

LGBTQ Timeline of the 21st Century

2001

- **Same-sex marriages laws:**
 - Came into effect: [The Netherlands](#) (with joint adoption)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - Came into effect: [Germany](#) (without adoption until Oct 2004, then with step-adoption only)
 - Passed: [Finland](#) (without joint adoption until May 2009, then with step-adoption)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - Passed and Came into effect: [Portugal](#) (without joint adoption) (replaced with marriage in 2010)
 - Came into effect: Swiss canton of [Geneva](#) (without joint adoption)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** US states of [Rhode Island](#) (private sector, gender identity) and [Maryland](#) (private sector, sexual orientation)
- **Equalization of age of consent:** [Albania](#), [Estonia](#), [Liechtenstein](#) and [United Kingdom](#).
- **Repeal of Sodomy laws:** US state of [Arizona](#)
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** the rest of the United Kingdom's territories^[citation needed]
- **Homosexuality no longer an illness:** [China](#)
- **Marches and Prides:** Protesters disrupt the first Pride march in the [Serbian](#) city of [Belgrade](#)
- **The first memorial in the United States honoring LGBT veterans** was dedicated in [Desert Memorial Park](#), Cathedral City, California.^[1]
- **Helene Faasen and Anne-Marie Thus**, from the Netherlands, became the first two women to legally marry.^[2]

2002

- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - Passed and Came into effect: Canadian province of [Quebec](#) (with joint adoption)
 - Came into effect: [Finland](#) (without joint adoption until May 2009, then with step-adoption)
 - Passed: [Argentinian](#) city of [Buenos Aires](#) (without joint adoption)
- **Limited Partnerships laws:**
 - Passed: Swiss canton of [Zurich](#) (without joint adoption)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** [South Africa](#) (joint and step adoption) and [Sweden](#) (joint and step adoption)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** US states of [Alaska](#) (public sector, sexual orientation) and [New York](#) (private sector, sexual orientation)
 - Canada's [Northwest Territories](#) updates human rights legislation to formally include sexual orientation, and is the first jurisdiction in Canada to ban discrimination based on [gender identity](#); they all would by 2017.
- **Equalization of age of consent:** [Austria](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Cyprus](#), [Hungary](#), [Moldova](#), [Romania](#) and the Australian state of [Western Australia](#)
- **Repeal of Sodomy laws:** [Romania](#), [Costa Rica](#) and the US States of [Arkansas](#) and [Massachusetts](#)
- **Other:** openly gay Dutch politician [Pim Fortuyn](#) is assassinated by [Volkert van der Graaf](#)
- **[Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays](#)** established its Transgender Network, also known as TNET, as its first official "Special Affiliate," recognized with the same privileges and responsibilities as its regular chapters.^[3]
- At the Reform seminary [Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion](#) in New York, the Reform rabbi [Margaret Wenig](#) organized the **first school-wide seminar at any rabbinical school which**

addressed the psychological, legal, and religious issues affecting people who are intersex or [transsexual](#).^[4]

2003

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [Belgium](#) (without joint adoption until Apr 2006) and the Canadian provinces of [Ontario](#) and [British Columbia](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Came into effect:** [Argentinian](#) city of [Buenos Aires](#) (without joint adoption)
 - **Passed::** Australian state of [Tasmania](#) (step adoption only)
- **Limited Partnerships laws:**
 - **Came into effect:** [Austria](#) (without joint adoption)(replaced with registered partnerships 2010) and [Croatia](#) (without registration or adoption)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:**[Bulgaria](#) (all sectors, sexual orientation), [United Kingdom](#) (excluding religious organisations, sexual orientation), US states of [Arizona](#) (public sector, sexual orientation), [Kentucky](#) (public sector, sexual orientation and gender identity), [Michigan](#) (executive branch of the state government, sexual orientation), [New Mexico](#) (private sector, sexual orientation and gender identity) and [Pennsylvania](#) (public sector, gender identity)
- **End to ban on gay people in the military:** [Russia](#)
- **Equalization of age of consent:** Australian state and territory (resp.) of [New South Wales](#) and [Northern Territory](#)
- **Repeal of Sodomy laws:** [Armenia](#)
- **Repeal of the concept of [Buggery](#) in law:** [United Kingdom](#)
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Iraq](#), [Armenia](#) and [United States](#) [nationwide]
- **Recriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Belize](#)
- **[Section 28](#) is repealed in** [England and Wales](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).
- **[Gene Robinson](#) becomes the first openly gay Bishop in the Episcopal church in the USA.**
- **[Reuben Zellman](#) became the first openly transgender person accepted to the [Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion](#), where he was ordained in 2010.**^{[5][6][7]}
- In 2003, the **[Committee on Jewish Law and Standards](#)** approved a rabbinic ruling that concluded that **[sex reassignment surgery](#) (SRS) is permissible as a treatment of [gender dysphoria](#)**, and that a transgender person's sex status under Jewish law is changed by SRS.^[8]
- **Legal recognition of indeterminate gender:** [Alex MacFarlane](#) became the first person reported to obtain a birth certificate and passport, in [Australia](#), showing indeterminate gender.
- In 2003 the Reform rabbi [Margaret Wenig](#) organized the **first school-wide seminar at the [Reconstructionist Rabbinical College](#) which addressed the psychological, legal, and religious issues affecting people who are intersex or [transsexual](#).**^[4]
- **[Jennifer Finney Boylan](#)'s autobiography, *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, was the first book by an openly [transgender](#) American to become a bestseller.**^[9]

