

# Icons

Who Made LGBT History



A teacher's resource from  
Time for Inclusive Education (TIE)

2019/20 Edition



# Introduction

It is important that we discuss the LGBT community's contribution to our society, culture and history with young people. Throughout this resource, co-developed with our Teachers' Panel, we have outlined key people who have shaped LGBT history - our **Icons**. You can choose any of these individuals to discuss with your class, encourage student-led projects around LGBT history or create visual displays to place around your classroom. This document is intended as a starting point, and our biographies are snapshots - so it is always worth looking further into the Icons (or finding your own) in order to explore how you can use them to suit your own curricular needs in whichever subject area you specialise in.

Teachers across Scotland have used our resources to discuss the contributions of LGBT people throughout history. This resource, along with our **Moments** document (which outlines key events from LGBT history), can be utilised during LGBT History Month - which occurs each February, for the entire month. For example: there are more than twenty eight individuals documented here - why not discuss a different one with your pupils each day of the month?

From page 9 you will find **curricular examples** and from page 11 you will find **ready made graphics** - featuring a photograph and biography of some of our Icons. LGBT young people tell us that they'd like to see more role models during their learning experience, and we know that visibility is important. This resource intends to make that easy for you. Be creative!

## Icons



**Marsha P. Johnson** (1945 - 1992) was an American civil rights activist and 'street queen' from Manhattan, NYC. A fixture within the Christopher Street LGBT community, Johnson is best known for her involvement in the 1969 Stonewall uprising; where patrons fought back against oppressive police raids. She was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front and S.T.A.R (Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries), where she advocated for homeless trans folks, drag queens and runaway youth. Johnson died under suspicious circumstances in 1992 but her legacy lives on.



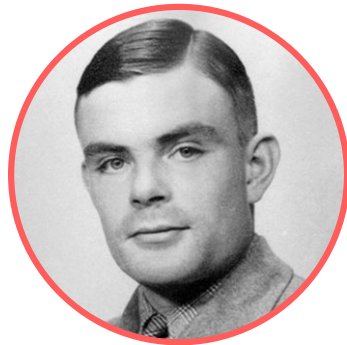
**Rita Mae Brown** (1944 - Present) is an American author, feminist and lesbian rights activist, who was a key participant in both the Anti-War Movement and the US Gay Liberation Movement in the 1960s. Brown protested the National Organisation for Women's disregard for lesbian women and was involved in the 'Lavender Menace' zap - organised by an informal group of radical lesbian feminists - during the Second Congress to Unite Women in 1970. She co wrote 'The Woman Identified Woman' manifesto, now considered a foundational turning point document.



**Hans Scholl** (1918 - 1943) was a founder of the White Rose resistance movement, which emerged in 1942 in Nazi Germany. Along with his sister Sophie, fellow students and academics at the University of Munich; Scholl organised the White Rose group, which created and distributed anti-Nazi leaflets. Years earlier, Scholl was arrested for engaging in a same-sex relationship, which he was open about. Contemporary scholars regard his trial for homosexuality as being a crucial factor behind the dissident politics of both Hans Scholl and his sister. They were arrested and executed in 1943.



**Audre Lorde** (1934 - 1992) was a Caribbean-American writer, civil rights activist and feminist. She is known as one of the most prominent essayists and poets; highlighting intersectionality, gender, sexuality and race, whilst being credited for her intense emotional expression. A self-identified lesbian, Lorde came out publicly by reading 'Love Poem' in 1973. Lorde politicised every aspect of herself, including her battle with cancer, articulating her experiences in powerful prose. Poet Sonia Sanchez describes Lorde as "...a burst of light at a time when a lot of darkness was moving amongst us."



**Alan Turing** (1912 - 1954) was a British scientist and mathematician. During WWII, Turing initiated major advancements in code-breaking - predominantly German ciphers - which played a central role in enabling the Allies to defeat the Nazis. Yet, in 1952 Turing was convicted of 'homosexual acts' - subsequently accepting chemical castration as an alternative to prison. In 1954, he died of cyanide poisoning - which an inquest determined as suicide. He was posthumously pardoned in 2013, providing impetus for the "Alan Turing law" of 2017 which granted pardons to all men convicted of same-sex relations.



**Harvey Milk** (1930 - 1978) was the first openly gay elected official in Californian history. Known as the "Mayor of Castro Street", Milk campaigned for gay rights and was elected in 1977 to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Throughout his last campaign, he began to receive regular death threats, and recorded his thoughts on tape in case one materialised. He stated that: "...if a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door". Tragically, Milk was assassinated less than a year after taking office. The lenient sentence afforded to his assassin sparked a series of violent riots in 1979: the "White Night Riots".



