



Gay Police Association

Significant Gay Events ~ Timeline

From 16th century

- **1533** – UK King Henry VIII begins the English common law tradition of sodomy laws, proclaiming sodomy, then-defined as any non-procreative sexual activity, a crime. This includes masturbation, anal, and oral sex. **The Buggery Act was passed which made buggery punishable by hanging**

17th century

- **1624** - Richard Cornish of the Virginia Colony is tried and hanged for sodomy.
- **1649** - The first known conviction for lesbian activity in North America occurs in March when Sarah White Norman is charged with "lewd behavior" with Mary Vincent Hammon in Plymouth, Massachusetts.

18th century

- **1726** - Mother Clap's molly house in London is raided by police, resulting in Clap's death and the execution at Tyburn of all the men arrested
- Between 1730 and 1811, a widespread panic in the Dutch Republic leads to a spectacular series of trials for sodomy, with persecutions at their most severe from 1730 to 1737, 1764, 1776, and from 1795-1798.
- **1792** - **France decriminalizes sexual acts between men**

19th century

- **1813** - Bavaria decriminalizes sexual acts between men
- **1835** - For the first time in its history Poland criminalizes homosexuality
- **1836** - **The last known execution for homosexuality in Britain**
- **1861** - **In England, enter The Offences Against the Person Act penalty for conviction for sodomy is reduced from hanging to imprisonment**
- **1869** - The term "homosexuality" appears in print for the first time in a German pamphlet written by Karl-Maria Kertbeny (1824-1882).
- **1871** - Homosexuality is criminalized throughout Germany by Paragraph 175 of the Reich Criminal Code
- **1885** UK The "Labouchere amendment" was passed. Known as the "blackmailer's charter". In response to a wave of sensationalism in the press about the prostitution of teenaged girls Parliament adopted the Criminal Law Amendment Act in 1885. This provided for a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years, with or without hard labour, for any male person guilty of an act of gross indecency with another male person in public or in private. The effect of this was that all forms of male homosexual expression which offended the feelings of a jury became criminal.
- **1886** - The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885, outlawing sexual relations between men (but not women), is given Royal Assent by Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom
- **1892** - the word *bisexual* is first used in its current sense in Charles Gilbert Chaddock's translation of Kraft-Ebing's *Psychopathia Sexualis*.
- **1895** - Oscar Wilde prosecuted under the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885 for "gross indecency" and sentenced to two years in prison.
- **1897** - Magnus Hirschfeld founds the Scientific Humanitarian Committee on May 14 to organize for gay rights and the repeal of Paragraph 175



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1900s

- **1907** - Adolf Brand, the activist leader of the Gemeinschaft der Eigenen, working to overturn Paragraph 175, publishes a piece "outing" the imperial chancellor of Germany, Prince Bernhard von Bülow. The Prince sues Brand for libel and clears his name; Brand is sentenced to 18 months in prison.

1910s

- **1910** - Emma Goldman first begins speaking publicly in favor of gay rights
- **1914** - The word *faggot* is first used in print in reference to gays in a vocabulary of criminal slang published in Portland, Oregon: "All the fagots [*sic*] (sissies) will be dressed in drag at the ball tonight".

1920s

- **1923** - The word *fag* is first used in print in reference to gays in Nels Anderson's *The Hobo*: "Fairies or Fags are men or boys who exploit sex for profit."
- **1924** - The first gay rights organization in America is founded in Chicago and is called the *Society for Human Rights*. The movement exists for a few months before being shut down by the police.
- **1925** - Kimitake Hiraoka, Japanese writer is born, January 14th
- **1928** - *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall is published in the United States. This sparks great legal controversy and brings the topic of homosexuality to public conversation.
- **1929** May 22 - Katharine Lee Bates, author of *America the Beautiful* dies.
- **1929** October 16 - a Reichstag Committee votes to repeal Paragraph 175. The Nazis' rise to power prevents the implementation of the vote.

1930s

- **1932** - The new Polish Criminal Code again decriminalizes homosexuality in the whole of Poland
- **1933** - Nazis burn the library of Magnus Hirschfeld's Institute for Sexual Research, and destroy the Institute.
- **1933** - Denmark decriminalizes homosexuality.
- **1937** - **The first use of the pink triangle in Nazi concentration camps.**

1940s

- **1940** - Barney Frank, American politician is born March 31st
- **1944** - Sweden decriminalizes homosexuality
- **1945** - **Upon the liberation of concentration camps by Allied forces, those interned for homosexuality are not freed, but required to serve out the full term of their sentences under Paragraph 175**
- **1948** - USA Alfred Kinsey published **Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male** which quoted figures that 4% of men identified themselves as exclusively homosexual, and 37% of men had engaged in homosexual activities at least once.

