



UCD LGBTQI+ Subgroup

# Intergenerational Friendship & Conversations Among the LGBTQI+ Community

Friday, 25th February 2022 at 4pm



# WELCOME

February is LGBTQI+ History Month. This is an important month in our yearly calendar, and we are delighted that you have been able to join us for our webinar *Intergenerational Friendship & Conversations Among the LGBTQI+ Community*. We are deeply thankful to our speakers for giving of their time and sharing their experiences with us.

These types of events would not be possible without the support of many people. We extend our sincere thanks to our colleagues, the members of the UCD LGBTQI+ Subgroup: Aleksandra Gajowy, David Corscadden, John Gilmore, Molly Greenough, Daragh McGee, Eimear O'Reilly, Conor O'Rourke, Noah Savage, Ché Smith, and Ernesto Vasquez del Aguila. We would also like to thank our colleagues in the UCD LGBTI Staff Network and UCDSU for their support.

We celebrate LGBTQI+ History Month for many reasons. During this month, we work to foster dialogue and promote equality, diversity and inclusion in the LGBTQI+ community so that we remain united, as one, for the great cause of equality for all. We continue to work to create a safe space for all LGBTQI+ people, of all generations, to come together to share experiences and obtain support. We celebrate our wonderful community by working to showcase the positive and successful role LGBTQI+ people have played through their activism throughout history. We remember this history, and we create and raise awareness of LGBTQI+ issues that different generations have experienced.

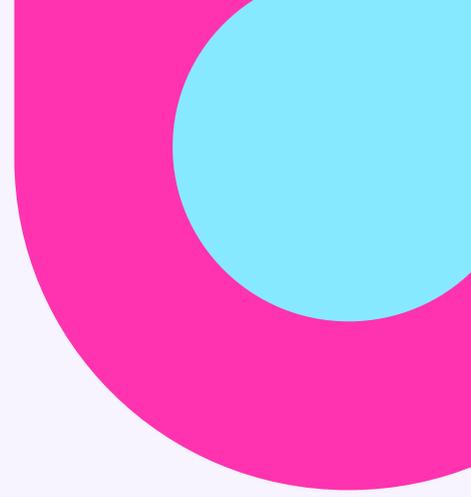
This short booklet gives an overview of some of the most important moments in the history of the LGBTQI+ community in Ireland. It is heartening to see how much work has been done, and we remain mindful of what previous generations have gone through to get us to where we are today. However, as we all know, the work of equality, diversity and inclusion is never done. We remember in particular our brothers and sisters the world over who do not enjoy the freedoms and privileges we do. We stand in solidarity with all those who suffer oppression.

In pride.

Paul D'Alton and Niamh Nestor

Co-chairs of the UCD LGBTQI+ Subgroup

# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY



<b>1861</b>	<p><i>Offences Against the Person Act</i> This act outlawed 'buggery', or penetrative sex between two men, among other practices. The punishment was life imprisonment or jail sentences of more than 10 years.</p>
<b>1970</b>	<p><i>Annual Picnic</i> Before Pride became an annual event in the 1980s, there was a picnic held in Merrion Square every year.</p>
<b>1973</b>	<p><i>The Sexual Liberation Movement (SLM)</i> Established by ten people in Trinity College, the SLM was diverse, inclusive, and discussed feminism, racism, colonialism, art, poetry, and literature. Their message was 'Only Connect!'.</p>
<b>1974</b>	<p><i>The First Pride March</i> On June 27th, 1974, ten people marched from the Department of Justice in St Stephen's Green to the British Embassy to protest against the criminalisation of homosexuality under the Offences Against the Persons Act.</p> <p>The Irish Gay Rights Movement was founded by members of the SLM who left to focus on gay rights in Dublin.</p>

# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY

**1977**

***Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform***

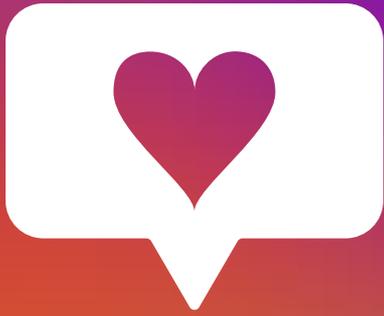
The campaign to decriminalise male homosexuality began in Ireland, having been abolished in England and Wales in 1967. The Campaign for Homosexual Law Reform focused on a legal case by university lecturer David Norris, stating that such laws contravened the Constitution's stand on privacy. They lost their High Court action in 1977, but would take the case to the Supreme Court.