**Alicia Garza** (1981 - Present) is an African-American activist, writer, self-identified queer woman and co-founder of the Black Lives Matter movement. Garza is credited with inspiring the rallying call following a 2013 open love-letter to black people which she published on Facebook, closing with "...our lives matter - Black Lives Matter". In 2015, Garza led the Freedom Ride to Ferguson, Missouri - where she helped to establish chapters of BLM across the States, and has organised a series of protests against police brutality. She has been awarded the Bayard Rustin Community Activist Award twice for her work fighting racism.





**Peter Staley** (1961 - Present) is an American HIV/AIDS rights activist, best known for his work with ACT UP during the initial HIV/AIDS epidemic throughout the 1980s and 1990s. He and others rallied to raise awareness about the HIV/AIDS epidemic, lobbied for access to drugs and facilitated support to victims at a time when the US Government was actively ignoring the deaths of thousands of predominantly gay men. In 1989, he protested at the Fifth International Conference on AIDS, calling for improved access to treatment. Staley features heavily throughout the 2012 documentary "How to Survive a Plague".



**Jackie Forster** (1926 - 1998) was a news reporter, actress and lesbian rights activist. Born in Islington, London she attended St Leonard's School in Fife, Scotland. After coming out publicly, she joined the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) and attended the first British Gay Pride march in 1971. She was a founder of the UK Gay Liberation Front as well as Sappho magazine - which ran from 1972-1981, covering and supporting lesbian's causes. Until her death, Forster was a member of the Lesbian Archive and Information Centre (LAIC) - which is now part of the Glasgow Women's Library.



**Mark Ashton** (1960 - 1987) was a British gay rights activist, who co-founded the support group Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM). The group operated during the UK miners' strike of 1984-85, raising funds for the striking miners. The bonds forged between miners and LGBT activists as a result of the group's work proved to have a lasting legacy, with a resolution to support LGBT rights passing at the Labour Party's 1985 conference after block voting from the National Union of Mineworkers. Ashton died shortly after being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1987. LGSM is the focus of the 2014 movie Pride.



**Storme DeLarverie** (1920 - 2014) was a singer, butch presenting lesbian and civil rights activist who is best known for her involvement in the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan during the summer of 1969. Described by friends as rebellious, DeLarverie is thought to have been the spark that ignited the riots after being clubbed by police officers during a raid. Turning to the observing crowd, bleeding, she is alleged to have cried: "Why don't you do something?" - after which the bar's patrons fought back. Following the riots, she was a volunteer street patrol worker, protecting those who attended the city's lesbian bars from violence.



**Lynn Conway** (1938 - Present) is a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (Emerita) at the University of Michigan and a transgender activist. In the 1960s, she worked for IBM and made leading contributions to computer science - including the invention of generalised dynamic instruction handling, used by computer processors to improve performance. In 1968, she was fired by IBM after revealing that she intended to transition, and "restarted" her career afterwards. She continued to pave the way in her field, and later publicly revealed that she was trans in order to join the fight for equality.



**Sylvester James** (1947 - 1988) known by the stage name Sylvester, was an American singer and activist. In popular culture, he is best known for his song "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)", released in 1978. Openly gay and famous for his androgynous appearance, Sylvester was a fixture within the San Francisco LGBT community both before and after he achieved commercial success. Diagnosed with AIDS in 1987, he sought to raise awareness of the impact that the virus was having within the African-American community. Prior to his death, he ensured that royalties from his music would be donated to AIDS charities.



**Paris Lees** (Unknown - Present) is a British journalist, media personality, and transgender rights campaigner. Lees became the first trans woman to present on BBC Radio 1 and Channel 4, using her position to advocate for greater awareness of the prejudices faced by trans people. In 2013, she became the first openly trans person to appear on BBC's Question Time show, and in 2018 she became the first openly trans woman to appear in an edition of British Vogue. She later became a permanent columnist for the fashion magazine. Lees is currently involved in the All About Trans project, to change media perceptions of trans people.



**Terry Higgins** (1945 - 1982) was a Hansard reporter at the House of Commons and a nightclub DJ, who was one of the first people known to die of an AIDS-related illness in the UK. After collapsing at London based nightclub Heaven, Higgins was admitted to St Thomas Hospital and died on Sunday 4th July 1982. Afterwards, Higgins' partner Rupert Whitaker and friend Martyn Butler established the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) - a community group committed to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, raising funds for research and providing support to those affected.



**Patrick Harvie** (1973 - Present) is the co-convenor of the Scottish Green Party and a Member of the Scottish Parliament. From 1997 until his election, he worked as a youth sexual health worker within the Gay Men's Project, and during this time he was active in campaigning for the repeal of Section 28 (Clause 2a in Scotland). Shortly after his first election win in 2003, Harvie proposed civil partnership legislation - which sparked debate around the issue. In 2008, he was elected as co-convenor of the Scottish Green Party - a historic move, as he became the first openly bisexual party leader in Scotland.



