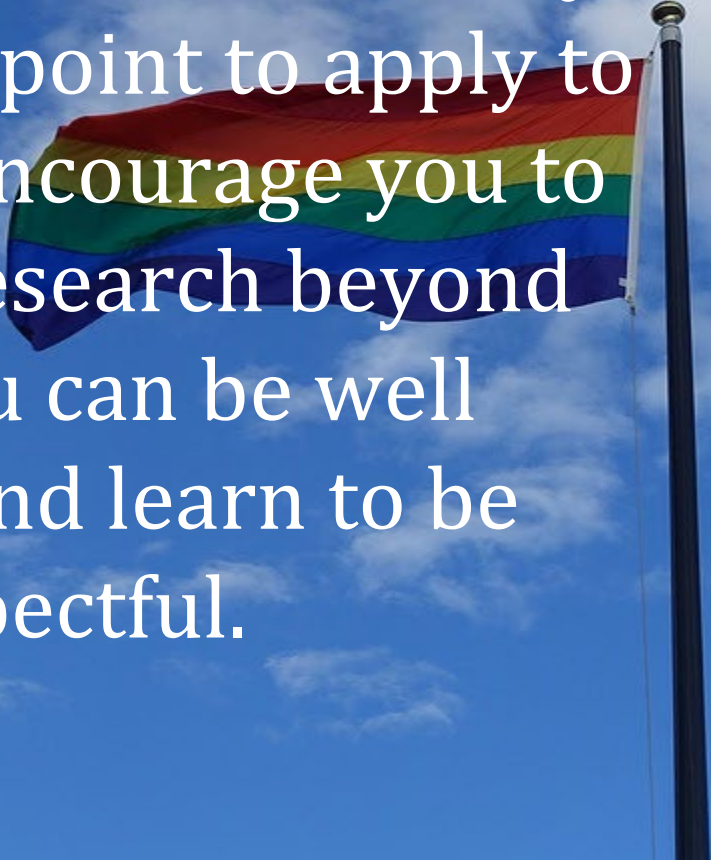


Pride Month



You do not have to be LGBTQ+
for this powerpoint to apply to
you and we encourage you to
do further research beyond
this so you can be well
educated and learn to be
respectful.

A rainbow flag with six horizontal stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple is waving on a black flagpole. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Why do we need a Pride Month?

Pride Month exists as something of incredible importance to the LGBTQ+ community. The month of June was chosen to commemorate the end of the Stonewall riots in June 1969. February is also exclusively LGBTQ history month.

Throughout the month, across the world, marches take place to celebrate their identities and the rights they've obtained. They also were, and still are, demonstrations for legal rights such as marriage equality, adoption rights, employment discrimination laws, abolishment of conversion therapy and so much more.

It's imperative that after being at the face of prejudice for decades, LGBTQ people know their worth and know that their identities don't make them less human or less deserving of rights that their straight or cisgender neighbours have.



Stonewall Riots 1969

In the early hours of June 28th, police raided the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, New York. Patrons who were not arrested gathered outside until a large mob was formed. This mob became violent, and the riot was a major catalyst in the advancement of LGBTQ+ civil rights. In 2009, President Obama officially declared June to be Pride Month as a way to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the riots, and thus began the colourful and spectacular celebration of Pride.




The following slides entail ways to be a good ally, as well as some guidance for those of you who may be LGBTQ+

