The history of the pride flags

LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

WHO, WHEN & WHY?

Gilbert Baker created the first pride flag in 1978. Gilbert never thought that flags were a symbol to spread awareness or to be used to show what you stand for.

However, in 1976 this changed, as Gilbert said "I discovered the depth of their power, their transcendent, transformational quality" (https://gilbertbaker.com/rainbow-flag-origin-story/).

In 1978 Gilbert and his friends worked together to create the flag and on June 25th, 1978, Gilbert displayed the flag in United Nations Plaza to celebrate, San Francisco's Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Gilbert created the flag with colors that represents the LGBTQ Movement.

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BISEXUAL

After the first pride flag was created this had a ripple effect to others in the LGBTQ community.

In 1998 the bisexual pride flag was created by Michael Page. He created the flag using the colours pink, blue and purple, as pink and blue create purple.

These colors show the blend of bisexual people and how they are apart of both the straight and gay communities.

The colors also represent the attraction to different genders. The pink is for the same gender, whereas the blue is attraction for the opposite gender. Purple represents the mix of two or more genders.

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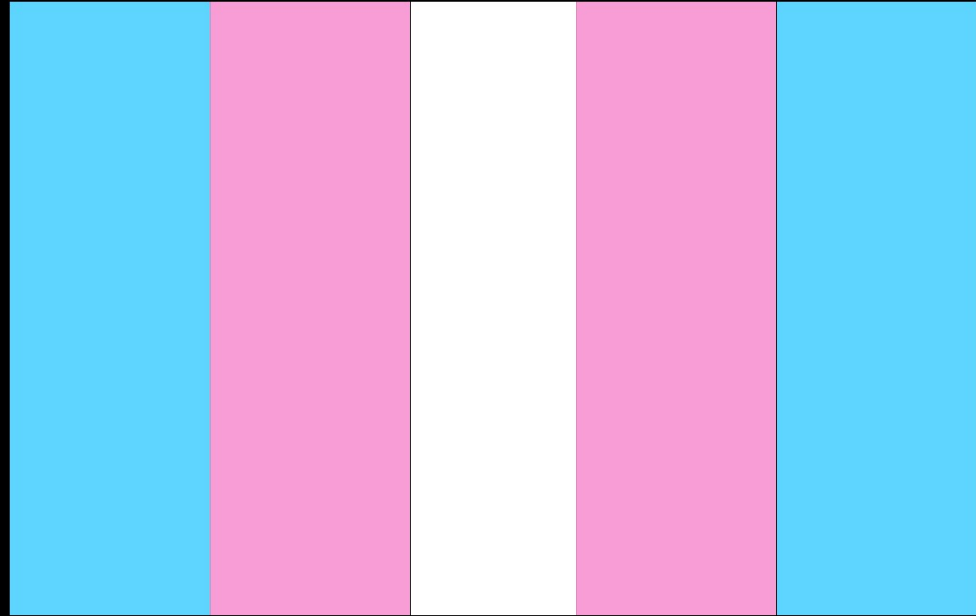Working for diversity and inclusion in IP

TRANSGENDER

The year of 1999 the transgender flag was created by Monica Helms, served in the US Navy between 1970 to 1978, whilst discovering herself as transgender women.

The pink and blue represent, girls and boys individually. The white stands for those, who are transitioning or who do not identify as any gender.

Helms noted. "The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it will always be correct. This symbolizes us trying to find correctness in our own lives." (https://www.pride.com/pride/2018/6/13/complete-guide-queer-pride-flags-0#media-gallery-media-13)

The flag was flown at the pride parade in the Phoenix of the year 2000.

ASEXUAL

The asexual flag was created by the Asexual Visibility and Education Network in 2010. The flag was created to represent the asexual community, as being asexual is less common and has many meanings to different people.

Each color represents something different.

-Black stands for asexuality

-Grey stands for demi-sexuality, which is sexual attraction after an emotional bond.

-White stands for allies of the community.

-Purple is for the whole community of asexual people.

https://www.pride.com/pride/2018/6/13/complete-guide-queer-pride-flags-0#media-gallery-media-9

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PANSEXUAL

The pansexual flag was created in 2010 and this flag was made to represent the pansexual community.

Pansexuality is about being attracted a person without thinking about their gender. This means they can feel attracted to those who identify as men, women, both or neither.