2004

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** Canadian provinces of [Manitoba](#) (with adoption), [Newfoundland and Labrador](#), [Nova Scotia](#), [Quebec](#) (with adoption), and [Saskatchewan](#), and the Canadian territory of [Yukon](#), US State of [Massachusetts](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** Brazilian State of [Rio Grande do Sul](#), [Luxembourg](#) (without joint adoption) and US state of [Maine](#)

- **Came into effect::** Australian state of [Tasmania](#) (step adoption only)
- **Passed:** [New Zealand](#) (without joint adoption)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [New Jersey](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** [Germany](#) (Step Adoption)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage:** [Australia](#), US states of [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Montana](#), [Oregon](#) and [Utah](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage and civil unions:** US states of [Arkansas](#), [Georgia](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Michigan](#), [North Dakota](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Virginia](#) and [Wisconsin](#)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** [Portugal](#), US States of [Indiana](#) (public sector, gender identity), [Louisiana](#) (public sector, sexual orientation) and [Maine](#)
- **Equalization of age of consent:** [Lithuania](#)
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Cape Verde](#), [Marshall Islands](#) and [San Marino](#)
- The first all-transgender performance of the [Vagina Monologues](#) was held. The monologues were read by eighteen notable transgender women, and a new monologue revolving around the experiences and struggles of transgender women was included.^[10]
- [Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon](#) became the first same-sex couple to be legally married in the United States,^[11] when San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom allowed city hall to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.^[12] However, all same-sex marriages done in 2004 in California were annulled.^[13] After the California Supreme Court decision in 2008 that granted same-sex couples in California the right to marry, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon remarried, and were again the first same-sex couple in the state to marry.^{[14][15]} Later in 2008 Prop 8 banned same-sex marriage in California,^[16] but the marriages that occurred between the California Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage and the approval of Prop 8 are still considered valid, including the marriage of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.^[17] However, Del Martin died in 2008.^[18]
- [James McGreevey](#), then governor of New Jersey, came out as gay, thus becoming the first openly gay state governor in United States history.^[19] He resigned soon after.^[19]
- [Bisi Alimi](#) became the first Nigerian to declare his homosexuality on television.^[20]
- [Luna](#), by [Julie Anne Peters](#), was published, and was the first young-adult novel with a transgender character to be released by a mainstream publisher.^[21]

2005

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [Canada](#) [nationwide], [Spain](#) (with joint adoption)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passes and Came into effect:** [Andorra](#), [United Kingdom](#) (without joint adoption (England and Wales) until December 2005,^[22] without joint adoption (Scotland) until Sep 2009, without joint adoption (Northern Ireland)) and US state of [Connecticut](#)
 - **Came into effect:** [New Zealand](#) (without joint adoption) and US state of [California](#)
 - **Passed:** [Switzerland](#) (without adoption) and [Slovenia](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** UK Subdivisions of [England](#) and [Wales](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage:** [Latvia](#), [Uganda](#) and [Honduras](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage and civil unions:** US states of [Kansas](#) and [Texas](#)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** US States of [Illinois](#) (private sector, sexual orientation and gender identity) and [Maine](#) (private sector, sexual orientation and gender identity)^[citation needed]
- **Repeal of Sodomy laws:** [Puerto Rico](#)
- Two gay male teenagers, [Mahmoud Asgari and Ayaz Marhoni](#), are executed in [Iran](#),
- [André Boisclair](#) is chosen leader of the [Parti Québécois](#), becoming the first openly gay man elected as the leader of a major political party in North America.

- [Pine City, Minnesota](#) holds [East-Central Minnesota Pride](#), the first rural LGBT pride in North America.
- The [Roman Catholic Church](#) issues an instruction prohibiting any individuals who "present deep-seated homosexual tendencies or support the so-called 'gay culture'" from joining the priesthood.^[23]
- **The Simpsons** became the first cartoon series to dedicate an entire episode to the topic of same-sex marriage.^[24]
- The **first European Transgender Council Meeting** was held in Vienna.^[25]
- **Publication of the [first human rights report on the situation of intersex people](#)**, by the Human Rights Commission of the City and County of San Francisco.
- Eli Cohen became **the first openly gay man to be ordained a rabbi by the Jewish Renewal Movement**.^{[26][27]}
- [Andrew Goldstein](#) was **the first American male team-sport professional athlete to be openly gay during his playing career**.^[28] He came out publicly in 2003 and was drafted by his hometown team, the [Boston Cannons](#) of [Major League Lacrosse](#), in 2005. Goldstein played [goaltender](#) for the [Long Island Lizards](#) from 2005 to 2007, appearing in two games in 2006.^[29]

2006



In 2006 [Kim Coco Iwamoto](#) became the first transgender official to win statewide office in Hawaii.

