

A GUIDE TO LGBTQ+ FLAGS

Beyond the Rainbow

These flags represent sexual and gender identities. Please note that all sexualities include non-binary genders. Language can be limiting and has evolved to be inclusive of all genders. Some terms/flags might not precisely represent a person's sexual or gender identity but are used because it is the closest term/flag that describes their experience.



Pride Flag

The rainbow flag represents the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community and was created by Gilbert Baker. It was first flown in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978. The original flag consisted of eight horizontal stripes, pink (represents sex), red (represents life), orange (represents healing), yellow (represents sunlight), green (represents nature), turquoise (represents harmony), indigo (serenity), and violet (spirit), but pink was removed after a year due to fabric shortages.



Progressive Pride Flag

First created in 2018, the graphic artist, Daniel Quasar, designed the Progressive Pride Flag to highlight and honor Queer People of Color and the Transgender community. This flag has been adapted from the Baker Pride Flag (1978), and the Philadelphia Pride Flag (2017) which was introduced as a part of the city of Philadelphia's "More Color More Pride" campaign. The black (represents diversity) and brown (represents inclusivity) stripe honor Queer People of Color. The blue, pink, and white stripes represent the Transgender community.



Two-Spirit Pride Flag

"Two-spirit" refers to an Indigenous person who identifies as having both a masculine and a feminine spirit, and is used by some to describe their sexual, gender, and/or spiritual identity. They hold a gender identity outside of the binary man or woman.



Lesbian Flag

Designed by Emily Gwen in 2018, this flag is representative of the entire lesbian community with its gender variance. It shows dark orange (represents transgressive womanhood), light orange (represents independence), white (represents gender non-conformity), light pink (represents freedom), and dark pink (represents femininity).



Men-Loving-Men Flag

The term "gay" was first used as an adjective to describe male homosexuality, and over time, became used by the entire LGBTQ+ community along with the rainbow flag. For this reason, men-loving-men (mlm) created their own flag for mlm community. It shows green (represents community), light green (represents healing and joy), white (represents gender non-conformity), light blue (represents pure love and fortitude), and dark blue (represents diversity).



Asexual Flag

This flag came about after AVEN (Asexual Visibility and Education Network) held a contest on its forum boards to create a pride flag for those who identify as asexual (the lack of sexual attraction). It shows black (represents asexuality), gray (gray-asexuality), white (represents allosexuals), and purple (represents community).



Bisexual Flag

The flag was unveiled on December 5, 1998, at BiCafe's (an early bisexual website) 1st anniversary party. This flag represents bisexuals (sexual attraction to more than one gender). It shows pink (represents attraction to similar genders), purple (represents attraction to similar/different genders), and blue (represents attraction to different genders).



Pansexual Flag

In 2010, this flag was created for pansexuals (attraction to people regardless of their gender identity). It shows pink (represents attraction to women), yellow (represents attraction to all genders), and blue (represents attraction to men).



Transgender Flag

This flag was created in 1999 by Monica Helms, a transgender navy veteran, and first flown at a pride parade in Phoenix in 2000. It shows light blue (represents boy and masculinity), white (represents transitioning and gender non-conformity), and pink (represents girl and femininity).



Non-binary Flag

This flag was created by Kyle Rowan in 2014 for those who are non-binary (gender identity does not fit within the traditional man/woman binary). It shows yellow (represents genders that falls outside of the gender binary), white (represents embrace many or all genders), purple (represents combination of male and female), and black (represents absence of gender).



Genderqueer Flag

Designed by Marilyn Roxie design in June 2011 for those who are Genderqueer (who does not conform to conventional gender distinctions but identifies with neither, both, or a combination of genders). It shows lavender (represents androgyny), white (agender identities), and green (represents identities which are defined outside of and without reference to the binary).



Genderfluid Flag

Poole created this flag in 2012 for those who are Genderfluid (a gender identity which refers to a gender which varies over time). It shows pink (represents femininity), white (represents all genders), purple (represents femininity and masculinity), black (represents absence of gender), and blue (represents masculinity).

Sources

- unco.edu/gender-sexuality-resource-center/resources/pride-flags.aspx
- <https://cadehildreth.com/pride-flags/>
- <https://www.health.com/mind-body/different-pride-flags-what-they-represent>