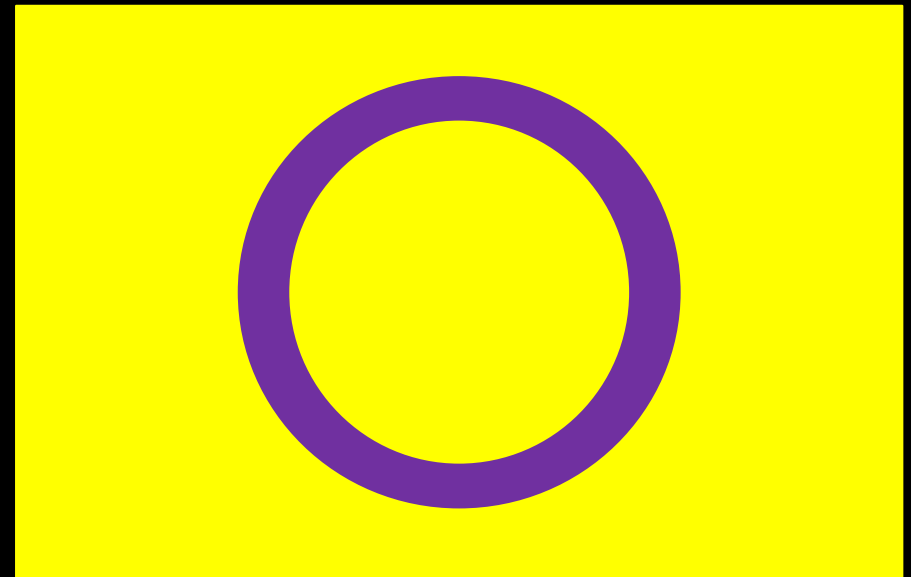Women

Those who do not identify as either

Men

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INTERSEX

Before the current intersex flag was created there were many others. The previous flags associated with queer pride, and others used the colours blue and pink.

Morgan Carpenter chose to create another flag in 2013 and use the colours yellow and purple. Morgan shifted from the rainbow symbolism and chose these colours, as neither of these colors associate with the society outlook on gender binary.

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NON-BINARY

Kye Rowan who was 17 at the time created the nonbinary flag in 2014.

The colors used to create this flag are yellow, white, purple and black. Each colour represents different groups of people who identify as nonbinary.

-Yellow symbolizes something by itself or people who identify outside of the genders of male and female.

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-White signifies a color that contain of all colors mixed together and this represents multi-gendered people.

-Purple is for those who identify as a blend of male and female genders.

-Lastly black (The absence of color) stands for those who are a gender or who feel they do not have a gender.

Source:
https://www.pride.com/pride/2018/6/13/complete-guide-queer-pride-flags-0#media-gallery-media-23

QUEER GENDER

Before the nonbinary flag was created, the genderqueer was created by Marilyn Roxie in 2010, who was a writer and artist. The flag consists of three colors, lavender, white and green.

-Lavender represents the mix of pink and blue, which are traditional gender colors for female and male.

-White represents gender neutrality.

-Green is the opposite to lavender stands for who identify outside of the genders male and female.
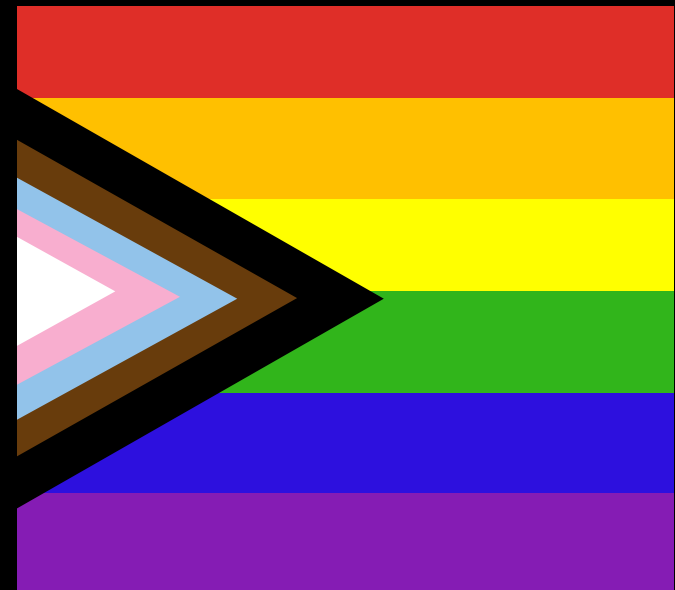
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THE MODERN PRIDE FLAG

There are many, many more flags for all that identify being apart of the LGBTQ+ community.

The history of these flags have come a long way through the changes and evolutions of the LGBTQ+ community and now the most recent flag is has been created to represent to also be inclusive to all.

This flag has the strips of color that embrace people of color, as well those who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming (GNC) and non-specific.

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WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you want to learn more about the history of these flag or the LGBTQ+ community, please find resources below.

https://www.pride.com/pride/2018/6/13/complete-guide-queer-pride-flags-0#media-gallery-media-9

https://lgbtplushistorymonth.co.uk/resources/

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCT4nBN8y9zvWmW0kqZrSthQ

https://gilbertbaker.com/rainbow-flag-origin-story/

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