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [South Africa](#) (with joint adoption)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [Czech Republic](#) (without joint adoption)
 - **Came into effect:** [Slovenia](#)
 - **Passed:** Mexican City of [Mexico City](#) and US state of [New Jersey](#)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed:** Australian State of [South Australia](#)^[30]
- **Abroad Union recognition:** [Israel](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage:** US State of [Tennessee](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage and civil unions:** US States of [Alabama](#), [Colorado](#), [Idaho](#), [South Carolina](#), [South Dakota](#) and [Virginia](#), [Wisconsin](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** [Belgium](#)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** [Faroe Islands](#),^[31] [Germany](#) (sexual orientation and gender identity), [New Zealand](#) (gender identity)^[citation needed] and US States and Districts of [Illinois](#) (sexual orientation), [New Jersey](#) (private sector, gender identity), [Washington](#) (sexual orientation and gender identity) and [Washington, D.C.](#) (private sector, gender identity)

- **Voiding of Anti-discrimination legislation:** [Kentucky](#)
- **Equalization of age of consent:** [Hong Kong](#), [Isle of Man](#),^[32] [Serbia](#)
- **Marches and Prides:** the first homosexual pride march in [Moscow](#) ends with violence, the first regional [Eastern European Pride](#) is held in [Zagreb](#), Croatia
- Springfield, [Missouri](#) repeals gay soliciting laws.^[33]
- [United States Senate](#) fails to pass the [Federal Marriage Amendment](#).
- The [International Conference on LGBT Human Rights](#) is held in [Montreal](#).
- The original [Yogyakarta Principles](#) is adopted in [Yogyakarta](#) of Indonesia.
- Section 28 "successfully repealed" in Isle of Man^[34]
- [Chaya Gusfield](#) and [Rabbi Lori Klein](#), both ordained in America, became the first openly lesbian rabbis ordained by the Jewish Renewal movement. Conservative Judaism decided to allow openly lesbian rabbis and cantors.^[35] [Elliot Kukla](#), who came out as transgender six months before his ordination in 2006, was the first openly transgender person to be ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.^[36]
- **State Rep. Patricia Todd**, D-Birmingham, became Alabama's first openly gay public official when she was elected in 2006.^[37]
- [Kim Coco Iwamoto](#) became the first transgender official to win statewide office in Hawaii.

2007

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Recognition:** [Aruba](#), [Curaçao](#) and [Sint Maarten](#) (Recognition of Dutch same-sex marriages only)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** Mexican state of [Coahuila](#)
 - **Came into effect:** Mexican City of [Mexico City](#), [Switzerland](#) (without adoption) and US state of [New Jersey](#)
 - **Passed:** [Hungary](#) (with adoption), US state of [New Hampshire](#) and [Uruguay](#) (without adoption until Sep 2008)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** US state of [Washington](#) and [Colombia](#)
 - **Came into effect:** Australian state of [South Australia](#) and US state of [Oregon](#)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** [United Kingdom](#)^[38] (sexual orientation) and US states of [Colorado](#) (private sector, sexual orientation and gender identity), [Iowa](#) (private sector, sexual orientation and gender identity), [Kansas](#) (public sector, sexual orientation and gender identity), [Michigan](#) (public sector, gender identity), [Ohio](#) (public sector, sexual orientation and gender identity), [Oregon](#) (private sector, sexual orientation and gender identity) and [Vermont](#) (private sector, gender identity)
- **Equalization of age of consent:** [Portugal](#), [South Africa](#), UK territory of [Jersey](#),^{[39][40]} [Vanuatu](#)
- **Decriminalization of homosexuality:** [Nepal](#) and New Zealand territories of [Niue](#) and [Tokelau](#)
- **Marches and Prides:** the first ever gay pride parade in a [Muslim](#) country is held in [Istanbul](#), Turkey;^[41]
- [Logo cable channel](#) hosts the first presidential forum in the United States focusing specifically on LGBT issues. Six [Democratic Party](#) candidates participate in the event. GOP candidates were asked to attend but turned it down.
- [Candis Cayne](#) played Carmelita Rainer, a transgender woman having an affair with married New York Attorney General Patrick Darling (played by [William Baldwin](#)), on the [ABC](#) prime time drama [Dirty Sexy Money](#).^{[42][43][44]} The role made Cayne the first openly transgender actress to play a recurring transgender character in prime time.^{[42][43][44]}
- On 29 November, the first foreign gay wedding was held in [Hanoi](#), [Vietnam](#) between a Japanese and an Irish national. The wedding raised much attention in the gay and lesbian community in Vietnam.^[45]
- [Jalda Rebling](#), a German woman born in the Netherlands, became the first openly lesbian cantor ordained by the Jewish Renewal movement.^[46]

- Rabbi [Toba Spitzer](#) became the first openly lesbian or gay person to head a [rabbinical assembly](#) when she was elected president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Assembly at the group's annual convention, held in [Scottsdale, Arizona](#).^[47]
- [Joy Ladin](#) became the first openly transgender professor at an Orthodox institution (Stern College for Women of [Yeshiva University](#)).^{[48][49]}
- [Amaranta Gómez Regalado](#) (for [México Posible](#)) became the first transsexual person to appear in the Mexican Congress.
- [Ellen DeGeneres](#) became the first open lesbian to host the Academy Awards.^[50]
- Ventura Place in [Studio City](#) was renamed Dr. [Betty Berzon](#) Place in her honor, making it the first street ever officially dedicated to a known lesbian in California.^[51]