1950s

- **1950** - East Germany partially abrogates the Nazis' emendations to Paragraph 175
- **1950** - The Mattachine Society Founded in New York.
- **1952** - Dale Jennings successfully uses the defense of entrapment against charges of solicitation.



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- **1954** – UK June 7 - Alan Turing [World war 2 Enigma Scientist] dies from cyanide poisoning, eighteen months after being given libido reducing hormone treatment for a year as a punishment for homosexuality
- **1955** - Daughters of Bilitis founded in San Francisco, California.
- **1957** – UK The Wolfenden Committee publishes its report recommending decriminalization of consensual homosexual behaviour between adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence.

1960s

- **1961 in gay rights** - Decriminalization in Czechoslovakia and Hungary; UK Release of the film *Victim*, starring Dirk Bogarde, the most important British film on a gay theme, pleading for tolerance for homosexuals and an end to blackmail.
- **1962 in gay rights** - Illinois becomes first U.S. state to remove sodomy law from its criminal code.
- **1963 in gay rights** - Israel decriminalizes de-facto sodomy and sexual acts between men by judicial decision against the enforcement of the relevant section in the old British-mandate law from 1936 (which in fact was never enforced).
- **1966 in gay rights** - The National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations is established. (It became NACHO (North American Conference of Homophile Organizations) in 1967).
- **1967 in gay rights** – UK Sexual Offences Act passed in England and Wales allowing sex between 2 men who are 21 or over. This determined much police activity against homosexuals in the UK for the rest of the century despite amendments introduced by the Sexual Offences Act 1967.
- The word *homophobia* makes its first appearance in print in Wainwright Churchill's *Homosexual Behavior among Males*.
- **1968 in gay rights** - Paragraph 175 is eased in East Germany. Canada repeals all anti-sodomy laws and Bulgaria decriminalize adult homosexual relations;
- **1969 in gay rights** - **Stonewall riots** - The Stonewall Rebellion started at the Stonewall Inn a gay bar in New York's Greenwich Village when officers from the New York City Police Department raided the bar. The crowd erupted into throwing cobblestones and bottles. The following two nights saw further violent confrontations between the police and gay people. The Stonewall Rebellion was a spontaneous act of resistance to the police harassment that had been inflicted on the gay community since the inception of the modern vice squad in metropolitan police forces. It sparked a new, highly visible political organisation for gay rights The event has been commemorated by a parade held each year in New York City and throughout the world; Paragraph 175 is eased in West Germany - Homosexual behavior legalized in Canada.

1970s

- **1970 in gay rights** - First U.S. gay pride parade held in New York City
- **1971 in gay rights** - The first gay march through London with a rally in Trafalgar Square, protesting against the unequal age of consent for gay men took place; Colorado, Oregon repeal sodomy laws; gay age of consent in the Netherlands changed from 21 to 16 (equalized; Penal Code Section 248bis dropped) The U.S. Libertarian Party is founded and calls the repeal of all victimless crime laws, including the sodomy laws.
- **1972 in gay rights** – UK Law Lords found the International Times magazine guilty of 'conspiracy to corrupt public morals' for publishing gay contact advertisements. The first UK gay newspaper, Gay News founded; Ann Arbor, Michigan becomes first city in United States to pass gay rights ordinance. Norway decriminalizes homosexuality. Sweden becomes first country in the world to legally allow transgendered people to change their sex, and provides free hormone therapy



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- **1973 in gay rights** - The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its DSM-II Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- **1974 in gay rights** - Kathy Kozachenko becomes the first openly gay or lesbian American elected to public office, when she wins a seat on the Ann Arbor, Michigan city council. Ohio repeals sodomy laws. Robert Grant founds American Christian Cause to oppose the "gay agenda," the beginning of the modern Christian Right in America; UK prohibits use of electrode 'aversion' therapy for gay males under 16.
- **1975 in gay rights** - Elaine Noble becomes the second openly gay or lesbian American elected to public office, when she wins a seat in the Massachusetts State House
- **1976 in gay rights** - Robert Grant founds Christian Voice to take his anti-gay-rights crusade national
- **1977 in gay rights** - Harvey Milk is elected city-county supervisor in San Francisco, becoming the third openly gay or lesbian American and first man elected to public office. Dade County, Florida enacts a Human Rights Ordinance. It is repealed the same year after a militant anti-gay-rights campaign led by Anita Bryant. Quebec becomes the first jurisdiction (larger than a city or county) in the world to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in the public and private sectors.
- **1978 in gay rights** - San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone are assassinated by former San Francisco Supervisor Dan White.
- **1979 in gay rights** - first U.S. gay rights march on Washington, DC