**Ellen DeGeneres** (1958 - Present) is an American actor, talk-show host, comedian and producer who is known worldwide for her wholesome and bubbly persona. From 1994-98, she starred in 'Ellen' - a popular sitcom in which she played the title role. In 1997, she made television history when her character publicly came out as lesbian - and, concurrently, she personally did the same on the Oprah Winfrey show and in a Time magazine feature. This made her the first openly lesbian actress to play an openly lesbian character on television - a move which attracted worldwide attention.





**Barbara Gittings** (1932 - 2007) was an American LGBT rights activist, and early organiser of the New York chapter of Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the USA's first lesbian rights organisation. Gittings was involved in many of the earliest LGBT actions and movements across the States. In the 1960s, she co-led the first protests against the ban on the employment of gay people in the US Government. Later, she a leading voice in the movement urging the American Psychiatric Association to drop homosexuality as a mental illness. She also fought against the concept and practice of gay conversion therapy across the States.



**Larry Kramer** (1935 - Present) is an American author, playwright, LGBT and HIV/AIDS rights activist. He co-founded both the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in 1982 during the early days of the AIDS epidemic, and AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) - a direct action advocacy group. Frustrated with the apathy towards those affected by the epidemic, and inaccessible treatment, Kramer became a prominent, radical voice for a community which had been disregarded. Kramer was tireless in his efforts to raise awareness and end the epidemic. His award-winning autobiographical play 'The Normal Heart' explores this era.



**Kasha Nabagesera** (1980 - Present) is a Ugandan LGBT rights activist, founder and executive director of LGBT rights organisation Freedom & Roam Uganda (FARUG). Considered the "founding mother" of Uganda's LGBT rights movement, in 1999 she began to publicly campaign to end homophobic prejudice in the nation, where homosexuality remains illegal. She has spoken of experiencing oppression and discrimination throughout her life and, in 2010, a Ugandan newspaper published the names of LGBT Ugandans - Nabagesera was included, and she sued the outlet.



**Tim Hopkins** (1957 - Present) is a Scottish LGBT rights campaigner, who is a founding member of The Equality Network. He campaigned against Section 28 (Clause 2a) in the 1980s, and helped to organise Scotland's first gay pride march in 1995. Hopkins has played a key role in most of Scotland's LGBT policy and legislative advancements; notably including the repeal of Section 28, the introduction of LGBT-inclusive hate crime laws and equal marriage. In 2015, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Edinburgh, in which he was described as a tireless activist.



**Pedro Zamora** (1972 - 1994) was a Cuban-American television personality and HIV/AIDS activist. With his appearance on MTV's "The Real World: San Francisco", Zamora became one of the first openly gay men living with AIDS on national television. He used the platform to raise awareness of LGBT issues and his commitment ceremony with his partner, Sean Sasser, was the first ever televised same-sex ceremony. Zamora made his career as an AIDS educator, lecturing at schools, colleges and churches across the country. After his death, then-President Bill Clinton publicly thanked Zamora for his work.



**Sylvia Rivera** (1951 - 2002) was an American transgender rights activist and a founding member of both the US Gay Liberation Front and S.T.A.R (Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries) - a group which helped homeless young drag queens and trans women of colour. A regular attendee at the Stonewall Inn, she claimed that she was present during the 1969 riots. Throughout her life, Rivera was homeless and spent time living at the Christopher Street Docks in New York City. She always fought for those within the LGBT community whom she believed were being left behind by mainstream society.



**Laverne Cox** (1984 - Present) is an American actress and LGBT rights advocate, who rose to mainstream prominence in the Netflix series "Orange is the New Black" for which she became; the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for acting, to have a Madame Tussauds wax figure and to appear on the cover of TIME magazine. She has consistently used her platform to increase awareness of trans issues, championing the rights of trans people of colour. She received an Honorary Doctorate from The New School for her advocacy work.



**Maureen Colquhoun** (1928 - Present) is a British economist and former Labour Party politician. Elected as the Member of Parliament for Northampton North in 1974, she was a vocal advocate of women's causes. In 1975, Colquhoun became Britain's first openly lesbian MP after separating from her husband and entering a relationship with Sappho magazine publisher Barbara Todd. Afterwards, she was deselected by her constituency party, who cited her sexuality and feminism as the reason why. Whilst this was overturned by Labour's National Executive Committee, she lost her seat in the next election.



**Karl Heinrich Ulrichs** (1825 - 1895) was a German writer and one of the earliest pioneers of the gay rights movement. Initially, he wrote under a pseudonym after telling his family and friends that he was same-sex attracted, but he later began to publish under his real name. His work focussed on human sexuality and he campaigned for Germany's anti-homosexuality laws to be repealed, giving evidence at the Congress of German Jurists in 1867. Many of his books were banned by authorities. Ahead of his time, in 1870 he wrote that gay people have inalienable rights. There are now streets named after him across Germany.