2008

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** US states of [California](#) (May–Nov 2008), [Connecticut](#) and [Mashantucket Pequot](#)
 - **Passed:** [Norway](#) (with joint adoption)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** The Australian [Capital Territory](#), [Ecuador](#) (without joint adoption), US state of [Washington](#) (expansion of previous legislation)
 - **Came into effect:** US state of [New Hampshire](#) and [Uruguay](#) (without joint adoption until Sep 2008)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Came into effect:** Australian state of [Victoria](#) and US state of [Oregon](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage:** US states of [Arizona](#) and [California](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage and civil unions:** US state of [Florida](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** [Uruguay](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex adoption:** [Arkansas](#) (struck down by the Arkansas Supreme Court in 2011)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** California^[citation needed]
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Nicaragua](#) and [Panama](#)
- **Marches and Prides:** the first ever gay pride parade in [Bulgaria](#)
- Kosovo declares itself to be an independent country with a new constitution that includes mention of "sexual orientation", the first of its kind in Eastern Europe^[citation needed]
- The first two same-sex civil marriages (two men and two women) take place in Greece on the island of [Tilos](#); the supreme court prosecutor and the minister of Justice claim the marriages are null and void.
- Portland voters elect openly gay [Sam Adams \(Oregon politician\)](#) mayor
- [Annise Parker](#) was elected as the first openly gay or lesbian mayor of Houston, Texas.^[52]
- [Kate Brown](#) was elected as the [Oregon Secretary of State](#) in the [2008 elections](#), becoming America's first openly bisexual statewide officeholder.^[53]
- Silverton, Oregon elected [Stu Rasmussen](#) as the first openly transgender mayor in America.^{[54][55]}
- [Angie Zapata](#), a transgender woman, was murdered in [Greeley, Colorado](#). Allen Andrade was convicted of [first-degree murder](#) and committing a [bias-motivated crime](#), because he killed her after he learned that she was [transgender](#). This case was the first in the nation to get a conviction for a [hate crime](#) involving a transgender victim.^[56] Angie Zapata's story and murder were featured on [Univision](#)'s "[Aqui y Ahora](#)" television show on 1 November 2009.
- The first ever U.S. Congressional hearing on discrimination against transgender people in the workplace was held, by the House Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.^[57]
- [Rachel Maddow](#) became the first openly gay or lesbian anchor of a major prime-time news program in the United States when she began hosting [The Rachel Maddow Show](#) on U.S. cable network [MSNBC](#).^[58]



[Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir](#) became the [Prime Minister](#) of [Iceland](#) in 2009, and thus became the first openly gay [head of government](#) in modern times.

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [Sweden](#)^[59] (with joint adoption), US states of [Iowa](#),^[60] and [Vermont](#)^[61]
 - **Came into effect:** [Norway](#) (with joint adoption) and the [Coquille Indian Tribe](#)^[62] In 2009 Kitzen and Jeni Branting married in the Coquille Indian tribe's Coos Bay plankhouse, a 3-year-old meeting hall built in traditional Coquille style with cedar plank walls. They were the first same-sex couple to have their marriage recognized by the tribe, of which Kitzen was a member.^{[63][64]}
 - **Passed:** Mexican City of [Mexico City](#) (with joint adoption), US states and districts of [New Hampshire](#) (step adoption only), [Maine](#)^[65] (never came into effect), [Washington, D.C.](#)^[66]
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** [Hungary](#) (without joint adoption), [Colombia](#) (expansion of previous rights without joint adoption), US states of [Nevada](#) and [Washington](#)^[67] (expansion of previous rights)
 - **Passed:** [Austria](#) (without joint adoption)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and Came into effect:** US states of [Colorado](#) and [Wisconsin](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** [Finland](#)^[68] (step adoption), UK Subdivision of [Scotland](#)
- **Banning of Same-sex marriage:** [Maine](#)^[69]
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:** [Serbia](#) and US state of [Delaware](#) (private sector, sexual orientation), USA [Matthew Shepard Act](#) (hate crimes). Canadian province [Alberta](#) adds "sexual orientation" to human rights legislation—the last jurisdiction in Canada to do so.^[70]
- **End to ban on gay people in the military:** [Argentina](#), [Philippines](#) and [Uruguay](#)
- The [International Transgender Day of Visibility](#) was founded by Michigan-based transgender activist^[71] Rachel Crandall in 2009^[72] as a reaction to the lack of [LGBT](#) holidays celebrating transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centered holiday was the [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#) which mourned the loss of transgender people to hate crimes, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.
- **Politics:**
 - Iceland elects the first openly gay [head of government](#) in the world, [Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir](#)^[73]
 - [Annisette Parker](#) is elected mayor of [Houston, Texas](#), which becomes the largest city in the United States with an openly gay mayor.^[74]