1980s

- **1980 in gay rights** - The Democratic National Convention becomes the first major political party in America to endorse a gay rights platform plank. Homosexuality decriminalized in Scotland
- **1981 in gay rights** - Moral Majority starts anti-gay crusade. Norway becomes the first country in the world to enact a law to prevent discrimination against homosexuals
- **1982 in gay rights** - Gay Games I. Homosexuality decriminalised in Northern Ireland. The Ten Percent Society becomes the first gay rights organization in North Dakota. Wisconsin becomes the first US state to ban anti-gay discrimination.
- **1983 in gay rights** - Massachusetts Representative Gerry Studds reveals he is a homosexual on the floor of the House, becoming the first openly Gay member of Congress.
- **1984 in gay rights** - Massachusetts voters reelect representative Gerry Studds, despite his admission the year before that he is gay; UK Chris Smith, MP for Islington South, London, was the first MP to come out as gay while in office; UK GALOP, the first gay policing project, was founded; UK Gay Times began publication in May.
- **1985 in gay rights** - First memorial to gay Holocaust victims is dedicated
- **1986 in gay rights** - Homosexual Law Reform Act passed in New Zealand, legalizing sex between males over 16
- **1987 in gay rights** – UK James Anderson, Chief Constable Manchester, condemned gays as 'swimming in a cesspit of their own making'.
- The Pink Paper was founded.
- ACT UP stages its first major demonstration, seventeen protesters are arrested. U.S. Congressman Barney Frank comes out as gay. Homomonument opened in Amsterdam, a memorial to persecuted gays and lesbians.
- **1988 in gay rights** - Sweden is first country to pass laws protecting gays and lesbians regarding social services, taxes, and inheritances. Section 28 passes in England and Wales; Scotland brings in almost identical legislation under Clause 2A - Canadian MP Svend Robinson comes out as gay. Israel decriminalizes (de jure) sodomy and sexual acts between men (the relevant section in the old British-mandate law from 1936 was never enforced).
- **1989 in gay rights** - Denmark is first country in the world to enact civil union laws for same-sex couples, with most of the same rights as marriage; UK The Stonewall Group was set up in response to Section 28



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1990s

- **1990 in gay rights** **The Lesbian and Gay Police Association** [now GPA] is formed by Metropolitan Police Officers in London. The first national police staff association to assist the plight of gay officers and staff suffering extensive homophobia from colleagues, ACPO ranks and statutory staff associations; OutRage! forms in UK
- **1991 in gay rights** - Hong Kong decriminalizes homosexuality
- **1992 in gay rights** - **The World Health Organization removes homosexuality from its ICD-10**
- **1993 in gay rights** - Third gay rights march on Washington, DC. Sodomy laws repealed in the Republic of Ireland brought about by Senator David Norris. Russia decriminalizes consensual male sodomy. Norway enacts civil union laws that grant same-sex couples the same rights as married couples, except for the right to adopt or marry in a church.
- **1994 in gay rights** – **On LAGPA advice, Sussex became the first UK police force to advertise for recruits in the gay press.** AMA denounces supposed cures for homosexuality/Canada grants refugee status to homosexuals fearing for their well-being in their native country. Paragraph 175 is repealed in Germany. Israel's supreme court defines gay-couple's rights same as any common-law-couple's rights.
- **1995 in gay rights** – UK Gay Times was on sale in the high street stores owned by the John Menzies High Street newsagents for the first time in May; London Pride was the biggest ever. Almost 200000 partied in Victoria Park in the East End; Rank Outsiders (lesbian and gay support groups for armed forces staff) and Stonewall launched a major campaign on gays in the military; **UK Gaytime TV** was launched and one million tuned in every week; Sweden legalizes registered partnerships (civil unions) with all the rights of marriage except for marriage in a church and adoption; The Supreme Court of Canada rules that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- **1996 in gay rights** - **South Africa becomes the first nation to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in its constitution.**
- **1997 in gay rights** - UK extends immigration rights to same-sex couples akin to marriage. British scouting movement adopts equal opportunities policy aimed to protect leaders and young scouts from harassment because of their 'sexual status'. Fiji is the second country to explicitly protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation in its constitution. Laws prohibiting private homosexual acts are repealed in Tasmania, Australia, the last Australian state to do so; UK British general election gave out-gay Ben Bradshaw victory in Exeter, and out-gay Stephen Twigg took Enfield-Southgate seat; Chris Smith became Britain's first out-gay cabinet minister; Labour MP Angela Eagle was the first British MP to come out voluntarily as a lesbian; The British top-secret Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) told *The Pink Paper* it had relaxed its regulations relating to its employment of gays and lesbians. Subsequently MI6, which deals with spies abroad, said that it had also changed its policy, but MI5, the internal secret security service, denied a change.
- **1998 in gay rights** - Waheed Alli took his place in the House of Lords as the first openly gay life peer to be appointed in Britain; Matthew Shepard slain; Employment Equality Act introduced in Ireland, covering wrongful dismissal based on the grounds of sexual orientation. *Vriend v. Alberta*- sexual orientation is read into the IRPA, Alberta's human rights act; Britain's first professional soccer player to come out as gay, Justin Fashanu committed suicide; British House of Lords defeated the clause to lower the age of consent to 16 for gay men; Nick Brown MP was the first British Cabinet minister to come out publicly as gay while in post; Statue of Oscar Wilde unveiled in central London.
- **1999 in gay rights** - **Admiral Duncan Bombing in Old Compton Street, London attack on this gay pub, the third of a series of bombs targeted at minorities by a lone bigoted extremist. Three people in the Admiral Duncan died as a result. In the aftermath, members of LAGPA staffed a mobile police station outside the wreckage of the pub for 10 days, doing much to build bridges between the police and the lesbian and gay community;** California adopts domestic partner law. France enacts civil union laws (PACS) accessible to