**Bayard Rustin** (1912 - 1987) was an openly gay activist and leader across American social movements who is best known for his civil rights activism. He organised the 1947 Freedom Ride and became a strategist for the Civil Rights Movement from 1955-1968. He was the chief organiser of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King Jr delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Rustin was routinely attacked by political opponents due to his sexuality, and often avoided being a public spokesperson - but, in the 1980s, he overcame that and publicly advocated for gay and lesbian issues.





**Sally Ride** (1951 - 2012) was an American astronaut and engineer, who became the first American woman, the youngest American astronaut, and the first known lesbian or gay astronaut to travel to space in 1983. After answering an advertisement in a student newspaper seeking applicants for NASA's space program, Ride joined in 1978. Prior to her first flight as a crew member for space shuttle *Challenger*, she faced ridicule in the media due to her gender - and was asked belittling questions during press conferences. After her career in NASA, Ride co-wrote seven books encouraging children to study science.



**Oscar Wilde** (1854 - 1900) was an Irish poet and playwright, best known for his novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and play "The Importance of Being Earnest", which brought him fame and success. In 1895, at the height of his career, Wilde took the Marquess of Queensberry - the father of his lover Lord Alfred Douglas - to court for criminal libel. The trial revealed evidence that forced Wilde to drop his charges but resulted in his own arrest for engaging in same-sex relations. He was convicted and sentenced to two years of hard labour. Upon his release, he moved to Paris, France: where he died - aged 46 - in impoverished exile.



**Christine Burns MBE** (1954 - Present) is a British political activist, known for her work with campaign group "Press For Change (PFC)" - which advocates for transgender equality across the UK, using social education and legal case work to do so. PFC worked with the Home Office in the early 2000s to develop the principles of the Gender Recognition Act (2004), with Burns becoming one of the first to receive a gender recognition certificate when the bill passed. She is also an internationally recognised health advisor, having worked with the NHS to ensure that their practices were inclusive of trans needs and identities.



**Kezia Dugdale** (1981 - Present) is a Member of the Scottish Parliament and former leader of the Scottish Labour Party. In 2016, Dugdale publicly came out and became, at the time, the fourth openly LGB leader of a Scottish political party. She later stated that she was outed against her will by a magazine after asking for quotes on her sexuality not to be included - but since then, Dugdale has raised awareness of LGBT issues nationally. She has vocally supported LGBT-inclusive education in schools and became a Co-Convenor of the Scottish Parliament's first Cross Party Group dedicated to the advancement of LGBT equality.



**David Mundell** (1962 - Present) born in Dumfries, is a Scottish Conservative Party politician and the current Secretary of State for Scotland in the UK Government. In 2016, he became the first openly gay Conservative cabinet minister when he publicly came out by writing a blog post on his website. Speaking at the time, Mundell stated that the prospect of coming out was "harder than standing for election" but described the journey as ultimately being "positive and uplifting". Mundell received support from across the political sphere, including from the Prime Minister.





**Billie Jean King** (1943 - Present) is an American former World Number One tennis player. She was the first prominent openly lesbian female athlete, and advocated for gender equality throughout her career. She is perhaps most remembered for her 1973 match against former men's champion Bobby Riggs, which became known as the "Battle of the Sexes". After publicly daring King to play him, Riggs was defeated in the match - which was viewed by an audience of 90 million. Still regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time, King also founded the Women's Tennis Association and the Women's Sports Foundation.



**Stefan Hoggan** (1992 - Present) is a Scottish retired para swimmer, swimming coach and triathlete. Born with part of his right arm missing, Hoggan was subject to bullying at school but built resilience through sport. Refusing to allow his disability to interfere, he broke through as an upcoming athlete, representing the United Kingdom in a series of major international sporting events. Hoggan is a member of Scottish Disability Sport's Young Persons' Sport Panel, and has continued to open doors for young athletes. Since retiring, he has spoken out against bullying and is an advocate for LGBT inclusion and mental health awareness in schools.



**Gordon Aikman, BEM** (1985 - 2017) was a political researcher and campaigner - born in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. Whilst he was Director of Research for the Better Together campaign during the Scottish Independence referendum of 2014, Aikman was diagnosed with motor neurone disease. He launched an immediate campaign calling for MND cure research funding to be increased - raising more than £500,000. He succeeded in lobbying The Scottish Government to double the number of MND nurses in Scotland and following his death in 2017, the University of Edinburgh renamed a lecture theatre in his honour.



**Sir David Lee Pearson, CBE** (1974 - Present) is a multiple gold medallist Equestrian and Paralympian, considered one of the most successful athletes in British history. Throughout his career, he has won 30 gold medals representing Great Britain for European, World, and Paralympic titles. Born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, Pearson lives with plastic splints around his legs and was unable to stand on his feet until he was 6 years old. He is one of the world's most visible openly gay athletes and ahead of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, Pearson was outspoken in protest of Russia's anti-gay policies.