- **Diego Sanchez** became the first openly transgender person to work on [Capitol Hill](#); he was hired as a legislative assistant for [Barney Frank](#).^[75] Sanchez was also the first transgender person on the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) Platform Committee in 2008.^{[76][77]}
- **Barbra "Babs" Siperstein** was nominated and confirmed as an at-large member of the [Democratic National Committee](#), becoming its first openly transgender member.^[78]
- Uzi Even and his life partner was the first same-sex male couple in Israel whose right of adoption has been legally acknowledged.^[79]
- Welsh rugby star [Gareth Thomas](#) becomes the first known top-level professional male athlete in a team sport to come out while still active.^[80]
- [Carol Ann Duffy](#) was chosen as the first openly lesbian or gay [Poet Laureate](#) of the [United Kingdom](#).^[81]
- In October 2009, LGBT activist [Amy Andre](#)^[82] was appointed as executive director of the San Francisco Pride Celebration Committee, making her San Francisco Pride's first openly bisexual woman of color executive director.^{[83][84]}
- Orthodox Israeli rabbi [Ron Yosef](#) became in 2009 the first Israeli orthodox [Rabbi](#) to come out, which he did when appearing in *Uvda* ("Fact"), [Israel](#)'s leading investigative television program, in an episode regarding [conversion therapies](#) in Israel.^[85] Yosef remains in his position as a pulpit Rabbi.^[86]
- **Siddur Sha'ar Zahav**, the first complete prayer book to address the lives and needs of LGBTQ as well as straight Jews, was published.

2010

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Portugal](#) (without joint adoption), [Iceland](#) (with joint adoption) and [Argentina](#) (with adoption)^[87]
 - **Came into effect:** Mexican City of [Mexico City](#) (with joint adoption), US state of [New Hampshire](#) (step adoption only) and [Washington, D.C.](#)^[66]
 - **Recognition:** The Mexican Supreme Court rules that marriages contracted in Mexico City are valid throughout the country, although no other jurisdiction is required to perform them. Australian State of [Tasmania](#) recognises same-marriages performed in other jurisdictions.
 - **Other:** U.S. state of [California](#), United States District Judge [Vaughn Walker](#) strikes down California's [Proposition 8](#) as violative of the United States Constitution's Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses.^[88]
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Came into effect:** [Austria](#) (without adoption and IVF access rights)
 - **Passed:** [Ireland](#) (without adoption rights)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** Australian state of [New South Wales](#) (without joint adoption until Sep 2010)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legislation:** Australian state of [New South Wales](#) and [Denmark](#)
- **End to ban of same-sex couple adoption:** US states of [Arkansas](#) and [Florida](#)
- **End to ban of gay people in the military:** [Serbia](#)
- **End to ban of trans people in the military:** [Australia](#)
- **Decriminalization of homosexuality:** [Fiji](#)^[89]
- **Marches and Prides:** the first ever legal gay pride parade in [Russia](#), held in [St. Petersburg](#)
- Guinness World Records recognized transgender man [Thomas Beatie](#) as the world's "First Married Man to Give Birth."^[90]
- [Amanda Simpson](#) became the first openly transgender presidential appointee in America when she was appointed as senior technical adviser in the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.^[91]

- [Kye Allums](#) became the first openly transgender athlete to play in NCAA basketball.^{[92][93]} He was a transgender man who played on [George Washington University's](#) women's team.^{[94][95]}
- [Phyllis Frye](#) became the first openly transgender judge appointed in the United States.^{[96][97][98][97]}
- [Mary Albing](#) became the first openly lesbian minister ordained by the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#), serving the Lutheran Church of Christ the Redeemer on the south side of Minneapolis.^[99]
- [Chai Feldblum](#), who was openly lesbian, became the first openly LGBT person to serve on the EEOC.^[100]
- [Donna Ryu](#) became the first Asian-American woman, first Korean-American, and first lesbian to be appointed as a judge of the United States District Court, Northern District of California.^[101]

2011

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - Passed and came into effect: [New York](#) and the [Suquamish Tribe](#)^[102]
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - Came into effect: [Ireland](#) (without adoption rights)^[103]
 - Passed and came into effect: [Isle of Man](#) (with joint adoption), US State of [Illinois](#) (with joint adoption rights), [Rhode Island](#) and [Liechtenstein](#)
 - Passed: US State of [Delaware](#) (came into effect 2013) and [Hawaii](#) (came into effect Jan 2012)
- **End to ban on openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the military:** [USA](#) (see [Don't Ask, don't tell](#))
- [Tony Briffa](#), believed to be the **world's first intersex mayor**, elected in the City of Hobsons Bay in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, at the end of November.^[104]
- [Elio Di Rupo](#), **first openly gay male head of government**, becomes Prime Minister of Belgium, 6 December.
- [Chaz Bono](#) appeared on the 13th season of the US version of [Dancing with the Stars](#) in 2011. This was the first time an openly transgender man starred on a major network television show for something unrelated to being transgender.^[105]
- [Harmony Santana](#) became the first openly transgender actress to receive a major acting award nomination; she was nominated by the [Independent Spirit Awards](#) as Best Supporting Actress for the movie [Gun Hill Road](#).^[106]
- The [Presbyterian Church](#) (U.S.A.) voted to allow the ordination of openly gay and lesbian ministers.^[107]
- [Rachel Isaacs](#) became the first openly lesbian rabbi ordained by the Conservative movement's [Jewish Theological Seminary](#).^[108]
- Petty Officer 2nd Class [Marissa Gaeta](#) of California and Petty Officer 3rd Class [Citlalic Snell](#) of Los Angeles became the first same-sex couple chosen to share the first kiss upon a U.S. Navy ship's return.^[109]
- [Brenda Sue Fulton](#) was named to the West Point Board of Visitors, making her the first openly gay member of the board that advises the Academy.^[110]
- Miss New York, [Claire Buffie](#), became the **first [Miss America](#) contestant to campaign for the Miss America title on a gay rights platform**.^[111]
- [Jaiyah "Johnny" Saelua](#) became the first openly transgender international footballer to play in the World Cup when she took the field for American Samoa in Oceania's first round of World Cup qualifiers for Brazil 2014.^[112]
- A resolution submitted by [South Africa](#) requesting a study on discrimination and sexual orientation (A/HRC/17/L.9/Rev.1) passed, 23 to 19 with 3 abstentions, in the UN [Human Rights Council](#) on 17 June 2011.^[113] This is the first time that any United Nations body approved a resolution affirming the rights of LGBT people.^[114]