**1979**

The National Gay Federation was set up. It leased a building in Temple Bar, Dublin as its HQ, which it called the Hirschfeld Centre. The Centre published a series of in-house magazines on political issues and on the AIDS crisis to come, but also provided a social network in Ireland.

***Ireland's First Pride Week***

The National Gay and Lesbian Federation organised Ireland's first Pride Week from June 25th to July 1st, 1979, to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Riots and to draw attention to the difficulties that the LGBTQI+ community in Ireland were facing.



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# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY

1983

## *Norris v. Attorney General*

David Norris brought his case for the decriminalisation of homosexuality to the Supreme Court, where it was rejected in 1983. His Senior Counsel included Mary Robinson, who would become the first female President of Ireland.

## *Declan Flynn*

The killers of Declan Flynn, who was murdered in Fairview Park the previous year, were given suspended sentences. The resulting outrage led to the first large-scale LGBTQI+ protest with about 900 people marching from Liberty Hall to Fairview Park. The march is cited as a turning point in Irish LGBTQI+ history.

## *GLEN*

The Gay and Lesbian Equality Network, was founded. The group would focus on legislation and social policy in Ireland.

## *First Pride Parade*

On June 25th, 1983, the National LGBT Federation organised the first Gay Pride parade in Ireland. Two hundred people walked from St Stephen's Green to the GPO on O'Connell Street.

1988

## *Norris v. Ireland*

Having lost the Supreme Court case, Norris went to the European Court of Human Rights which ruled that Ireland's laws criminalising certain acts between consenting adult men was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

## *GCN*

From the Hirschfeld Centre on February 10th, 1988, Gay Community News was published for the first time. The first issue was designed by Niall Sweeney, and contained a story about three LGBTQI+ women abseiling into the House of Lords in the UK, and an item on criminal law by a prominent barrister. It still runs to this day.

# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY

**1993**

***Decriminalisation***

In June 1993, Dáil Éireann passed legislation to decriminalise homosexuality in Ireland, marking a monumental change in Irish history. David Norris, who was now in the Seanad, wrote in The Irish Times on June 25th: "When, next week, this Bill is passed by Seanad Éireann and sent to the President for signature I will, for the first time in my life, feel that I am at last a full and equal citizen in my own country."

***Dr Lydia Foy requests change of gender***

Dr Foy applied to the Office of the Registrar General for a new birth certificate to reflect her gender and was refused. She would continue to High Court action.

**1998**

***The Employment Equality Act***

Introduced in 1998, the Employment Equality Act outlawed discrimination in employment and employment-related areas on multiple grounds, including sexual orientation.

**1999**

***'The Blackwater Lightship'***

AIDS had become a worldwide crisis in the 1980s. An Irish novel, Colm Tóibín's 'The Blackwater Lightship', brought AIDS right into mainstream Irish culture with its protagonist Declan.

**2000**

***The Equal Status Act***

Introduced in 2000, the Equal Status Act prohibits discrimination in the provision of goods and services, accommodation and education on the nine grounds of gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, and membership of the Traveller community.