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same-sex couples. The "Queer Youth Alliance" is founded in the UK. Israel's supreme court recognizes lesbian partner as another legal mother of her partner's biological son.

2000s

- **2000 in gay rights** - British government lifted the ban on homosexuals serving in the armed services; Clause 2A repealed in Scotland. **Age of consent equalised in the United Kingdom**; 100 years since the death of Oscar Wilde, the **Sexual Offences (amendment) Bill receives Royal Assent, bringing into law an equal age of consent at 16 for everyone** (17 for Northern Ireland). German Bundestag officially apologizes to gays and lesbians persecuted under the Nazi regime, and for "harm done to homosexual citizens up to 1969". Vermont becomes the first U.S. state to legalize civil unions. Israel recognizes same-sex relations for immigration purposes for a foreign partner of Israeli resident.
- **2001 in gay rights** - **Gay Police Association UK achieves Home Office Grant-in-Aid Funding for the first time**; **UK equal age of consent comes into effect**; Same-sex marriage in the Netherlands legalized.
- **2002 in gay rights** - Age of consent in Austria equalised at 14.
- **2003 in gay rights** - Section 28 repealed in England and Wales, [except for Kent County Council]; **UK Employment Law changes to cater for anti-gay behaviour in employment. Employment [Sexual Orientation] Regulations 2003**; SCOTUS strikes down U.S. sodomy laws; Same-sex marriage in Belgium legalized; Same-sex marriage in Canada introduced. Germany's Supreme Court upheld the country's civil union law which gives some of the benefits of marriage to registered same-sex couples.
- **2004 in gay rights** - Same-sex marriage in the United States: Massachusetts legalizes same-sex marriage in May while eleven other U.S. states ban the practice through public referenda in the November elections; Civil unions in Brazil: Rio Grande do Sul now accepts civil unions; Domestic partnerships in New Jersey legalized in July. In Canada, 85% of the population now lives in a province or territory with same-sex marriage. New Zealand passes the Civil Union Bill. Section 28 repealed by Kent County Council, to fall in with the remainder of England & Wales.
- **2005 in gay rights** - **Gay Police Association celebrates 15th Anniversary by holding the first ever International policing 2 day conference to focus entirely on gay issues**; Same-sex marriage in the United States: California extends some marriage rights to same-sex couples. ERASE THE HATE is formed by Tristan Hanscom. The Republic of Ireland delays Civil Union Bill. Same sex marriage legalized in Canada and Spain. **Two gay male teenagers [16year old], Mahmoud Asgari and Ayaz Marhoni, are executed in Iran for being gay**. Switzerland voted in favor of extending rights for registered same-sex couples.
- **2006 in gay rights UK - Civil Partnership [same-sex] Registration introduced into UK**