**Dame Carol Ann Duffy, DBE** (1955 - Present) is a Scottish poet and playwright. She became the first woman, Scot, and lesbian to have been appointed Britain's *Poet Laureate* in 2009. She is renowned for her eloquent poetry which explores themes including contemporary culture, gender issues, and social inequality. Duffy describes her own style as adopting "simple words, but in a complicated way". She holds honorary doctorates from numerous universities, and her work is studied in schools across the United Kingdom. She is regarded as one of Britain's most loved and successful modern poets.

# Curricular Examples

The Icons in this booklet have been purposely chosen in order to complement the teaching flexibility allowed for within Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence, and to remain relevant to issues already covered within existing subject areas. In order to emphasise the ease with which LGBT role models can be inserted into existing teaching content, there are two brief subject specific examples provided below.

## Social Studies: History

If you teach History, then every one of our Icons will be relevant in some way to various areas of your existing course content. Let's imagine that you are teaching World War II with your classes:



When you are covering the rise of the Third Reich, why not include a lesson on some of the early resistance to the Nazi Party? This will allow you to discuss the White Rose group with your class, and reference [Hans Scholl \(pp.2\)](#) who you'll remember distributed anti-Nazi leaflets across Germany with his sister Sophie.

Or when you're discussing the defeat of the Nazis, you can cover [Alan Turing \(pp. 2\)](#) who cracked the enigma code and helped the Allies win the War, but was later prosecuted for "homosexual acts".

You can use our supplementary resource Moments to link this to the fact that LGBT people were also targeted by the Nazi Party and when the concentration camps were liberated, many gay men were re-arrested and imprisoned following the War. What does this tell us about attitudes towards LGBT people during wartime? Was it alright that Turing was prosecuted? You can also show your class the movie "The Imitation Game" (rated 12A) which is about Turing's life and work.

## Health & Wellbeing: Personal, Social Education

Many of the Icons featured will directly relate to areas of discussion in PSE. You can use some of them as case studies when discussing equalities or real life experiences of prejudice.



When you are discussing prejudice and stereotypes, why not use astronaut [Sally Ride \(pp.7\)](#) as a case study? Despite being an incredibly successful astronaut and space engineer, she was subject to ridicule from the media ahead of her first space flight because she was a woman. What does this tell us about gender stereotypes and expectations? Have things changed since then? Similarly, [Billie Jean King \(pp.8\)](#) could be cited for discussion here.

Or, if you are covering equalities and rights - you could discuss how diverse communities of people have worked together to achieve a goal, by referencing [Mark Ashton \(pp.3\)](#) and the work of Lesbians and Gay Men Support the Miners (LGSM) in advancing LGBT rights with the help of the National Union of Mineworkers. LGSM supported the miners during their strike, created friendships and challenged public perceptions of LGBT people.



# What Next?

Over the next few pages are **ready to use graphics** featuring some of our Icons, which are both visual and educational. They have been designed to make it easy for you to photo-copy or print them, in order to display notable LGBT people across your classroom or wider school community.



Photo: Forrester High School, "LGBT and Allies" stall

There are many ways that you can use the information in this document. You may want to create a display board with pupils (as above), organise a class project, incorporate some Icons into your existing lessons or simply place some of our graphics on the walls of your classroom. Regardless of what you do, it is the visibility and discourse that is important. LGBT history teaches young people about diverse social movements and facilitates a deeper understanding of historical oppression and injustice, but it also provides positive role models for LGBT youth. Be creative!



Photo: Hillpark Secondary, "Great LGBT Bake Off"





