

Session 2: LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement



**Our Common
History: Fighting for
the Rights of People**



African American Civil Rights Movement

LGBTQ+ Civil Rights Movement



Self-Advocacy Civil Rights Movement

<https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/civil-rights/>

LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement

Before the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement, many people thought that homosexuality was a crime that needed to be punished. People thought being LGBTQ was a disease. LGBTQ people were arrested and put in mental institutions.



LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement

The Gay Rights Movement started early in the 1920s. The Society for Human Rights started in 1924. Between 1950 to 1961, members focused on providing services. They worked on educating and making allies.

Mattachine was a large group for gay men. The Daughters of Bilitis was a large group for lesbian women. The National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations started in 1966. It had a newsletter and a legal defense fund for allies.

LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement



In the 1970s, gay rights activists targeted science, religion, and businesses. Pride marches became common during the 1970s. They started using symbols like the rainbow flag as a banner for their struggle.

3 events in the 1990s that changed the Gay Rights Movement.



The first event was the AIDS epidemic. Many LGBTQ people caught AIDS and had problems getting health care and access to drugs that were used to treat AIDS.

3 events in the 1990s that changed the Gay Rights Movement

The second big event was about how the military treated LGBTQ soldiers. President Clinton started a policy called Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) in 1994. It said that “closeted” LGBTQ military personnel could not be harassed or discriminated against.



3 events in the 1990s that changed the Gay Rights Movement.

The third event was the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard. He was a student at the University of Wyoming. He was tortured and left to die because of his sexual orientation. His murder led to a push for hate crime legislation in the United States.



LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement



The LGBTQ movement continued to fight for the right for LGBTQ couples to get married. Some states legalized civil unions and partnerships. Other states legalized marriage. In June of 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex marriages were legal. They said that states could not prohibit such marriages or refuse to recognize certificates from other states.

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Issues and Problems for the LGBTQ Movement

Freedom and Independence

An important issue related to freedom was the right to engage in preferred jobs, such as in the military. The military banned gays and lesbians from serving in 1945. After that, gays and lesbians who joined the military were kicked out if they were exposed. Schools fired teachers and other personnel who identified as homosexual.



Issues and Problems for the LGBTQ Movement

Freedom and Independence

People identifying as gay or lesbian also had difficulties meeting and having events. The police also harassed them by doing raids on places where gay people got together, and other tactics.



Issues and Problems for the LGBTQ Movement

Human and Legal Rights

LGBTQ people also had problems with marriage. Many states passed laws against LGBTQ people getting married. Gay and lesbian couples who wanted to get married did not have the same rights as other people. This was a problem for people when they got sick and wanted their partner to help them. For example, Karen Thompson was severely injured in an accident. She wanted her partner, Sharon Kowalski, to help her. The hospital would not let Sharon visit Karen. Sharon had to become Karen's guardian so she could help her.

Issues and Problems for the LGBTQ Movement

Human and Legal Rights

States would not let Gay and lesbian couples adopt children. If their partner had children and the partner died, the children were taken away. People were also denied the right to adopt children or lost the children if their partner passed away.



Issues and Problems for the LGBTQ Movement



Human and Legal Right

The LGBTQ movement also led the fight for healthcare because of the AIDS epidemic.

Issues and Problems for the LGBTQ Movement

Meaningful Participation

LGBTQ people were denied meaningful participation across settings.

Military service was illegal. The government forced LGBTQ employees to resign. College professors were the victims of lengthy and harmful interrogations.

LGBTQ people were put into institutions.



The LGBTQ Movement used the COURTS to fight discrimination



In 1962, the California Supreme Court overturned two convictions for same-sex encounters that happened in a bathroom. In 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that LGBTQ people had the right to get married. In 2020, the Supreme Court said the Civil Rights Law of 1964 prohibits employment discrimination against LGBTQ people.

LGBTQ people got anti-discrimination laws PASSED!

23 states plus Washington, D.C., Guam, and Puerto Rico outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation, and 22 states plus Washington, D.C. outlaw discrimination based on gender identity or expression. This is a problem because people in many states are NOT protected.



Taking Action



One of the most well-known protests of the LGBTQ Movement happened at the Stonewall Inn. Police raided this bar on June 28, 1969. The people in the bar fought back. They threw things at police officers. This turned into a riot. After the Stonewall Riots, more LGBTQ protest groups started to speak out across the country.

Taking action

The LGBTQ Movement has had several marches throughout its history. The First National March on D.C. for Gay and Lesbian Rights happened in 1979. 100,000 people attending the march in D.C. In 1987, the Second National March on D.C. for Gay and Lesbian Rights occurred. At that march 64 people were arrested for demonstrating.

