



Pride 2019, 50 Years After Stonewall

The National Survivor Network (NSN) would like to take a moment of remembrance for members of the LGBTQIA2+ community who participated in the Stonewall Riots in the summer of 1969.[1]

Criminalization of sexuality in the United States began in the 1600s in to formalize puritanical “natural laws” as believed by colonists immigrating to the colonies. It wasn’t until 1962, when Illinois removed sodomy as a felony offense, that we began to address centuries of policing sexuality. In New York State it was a crime to even loiter with the intent to commit sodomy. In 1980 the New York Court of Appeals case *New York v. Onofre* [2] abolished most remaining laws regarding sodomy in the state. It wasn’t until 2003 in *Lawrence v. Texas* [3], that the Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws in the remaining 14 states (Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Virginia).

There have been 110 attacks on LGBTQIA2+ people by the Trump Administration in 862 days.[4][5]

There are not adequate protections for LGBTQIA2+ individuals across the US. In 28 states, you can get fired from a job for being lesbian, bisexual, or gay. In 30 states, you can be fired for being transgender.[6] *Windsor v. United States* ended the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013.[7] The long, arduous journey to liberation is far from over. Pride month celebrates the Gay Liberation Movement of the 70s and the marches on Washington as united fronts from Compton’s Café to Stonewall Riots and others merged into the current LGBTQIA2+ movements.[8] We cannot forget the compounded oppression within intersections of identity in the US. We cannot forget that our transgender siblings who are black and brown are facing monumental attacks around immigration status and being black in the US, and being masculine, feminine, nonbinary, intersex, two spirit and genderqueer.

In May, the month just before Pride, three trans women of color were murdered within a one-week time span. Michelle Simone was the fifth trans woman killed in the US in 2019 and 100% of those murders have been trans women of color. In the week prior to her death, Muhlaysia Booker and Claire Legato were also killed.

We advocate and fight for liberation of all LGBTQIA2+ individuals, especially those within the intersections, during this month of Pride and the rest of the year. Political activism is not a celebration; it is a riot against injustice and criminalization for being who we are. Marching in the streets not to party but to demand our rights, our humanity, and our equality in this system that continues to suppress those rights. In solidarity we stand with our siblings across the world in celebration of the hot summer night when Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P Johnson laid the foundation for the Queer Liberation Front.

[1] <https://www.britannica.com/event/Stonewall-riots>

[2] <https://casetext.com/case/people-v-onofre>

[3] <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/539/558/>

[4] <https://www.glaad.org/trump>

[5] <https://transequality.org/the-discrimination-administration>

[6] <https://outandequal.org/2017-workplace-equality-fact-sheet/>

[7] <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/windsor-v-united-states-2/>

[8] <https://www.advocate.com/transgender/2018/8/02/dont-let-history-forget-about-comptons-cafeteria-riot>