Photo: Fire Brigade Union, Icons Visual Display

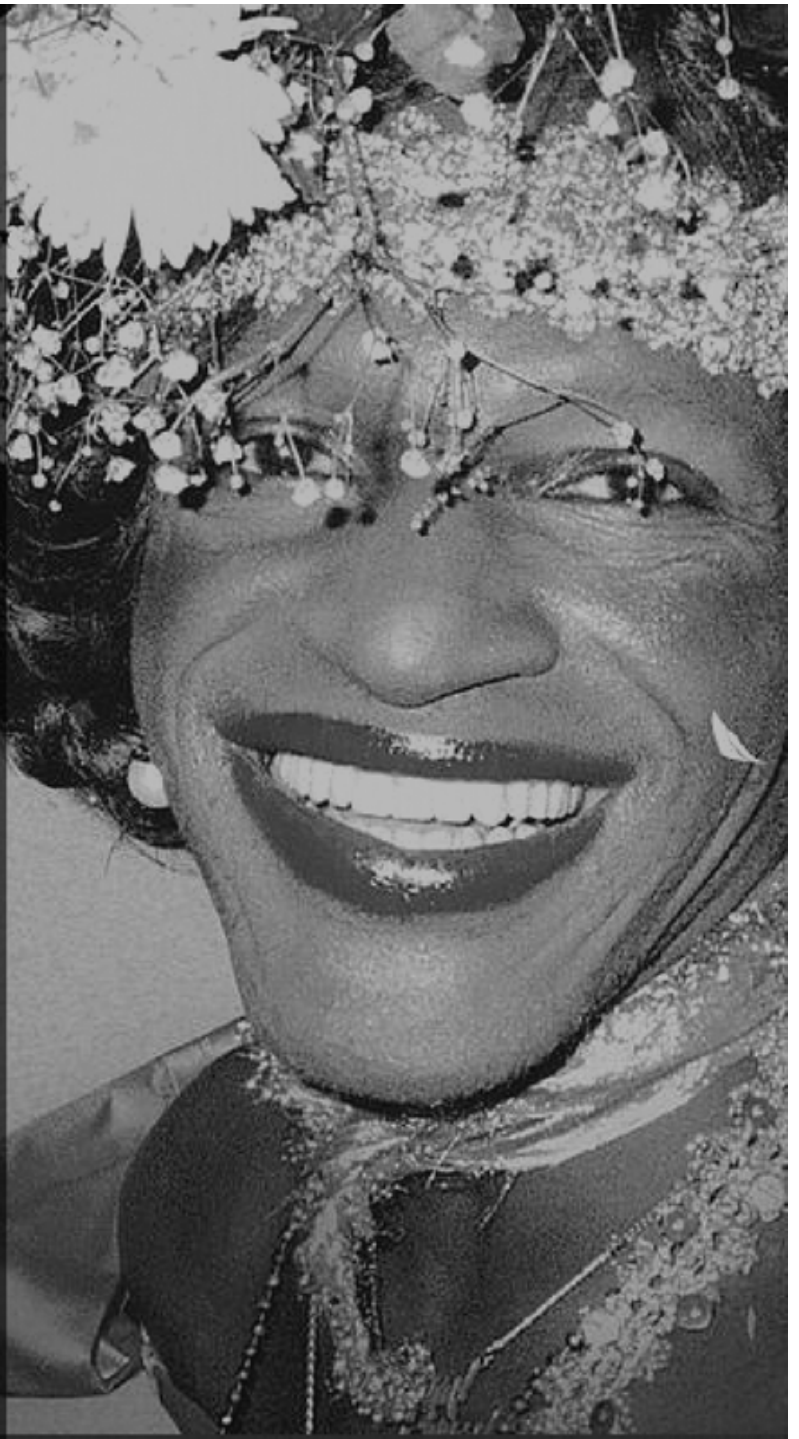
## Graphics

Want more? You can download our "Icons Graphics Pack" which features twenty eight ready to use graphics, as well as accompanying graphics featuring key events (see resource: Moments) which defined LGBT history at: [www.tiecampaing.co.uk/resources](http://www.tiecampaing.co.uk/resources)

### MARSHA P. JOHNSON (1945 - 1992)

Johnson was an American civil rights activist and 'street queen' from Manhattan, NYC. A fixture within the Christopher Street LGBT community, Johnson is best known for her involvement in the 1969 Stonewall uprising; where patrons fought back against oppressive police raids. She was a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front and S.T.A.R (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), where she advocated for homeless trans folks, drag queens and runaway youth. Johnson died under suspicious circumstances in 1992 but her legacy lives on.

