattpad LGBTQ+ Pride Party</a>
<a href="http://LGBTQIA.Fandom.com">LGBTQIA.Fandom.com</a>	<a href="http://weAreHer.com">weAreHer.com</a>
<a href="http://LiveLoveLGBTQ.Wordpress.com">LiveLoveLGBTQ.Wordpress.com</a>	<a href="http://Wikipedia.org">Wikipedia.org</a>
<a href="http://MarieClaire.com">MarieClaire.com</a>	