- [Fred Karger](#) began his unsuccessful run for the 2012 Republican nomination for President, which made him America's first openly gay Republican presidential candidate.^[115]

2012



[Kyrsten Sinema](#) became the first openly bisexual person elected to the U.S. Congress in 2012.

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Denmark](#), Mexican state of [Quintana Roo](#), U.S. states of [Maine](#) and [Washington](#), the [Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe](#),
 - **Passed:** U.S. state of [Maryland](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Came into effect:** U.S. State of [Hawaii](#)
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Lesotho](#) and [São Tomé and Príncipe](#)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:**
 - **For sexual orientation and gender identity:** [Chile](#)
 - The [U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity](#) issued a regulation to prohibit LGBT discrimination in federally assisted housing programs. The new regulations ensure that the Department's core housing programs are open to all eligible persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.
 - For **gender identity:** Canadian provinces of [Manitoba](#); and **gender expression:** [Ontario](#)
- **Family and Relationships:**
 - The first gay Israeli couple was granted a divorce by an Israeli family court. The divorce of Tel Aviv University Professor [Avi Even](#), the first openly gay Knesset member, and Dr. Amit Kama was granted on Sunday by the Ramat Gan Family Court, according to [Haaretz](#), which ordered the Interior Minister to register their status as divorced.^[116]
 - Taiwan's first same-sex Buddhist wedding was held for **Fish Huang** and her partner **You Ya-ting**, with Buddhist master Shih Chao-hui presiding over the ritual.^[117]
 - The **first same-sex marriage at the U.S. Military Academy** was held for a young lieutenant and her partner (Ellen Schick and Shannon Simpson) at the Old Cadet Chapel in West Point's cemetery.^{[118][119]} Navy Chief **Elny McKinney** and **Anacelly McKinney** became the first known same-sex couple to marry on a U.S. military base. They were wed at Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego.^[120]
 - The **first same-sex couple became engaged in the White House** (Ben Schock and Matthew Phelps).^[121]

- Air Force Col. **Ginger Wallace** became the first known out member of the U.S. military to have their same-sex partner participate in the pinning ceremony tradition that had been reserved for spouses and family members. Her partner of 10 years, Kathy Knopf, pinned colonel wings on Wallace days after the two attended President Obama's State of The Union address as a guest of the First Lady.^[122]
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - **Kate McKinnon** became [Saturday Night Live](#)'s first openly [lesbian](#) cast member; [Danitra Vance](#) never disclosed her sexual orientation publicly, but was revealed to be a lesbian when she died.^{[123][124]}
 - On 28 June 2012 [Diana King](#) declared "Yes I am a Lesbian" to her fans from her official Facebook page, thus becoming the first Jamaican artist to ever publicly come out.^{[125][126]}
 - **Katie Ricks** became the first open lesbian ordained by the [Presbyterian Church](#) (U.S.A.)^[127]
 - **Emily Aviva Kapor**, an American rabbi who had been ordained privately by a "[Conservadox](#)" rabbi in 2005, began living as a woman in 2012, thus becoming the first openly transgender female rabbi.^[128]
 - **Rainbow Jews**, an oral history project showcasing the lives of Jewish bisexual, lesbian, gay, and transgender people in the [United Kingdom](#) from the 1950s until the present, was launched.^[129] It is the United Kingdom's first archive of Jewish bisexual, lesbian, gay, and transgender history.^[130]
 - [ParaNorman](#), released in 2012, had the **first openly gay character in a mainstream animated film**.^{[131][132]}
- **Politics:**
 - **US Politics:**
 - [Barack Obama](#) became the first [U.S. president](#) to publicly announce support for same-sex marriage on 9 May.^{[133][134]}
 - **Marlene Pray** joined the Doylestown, Pennsylvania City Council in 2012, though she resigned in 2013; she was the first openly bisexual office holder in Pennsylvania.^{[135][136]}
 - [Tammy Baldwin](#) was elected as the first openly lesbian or gay U.S. Senator.^[137]
 - [Kyrsten Sinema](#) (D-AZ) became the first openly bisexual person elected to the US Congress.^[138]
 - [Stacie Laughton](#) became the first openly transgender person elected to any American state legislature when she won a seat in the New Hampshire House of Representatives.^[139] However, she resigned from the New Hampshire state legislature before she took office, after it was revealed that she had served four months in Belknap County House of Corrections following a 2008 credit card fraud conviction.^{[140][141]}
 - [Mark Pocan](#) was elected in Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District, becoming the first openly gay candidate who will follow an openly gay member of the U.S. Congress (in this case [Tammy Baldwin](#)).^[142]
 - [Sean Patrick Maloney](#) became the first openly gay candidate elected to represent New York in Congress.^[143]
 - [Mark Takano](#) became the first openly gay person of color to win election to the U.S. House. He was elected to represent California's 41st Congressional District.^[142]
 - [Josh Boschee](#) was elected as North Dakota's first openly gay legislator.^[144]
 - [Stephen Skinner](#) was elected as West Virginia's first openly gay state legislator.^[145]
 - [Jacob Candelaria](#) was elected as New Mexico's first openly gay male state legislator.^[146]
 - [Brian Sims](#) became Pennsylvania's first openly gay state legislator who was out when he was elected.^[147] After [Brian Sims](#) was elected but before he took office, Rep. [Mike Fleck](#) came out as gay, making him Pennsylvania's first openly gay state legislator.^[148]
 - [David Richardson](#) was elected as Florida's first openly gay state legislator.^[149]

