

Words in context

Thematischer Oberstufenwortschatz Englisch

LGBT+ rights

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*“All of us who are **openly gay** are living and writing the history of our **movement**. We are no more — and no less — heroic than the **suffragists** and **abolitionists** of the 19th century; and the labor organizers, **Freedom Riders**¹, **Stonewall**² demonstrators, and environmentalists of the 20th century. We are ordinary people, living our lives, and trying as civil-rights activist Dorothy Cotton said, to ‘fix what ain’t right’ in our society.”*

Tammy Baldwin, first openly gay US Senator

Alan Turing (1912-1954), a brilliant British mathematician, is considered the father of computer science (he developed the idea of a universal computing machine) and artificial intelligence (his Turing test has greatly influenced debates on AI). During World War II he played a leading role in cracking the Enigma code, thus helping to shorten the war.

However, in 1952, he was **convicted** of **homosexual activity**, a crime in the UK at the time. Two years later he was found dead from cyanide poisoning. It is not known whether it was **suicide** or an accident.

Homosexuality was **decriminalised** in the UK in 1967. But it was only 42 years later, that the Prime Minister Gordon Brown posthumously apologised: *‘This recognition of Alan’s status as one of Britain’s most famous **victims of homophobia** is another step towards **equality** and long overdue. But even more than that, Alan deserves recognition for his contribution to **humankind**.’*

Finally, in 2013, Turing was **granted a royal pardon** by the Queen. In 2017, the British government passed “Turing’s Law” to posthumously pardon thousands of gay and **bisexual** men who had been convicted because of their **sexuality**.

A few LGBT+ milestones in the UK

1951	Roberta Cowell is the first known British trans woman to undergo gender reassignment surgery .
1968	Sexual Offences Act decriminalises homosexuality as long as it is consensual , in private and between two men aged 21 or over.
1972	The first Pride march is held in London – the theme is being out and proud .

1 **Freedom Riders** US civil rights activists who rode on buses to protest against segregation in 1961.

2 **Stonewall** see top of page 4

LGBT+

Stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and plus (+). The plus represents other sexual identities, including asexual and pansexual. Some of these terms can be used in an offensive way so it is always best to ask someone which terms they prefer.

openly gay gay <i>adj</i> movement suffragist	offen gay, offen schwul, offen lesbisch gay, schwul, lesbisch, homosexuell Bewegung Befürworter(in) des Wahlrechts, insbesondere der Frauenrechtsbewegung (zu Beginn des 20. Jh) Person, die die Abschaffung von etwas unterstützt, früher insbesondere der Sklaverei
abolitionist	
to convict sb homosexual activity suicide	jdm. verurteilen homosexuelle Handlung Selbstmord
to decriminalise victims of homophobia equality humankind	entkriminalisieren Opfer von Homophobie, Opfer von Schwulenfeindlichkeit Gleichberechtigung Menschheit
to grant sb a royal pardon	jdm. eine königliche Begnadigung gewähren
trans woman to undergo gender reassignment surgery Sexual Offences Act consensual pride being out proud	Transfrau sich einer Geschlechtsumwandlung unterziehen Gesetz über sexuelle Straftaten einvernehmlich Stolz, hier: politische Demonstration für Gleichberechtigung hier: offen schwul / homosexuell / lesbisch leben stolz



1989	Stonewall – today Europe's largest LGBT+ organisation – is founded to fight against Section 28 , an offensive and highly controversial piece of legislation that stigmatised lesbian, gay and bi people and stopped homosexuality being talked about in schools. The organisation took its name from the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village, NYC. After police raided The Stonewall Inn one night, the gay community started fighting back, frustrated by police brutality. It was a key event in the fight for gay equal rights.
1998	The Human Rights Act protects the rights of LGBT+ people to be treated as equals regardless of gender, sexual orientation , race or age.
2000	LGBT+ people may openly serve in the Armed Forces.
2001	The age of consent is lowered to 16, the same as for heterosexuals .
2002	Same-sex couples are allowed to adopt.
2003	It becomes illegal to discriminate against LGBT+ people in the workplace.
2004	Same-sex couples may enter civil partnerships, giving them the same rights and responsibilities as straight couples. The Gender Recognition Act is passed, meaning that trans people are allowed to change their legal gender (the one they were assigned at birth). They may apply for a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC), which allows them to have the right gender on their birth certificate. However, the only options are "male" or "female", thus non-binary people are not recognised.
2010	The Equality Act provides equal treatment in access to employment as well as private and public services , whatever a person's age, disability, gender reassignment , marriage, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
2013	Same-sex couples are allowed to get married in England and Wales; Scotland follows the next year.
2016	There are 40 LGBT+ MPs in the UK Parliament, at the time the most in any parliament in the world.
2020	Same-sex marriage becomes legal in Northern Ireland.

LGBT+ people still experience **hate crimes** because of their **sexual** and/or **gender identity**. There are still unjust laws and processes, such as getting a GRC, that can be traumatic. And there are still countries where simply being LGBT+ is a **criminal act** that **carries the penalty of imprisonment** and/or death. However, there are also many members of the LGBT+ community as well as **allies** (typically those who are straight and/or **cis gender**) around the world fighting to **bring awareness** and equality to everyone. As Barbara Gittings, a prominent US LGBT+ activist once said, *"Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts."*

Section 28
offensive
controversial
to stigmatise sb
bi (= bisexual)
community
Human Rights Act
to treat sb as equal
gender

► sex

sexual orientation
age of consent
to discriminate against sb
same-sex
rights and responsibilities
straight
assigned at birth
non-binary
Equality Act
public services
gender reassignment
same-sex marriage

hate crime
sexual identity
gender identity
criminal act
to carry the penalty of
ally
cis gender

to bring awareness

Artikel 28 (Gesetzestext)
beleidigend
umstritten, kontrovers
jdn. stigmatisieren, brandmarken
bisexuell
Gemeinschaft
Menschenrechtsgesetz
jdn. als Gleichberechtigte behandeln
(soziales oder selbst indentifiziertes)
Geschlecht
biologisches (anatomisches) Ge-
schlecht
sexuelle Orientierung
Mündigkeitsalter
jdn. diskriminieren
gleichgeschlechtlich
Rechte und Pflichten
nicht homosexuell, (straight)
bei der Geburt festgestellt / zugewiesen
nicht-binär
Gleichstellungsgesetz
öffentlicher Dienst
Geschlechtsumwandlung
gleichgeschlechtliche Ehe

Hasskriminalität
sexuelle Identität
Geschlechtsidentität
Straftat
mit Strafe von ... bestraft werden
Verbündete/r
Person, bei der das bei der Geburt
zugewiesene Geschlecht und die
persönliche Geschlechtsidentität nicht
divergieren
Bewusstsein schaffen



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