**TRANS RIGHTS**  
*are*  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**

# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY

**2003**

**BeLongG To: Originating from a group called OutYouth, BeLong To was formed in 2003 after securing funding from the Department of Education as a youth service project.**

**2006**

***TENI***

**The Transgender Equality Network Ireland was founded. It would seek to improve the rights and equality of transgender people and their families in Ireland.**

***Zappone v. Revenue Commissioners (KAL case)***

**Ann Louise Gilligan and Katherine Zappone unsuccessfully sought recognition of their Canadian marriage at the Irish High Court. It was one of the first major cases in the recognition of same-sex marriage in Ireland. Zappone said: "...[To] the young people who right this very minute are preparing to marry... Can you imagine what it would be like if you were not allowed to marry the person you choose to love? That is what the judge has said to us."**

**2007**

***Marriage Equality***

**Founded in 2007, Marriage Equality was a grassroots advocacy organisation which set out to achieve civil marriage for LGBTQI+ people in Ireland.**

***Foy v. An t-Ard Chlaraitheoir and Others***

**Following previous unsuccessful legal actions, Dr Lydia Foy finally won at the High Court in a landmark case. The Court found that the State's failure to legislate to recognise transgender persons in their preferred gender breached the European Convention on Human Rights Act 2003.**

# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY

2010

## *The Civil Partnership Act*

Passed in 2010, the Civil Partnership Act set out rights that civil partners have, which were similar to those of married couples. However, the Act did not change the law on issues relating to children, e.g. guardianship or adoption.

The Gender Recognition Advisory Group was set up by the Minister for Social Protection following Dr Lydia Foy's High Court case.

## *LGBTIreland*

LGBTIreland was established by seven smaller LGBT helplines to offer a national service for Ireland.

2014

## *Foy v. An t-Ard Chlaraitheoir and Others*

Dr Lydia Foy's case against the State proceeds as the State had failed to enact laws recognising her rights as a transgendered person despite her High Court win six years previous. The case is settled in the High Court, effectively ending a twenty-one year campaign by Dr Foy. The State informed the judge it was the "expressed intention" of the Government to secure the enactment into law of the Gender Recognition Bill 2014, which would enable Dr Foy to get the certificate.

# IRISH LGBTQI+ HISTORY

**2015**

## *Same Sex Marriage*

Ireland legalised same-sex marriage on May 22nd, 2015 following the same-sex marriage referendum, becoming the first country to legalise gay marriage by popular vote (62% of votes in favour vs 38% against). Leo Varadkar TD, the Minister for Health at that time, stated: "For me, it wasn't just a referendum. It was more like a social revolution".

## *Gender Recognition Act*

The Oireachtas passed the Gender Recognition Act in 2015, which allows all individuals over the age of 18 to self-declare their own gender identity. Young people aged 16-17 can also apply to be legally recognised, though the process is more onerous.

**2016**

## *Senator David Norris as Grand Marshall at Pride Parade*

David Norris was recognised for his contribution to LGBTQI+ rights in Ireland by being the Grand Marshall at the 2016 Pride Parade in Dublin.

**2017**

## *Lifetime ban on giving blood lifted*

Since the emergence of HIV in the 1980s, men who have sex with men had been unable to donate blood. This ban was officially lifted in 2017, although significant restrictions still exist.

**2018**

## *Public Apology*

An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD issued an apology to the Irish LGBTQI+ people who had faced discrimination and suffering at the hands of the Irish State prior to the decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1993.



**PRIDE!**

# FOR MORE SUPPORT AND INFORMATION

To find out more about and to join UCD's LGBTI Staff Network, email [lgbtnetwork@ucd.ie](mailto:lgbtnetwork@ucd.ie).

UCD LGBTQI+ History Month: [click here](#)

UCD LGBTQI+ Webpage: [click here](#)

UCD Dignity & Respect Support Services: [click here](#)

UCD Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Unit: [click here](#)

National LGBTI Helpline and Support Services: [click here](#)

Transgender Equality Network: [click here](#)

BeLonGTo Youth Services: [click here](#)

National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021

Irish Queer Archive, National Library of Ireland: [click here](#)

The History of Pride in Ireland: [click here](#)

Ceilte: Mapping LGBT Heritage in Ireland: [click here](#)