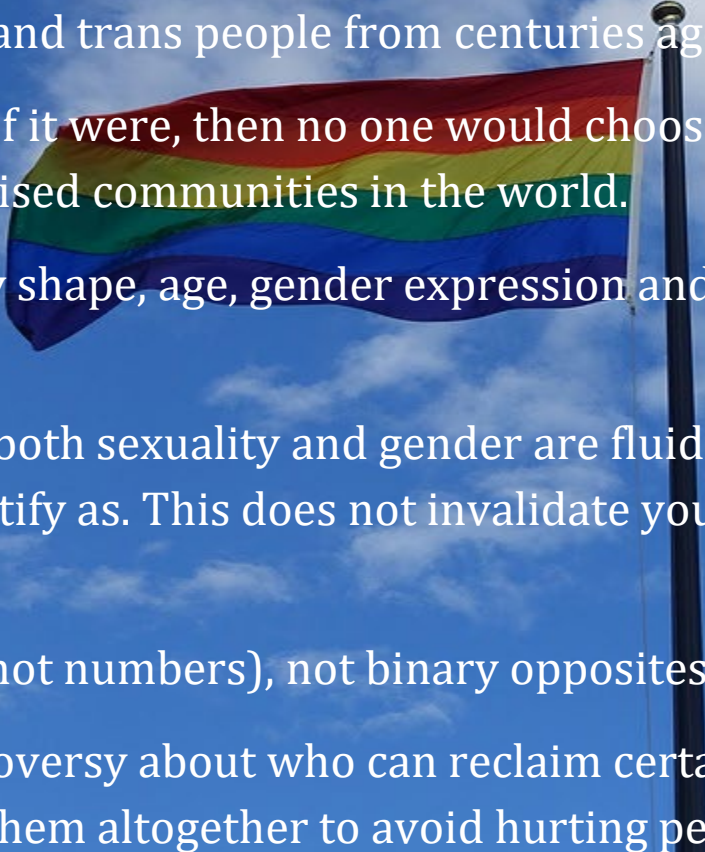


The purpose is to educate people, as well as to reassure people who fall under the LGBTQ+ umbrella, that they're valid!