- Colorado Democrats elected [Mark Ferrandino](#) as the first openly gay House speaker in state history.^[150]
- [Tina Kotek was elected the first openly gay House speaker in the State of Oregon.](#)^[151]
- [San Francisco](#) voted to become the first U.S. city to provide and cover the cost of sex reassignment surgeries for uninsured transgender residents.^[152] [Berkeley, California](#) became the first city in the U.S. to officially proclaim a day recognizing bisexuals—23 September as [Bisexual Pride and Bi Visibility Day.](#)^[153]
- [California](#) became the first U.S. state to sign a ban on therapy that claims to convert gay people into heterosexual.^{[154][155]}
- At a ceremony in Arlington, Army Reserve officer **Tammy Smith** became the first openly gay, active duty general in American history. Smith was promoted to brigadier general at a private ceremony at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.^[156]
- [Orlando Cruz](#) became the world's first professional boxer to come out as gay.^[157]
- The **Bisexuality Report**, the first report of its kind in the United Kingdom, was issued.^[158] This report, led by Meg Barker (Senior Lecturer in Psychology, OU), Rebecca Jones (Lecturer, Health & Social Care, OU), Christina Richards, and Helen Bowes-Catton and Tracey Plowman (of BiUK) summarizes national and international evidence and brings out recommendations for bisexual inclusion in the future.^[158]

2013

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [New Zealand](#), [Uruguay](#), [France](#), [Brazil](#), the U.S. states of [Delaware](#), [Rhode Island](#), [Minnesota](#), [New Jersey](#), [Hawaii](#) and [New Mexico](#), the [Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation](#), the [Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians](#), the [Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians](#), the [Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes](#), the [Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe](#), the [Grand Portage Band of Chippewa](#) and the [Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel](#).^{[159][160][161][162][163][164]}
 - **Restored:** [California](#)
 - **Passed:** [England and Wales](#) and US state of [Illinois](#)
 - **Passed but then overturned:** [Australian Capital Territory](#)
 - **Came into effect:** U.S. State of [Maryland](#)
 - **Recognition:** The Supreme Court of the United States ruled Section 3 of [Defense of Marriage Act](#) unconstitutional, thus giving same-sex marriage federal recognition.^[165] US state of [Oregon](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** Mexican state of [Campeche](#)
 - **Came into effect:** U.S. State of [Colorado](#)
- **Limited Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Costa Rica](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legalisation:** [New Zealand](#) and [France](#)
- **Recriminalisation of homosexuality:** [India](#)
- **Anti-discrimination legislation:**
 - **For sexual orientation and gender identity:** [Cyprus](#) and [Puerto Rico](#)
 - **For gender identity:** US state of [Delaware](#); and **gender expression:** Canadian provinces of [Newfoundland and Labrador](#) and [Prince Edward Island](#)
- **Anti-discrimination executive action:** US state of [Virginia](#)
- **First Pride Marches:** In [Ukraine](#);^[166] [Montenegro](#);^[167] and [Curacao](#).^[168]
- **Politics:**