  tiecampaing





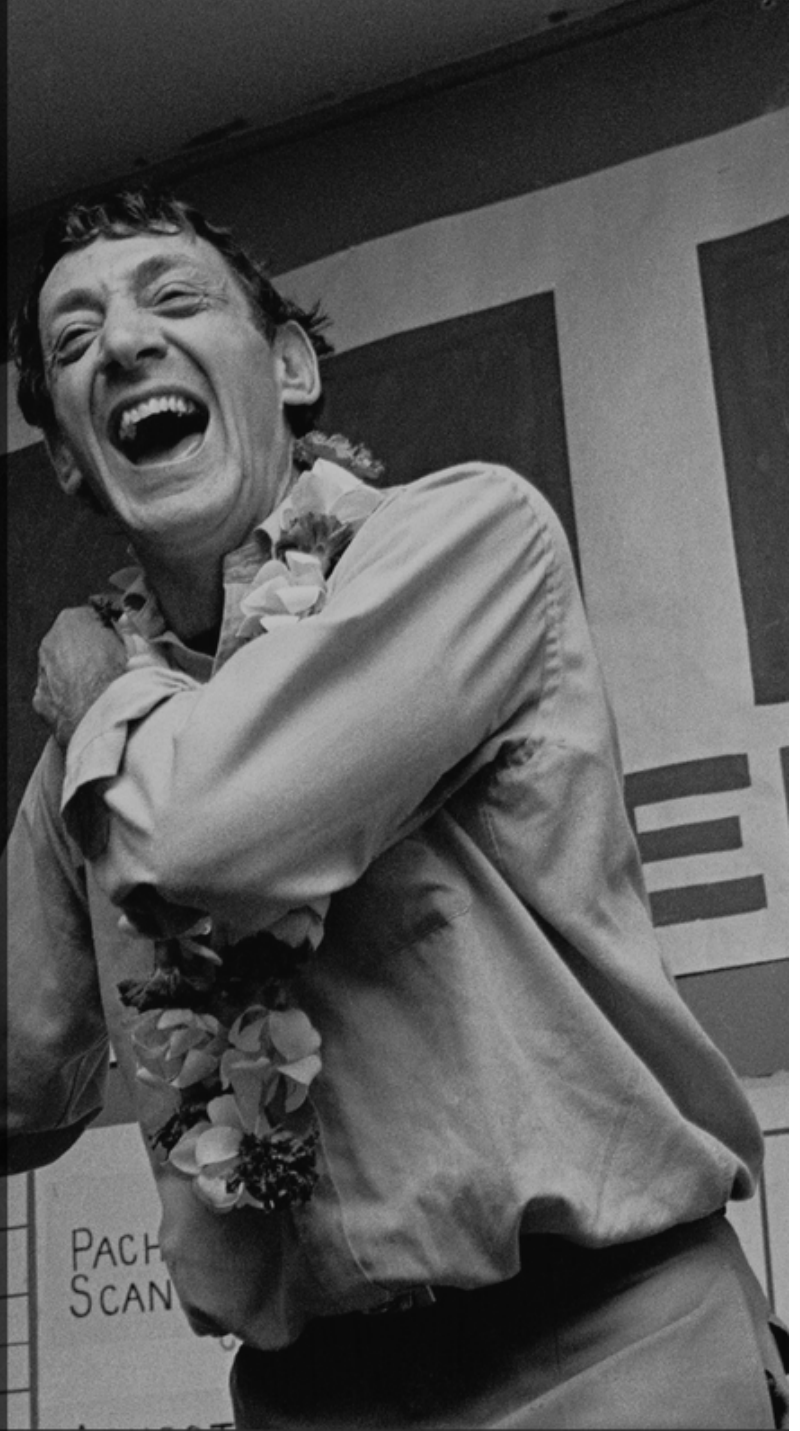


## HARVEY MILK

### (1930 - 1978)

Milk was the first openly gay elected official in Californian history. Known as the "Mayor of Castro Street", Milk campaigned for gay rights and was elected in 1977 to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Throughout his last campaign, he began to receive regular death threats, and recorded his thoughts on tape in case one materialised. He stated that: "...if a bullet should enter my brain, let that bullet destroy every closet door". Tragically, Milk was assassinated less than a year after taking office. The lenient sentence afforded to his assassin sparked a series of violent riots in 1979.

  tiecampaign







## ALAN TURING

### (1912 - 1954)

Turing was a British scientist and mathematician. During WWII, Turing initiated major advancements in code-breaking - predominantly German ciphers, which played a central role in enabling the Allies to defeat the Nazis. Yet, in 1952 Turing was prosecuted for 'homosexual acts' and accepted chemical castration as an alternative to prison. In 1954, he died of cyanide poisoning - which an inquest determined as suicide. He was posthumously pardoned in 2013, providing impetus for the "Alan Turing law" of 2017.



  tiecampaign



## MARK ASHTON

### (1960 - 1987)

Ashton was a British gay rights activist, who co-founded the support group Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM). The group operated during the UK miners' strike of 1984-85, raising funds for the striking miners. The bonds forged between miners and LGBT activists as a result of the group's work proved to have a lasting legacy, with a resolution to support LGBT rights passing at the Labour Party's 1985 conference after block voting from the National Union of Mineworkers. Ashton died shortly after being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1987. LGSM is the focus of the 2014 movie *Pride*.