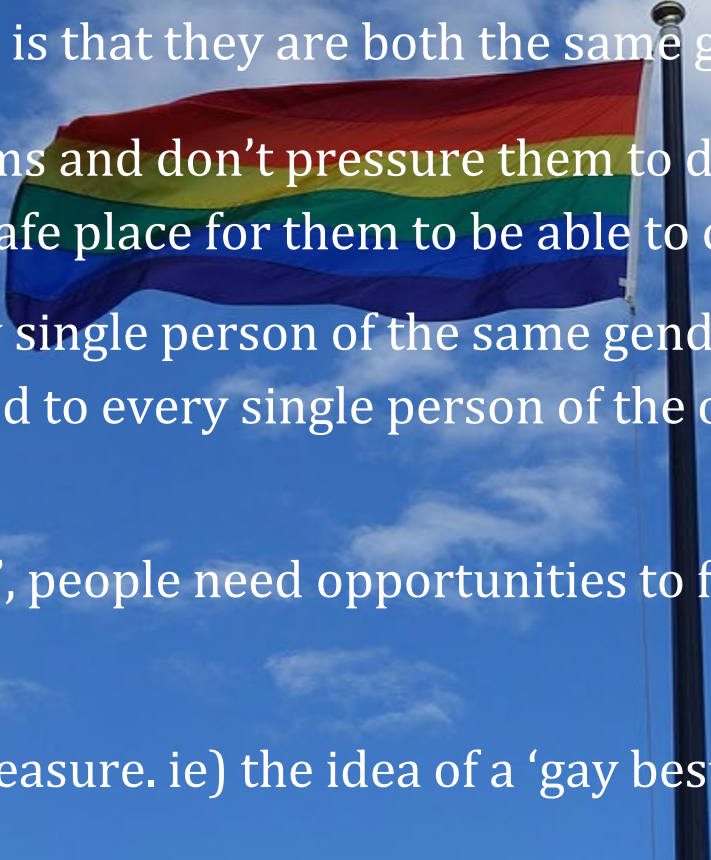
Coming to terms with a new identity

- You don't owe it to anyone to come out, it may take very little time or years to figure out your sexuality/gender - and even when you think you've figured it out it's okay to change.
 - It's okay to think about how you identify when none of your friends are. Finding or talking to people who have gone through what you are going through helps so much.
 - There is no right or wrong age to discover your identity or come out.
 - You are allowed to have more than one identity (eg. trans lesbian, non-binary pansexual, demisexual genderfluid bisexual) because some people are too complex to have their gender identity and sexuality summed up in one word.
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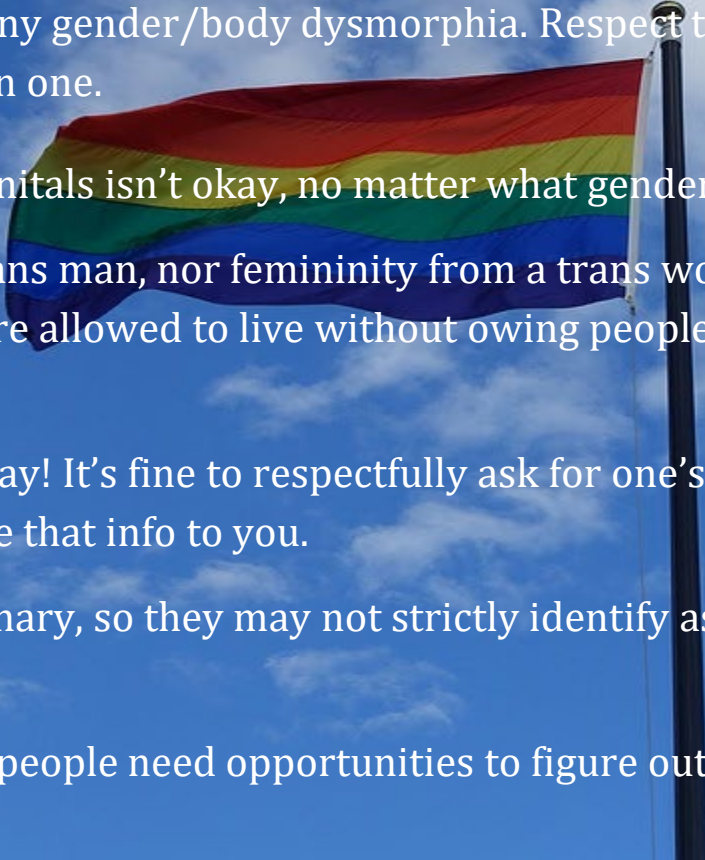
Important things to keep in mind!

- The LGBTQ+ community isn't a fad or a trend. There have been countless records showing evidence of queer and trans people from centuries ago.
 - Sexuality and gender isn't a choice. If it were, then no one would choose to identify as one of the most marginalised communities in the world.
 - Anyone of any race, neurology, body shape, age, gender expression and background can be LGBTQ+.
 - There is no one way to be LGBTQ+; both sexuality and gender are fluid and you are allowed to change how you identify as. This does not invalidate your past identity, nor your current one.
 - Gender is a spectrum (like colours, not numbers), not binary opposites.
 - Be mindful of slurs as there is controversy about who can reclaim certain slurs. Do your research and avoid saying them altogether to avoid hurting people.
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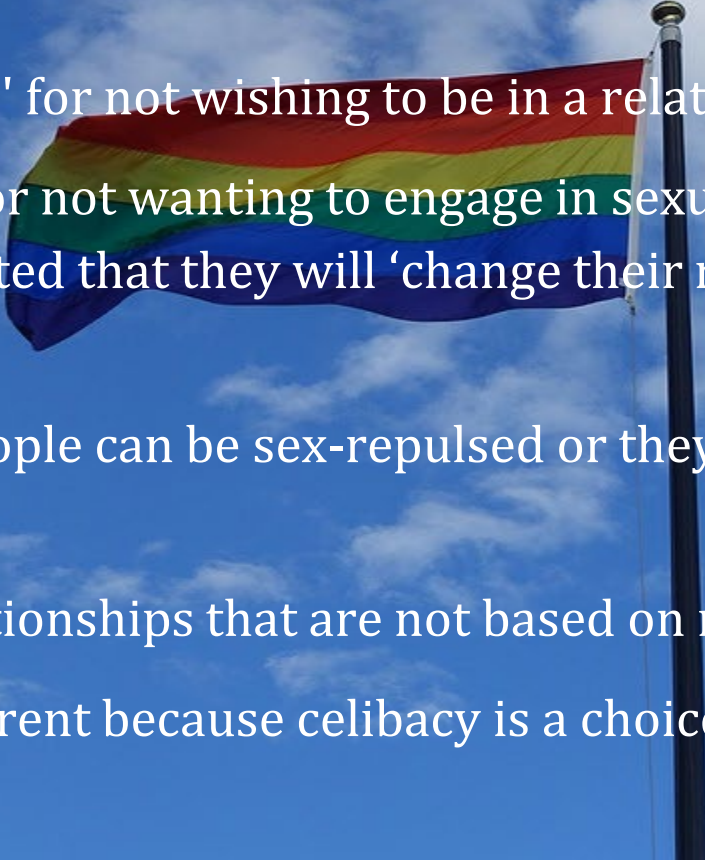
How to be a gay ally

- There doesn't have to be a man and a woman role in each relationship. The point of a same-gender relationship is that they are both the same gender.
 - Let them come out in their own terms and don't pressure them to do so. In the meantime, show that you can be a safe place for them to be able to confide into.
 - Gay people aren't attracted to every single person of the same gender, the same way straight people are not attracted to every single person of the opposite gender.
 - Do understand that it's not 'a phase', people need opportunities to figure out their identity as they grow up.
 - Gay people don't exist for others' pleasure. ie) the idea of a 'gay best friend'
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How to be a trans ally

- Do respect that you shouldn't inquire about trans people's names or biological sex assigned at birth - Using them runs a risk of triggering any gender/body dysmorphia. Respect their current pronouns and their name if they have chosen one.
 - Asking invasive questions about people's genitals isn't okay, no matter what gender.
 - Masculinity shouldn't be expected from a trans man, nor femininity from a trans woman, or androgyny from a non-binary person. They're allowed to live without owing people 'proof' of their identity.
 - Not all trans people transition and that is okay! It's fine to respectfully ask for one's pronouns and how they identify if they're happy to disclose that info to you.
 - Understand that one's gender may not be binary, so they may not strictly identify as female or male.
 - Again, do understand that it's not 'a phase' , people need opportunities to figure out their identity as they grow up.
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How to be an ally to people under the asexual umbrella

- Aromantic people aren't 'broken' for not wishing to be in a relationship.
 - Asexual people aren't 'broken' for not wanting to engage in sexual activities, nor should it be expected that they will 'change their minds later'.
 - Asexuality is a spectrum; ace people can be sex-repulsed or they can be demisexual/greysexual.
 - Aromantic people can be in relationships that are not based on romance.
 - Asexuality and celibacy are different because celibacy is a choice, whereas asexuality is not.
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How to be an ally to people attracted to more than one gender

- Respect the fact that they are not half gay and half straight.
- Just because they do not identify as bisexual does not mean they are attention-seeking.
- On that note, identifying as bisexual does not invalidate genders outside of the binary.
- Respect whichever identity they choose, be it pansexual, omnisexual etc.
- If they are in a relationship with the opposite gender, they are not straight now.
- If they are in a relationship with the same gender, they are not gay now.
- Do not assume this is a phase.



A couple of stereotypes to avoid

- Not all gay men are feminine, and not all lesbians are butch/masculine. This thinking can be harmful to masculine gay men or feminine lesbians as it invalidates their identity.
- Polysexual people (people attracted to more than one gender) are not more likely to cheat than their monosexual counterparts.
- Makeup, clothes, colours, toys, hobbies, and smells don't have a gender.
- Homosexuals don't identify as such because their opposite gender 'doesn't want them'
- Being LGBTQ+ is not a fad; they have been around for millenia and there are 1500+ species of animals that have also been recognised to be LGBTQ+.



Why we still need to fight for LGBTQ+ rights today

- Gay marriage is legal in only 28 out of 195 countries.
- 8 countries enforce capital punishment for being LGBT.
- 72 countries criminalise same-sex relationships.
- More than half the world has no protection against LGBT discrimination.
- Only one in five LGBT pupils in the UK have been taught safe sex in terms of LGBT people.
- Today, there is a concentration camp in Chechnya, Russia for LGBT people.
- One in eight trans people have been physically attacked by colleagues or customers based on their gender identity.
- One in five LGBT people have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.

And that is just the tip of the iceberg.

LGBTQ+ Helplines

Switchboard: 0300 330 0630

LGBT Foundation: 0345 3 30 30 30

Mermaids: 0808 801 0400



Research is encouraged if you're unsure about anything - or if you just want to learn more about the history since it is really fascinating.