  tiecampaign

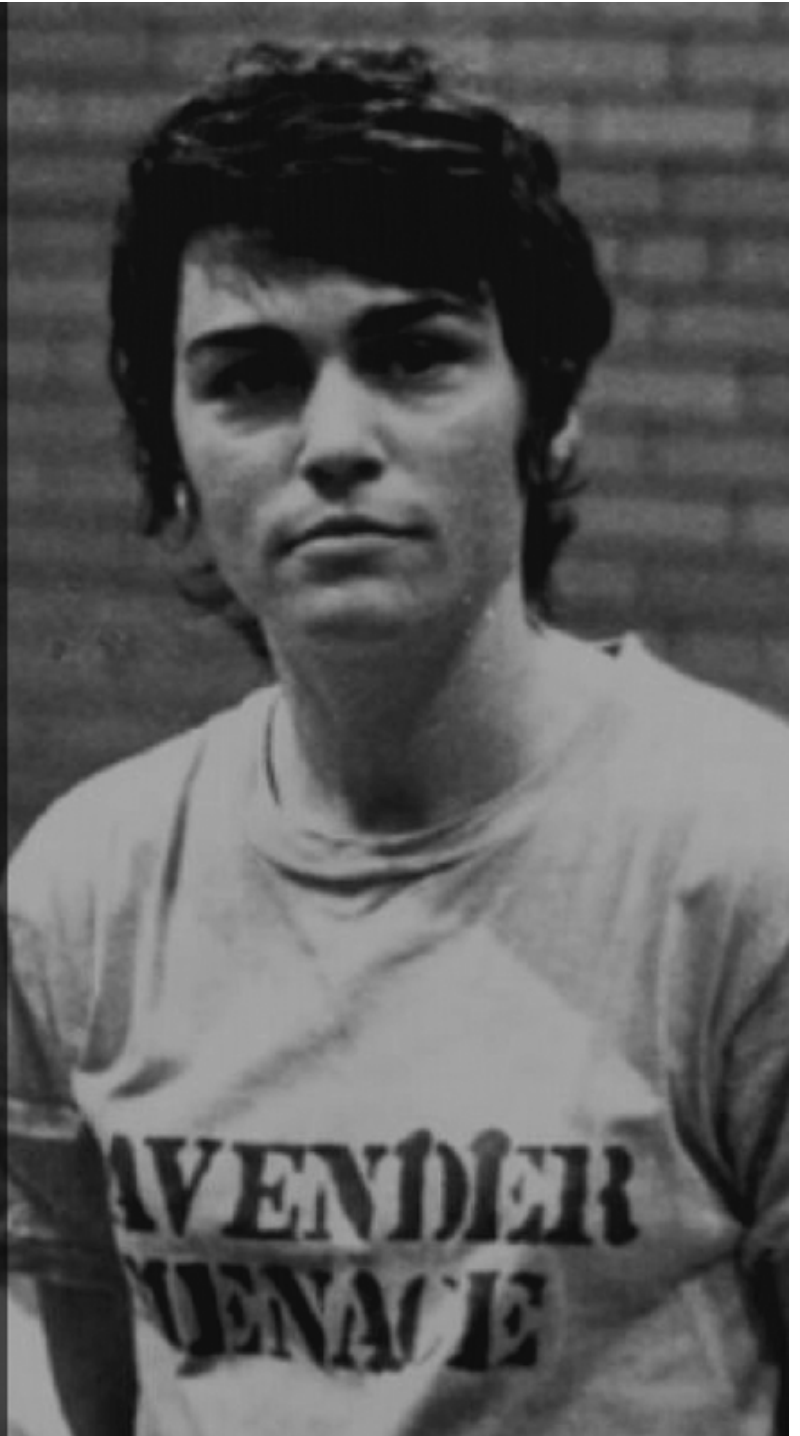


## RITA MAE BROWN

(1944 - Present)

Brown is an American author, feminist and lesbian rights activist, who was a key participant in both the Anti-War Movement and the US Gay Liberation Movement in the 1960s. Brown protested the National Organisation for Women's disregard for lesbian women and was involved in the 'Lavender Menace' zap during the Second Congress to Unite Women in 1970. She co-wrote 'The Woman-Identified Woman' manifesto, now considered a foundational turning point document.

  [tieceampaign](#)







# BAYARD RUSTIN

(1912 - 1987)

Rustin was an openly gay activist and leader across American social movements, notably civil rights; gay rights; socialism and nonviolence. He is best known for his civil rights activism, having been involved in organising the 1947 Freedom Ride and becoming a strategist for the Civil Rights Movement from 1955 - 1968. He was the chief organiser of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his historic 'I Have a Dream' speech. Rustin was routinely attacked by political opponents due to his sexuality, and often avoided being a public spokesperson as a result. However, in the 80s, he began to publicly advocate for gay and lesbian issues.

  tiecampaign



## LAVERNE COX

(1984 - PRESENT)

Cox is an American actress and LGBT rights advocate, who rose to mainstream prominence in the Netflix series 'Orange Is The New Black' for which she became; the first openly transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for acting, to have a Madame Tussauds wax figure and to appear on the cover of TIME magazine. She has consistently used her platform to advocate for increased awareness of trans issues, predominantly the violence and bullying that the trans community are subject to. Cox has also championed the rights of trans people of colour, routinely discussing stories and experiences during media interviews and talk-show segments. She received an Honorary Doctorate from The New School for her advocacy work.

  tiecampaign









@tiececampaign