- [Kathleen Wynne](#) became the first openly LGBT premier of a Canadian province, namely Ontario, after defeating Sandra Pupatello in the third round of voting of the Ontario Liberal party's leadership race on 26 January 2013. Sworn in on 11 February 2013, she is the party's first openly LGBT leader and Ontario's first female premier.^[citation needed]
- [Xavier Bettel](#), **first openly gay** Prime Minister of Luxembourg, assumes office 4 December.
- [Etienne Schneider](#), **first openly gay** Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg, assumes office 4 December.
- [Luxembourg](#) becomes the first country in the world to have an openly gay Prime Minister [Xavier Bettel](#) and an openly gay Deputy Prime Minister [Etienne Schneider](#).^[169]
- [Nikki Sinclair](#) came out as transgender, thus becoming the [United Kingdom](#)'s first openly transgender Parliamentarian.^[170] [Daniel Kawczynski](#) became the first MP in Britain to come out as bisexual.^[171]
- [Benjamin Medrano](#) was elected as the first openly gay mayor in Mexico's history, being elected mayor of the township of [Fresnillo](#).^[172]
- The **first United Nations ministerial meeting on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals** was held.^[173] Representatives from the US, France, Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, the Netherlands, Norway, Japan, New Zealand and the EU, along with executive directors of [Human Rights Watch](#) and the [International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission](#) reaffirmed their commitments to working together to end discrimination and violence towards the LGBT community.^[173] UN High Commissioner for Human Rights [Navi Pillay](#) delivered remarks [press release] commending the LGBT community and praising the fact that, "many countries have embarked on historic reforms—strengthening anti-discrimination laws, combating hate crime against LGBT people and sensitizing public opinion."^[173]
- **US Politics:**
 - [Barack Obama](#) mentioned the word "gay" and the issue of gay rights for the first time in a speech at the U.S. presidential swearing in; specifically, he did so in his inaugural address.^[174]
 - On [Celebrate Bisexuality Day](#), the White House held a closed-door meeting with almost 30 bisexual advocates so they could meet with government officials and discuss issues of specific importance to the bisexual community; this was the **first bi-specific event ever hosted by any White House**.^{[175][176]}
 - Rep. [Mark Pocan](#)'s spouse **Philip Frank** became the first same-sex spouse of a federal lawmaker to officially receive a House Spouse ID.^{[177][178]} In 2009, **Marlon Reis**, the spouse of Rep. [Jared Polis](#) (D-Colo.), was issued a congressional spouse ID, but later card services told him that he had been given the designation accidentally.^[178]
 - The U.S. Senate confirmed **Nitza Quiñones Alejandro** to a federal judgeship, making her the first openly gay Latina to hold such a post.^[179]
 - U.S. Air Force Under Secretary [Eric Fanning](#) took over as acting secretary of the U.S. Air Force, becoming the highest ranking openly LGBT official at the Department of Defense; he is openly gay.^[180]
 - [Todd Hughes](#) became the first openly gay U.S. circuit judge.^[181]
- **Sports:**
 - [Robbie Rogers](#) announced he was gay on 15 February 2013, becoming the only male fully capped international [association footballer](#) to do so. He joined the Los Angeles Galaxy, making him the first openly gay male athlete to compete in [Major League Soccer](#).^[182]
 - [Jason Collins](#) on 29 April 2013, became the first active male professional athlete in a major North American team sport to publicly come out as gay.
 - [Fallon Fox](#) came out as transgender, thus becoming the first openly [transgender](#) athlete in [mixed martial arts](#) history.^[183]

- **Jallen Messersmith** of [Benedictine College](#) in Atchison, Kan., came out and is believed to be the first openly gay player in U.S. men's college basketball.^[184]
- **Cason Crane** became the first openly gay man to summit the [Seven Summits](#) and the first to bring the rainbow flag to the summit of [Mount Everest](#).^[185]
- The first UFC match between two openly gay fighters, [Liz Carmouche](#) and [Jessica Andrade](#), was held.^[186]
- **Darren Young** (real name: Fred Rosser) became the first active professional wrestler to come out as gay.^[187]
- **Trans:**
 - Philadelphia passes one of the most comprehensive transgender rights bills on the city level, which addresses transgender bathroom use and city employee healthcare, making it the first city on the east coast to provide transition related healthcare to its city employees.^[188]
 - **Autumn Sandeen**, a U.S. veteran and transgender woman, received a letter from a Navy official stating, "Per your request the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) has been updated to show your gender as female effective 12 April 2013." [Allyson Robinson](#) of [Outserve](#) declared, "To our knowledge, this is the first time that the Department of Defense has recognized and affirmed a change of gender for anyone affiliated, in a uniformed capacity — in this case a military retiree."^[189]
 - **Ben Barres** became the first openly transgender scientist in the [US National Academy of Sciences](#) in 2013.^[190]
 - For the first time, the California Department of Education's list of recommended books for grades Pre-K-through-12 included a book with a transgender theme, **I Am J** by Cris Beam.^[191]
 - **California** enacted America's first law protecting transgender students; the law, called the School Success and Opportunity Act, declares that every public school student in California from kindergarten to 12th grade must be "permitted to participate in sex-segregated school programs and activities, including athletic teams and competitions, and use facilities consistent with his or her gender identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records."^[192]
 - **Jennifer Pritzker** came out as transgender in 2013 and thus became the world's first openly transgender billionaire.^[193]
 - A six-year-old girl named **Luana**, who was born a boy, became the first transgender child in Argentina to have her new name officially changed on her identity documents.^[194] She is believed to be the youngest to benefit from the country's new Gender Identity Law, which was approved in May 2012.^[194]
 - **Jennifer Finney Boylan** was chosen as the first openly transgender co-chair of [GLAAD's](#) National Board of Directors.^[195]
 - On 31 October 2013 **Paris Lees** became the first openly transgender panellist to appear on the BBC's [Question Time](#) programme, drawing praise from commentators who included former Deputy Prime Minister [John Prescott](#) and the Labour Party deputy leader [Harriet Harman](#).^[196]
 - **Stephen Alexander**, of Rhode Island, became the first high school coach to come out publicly as transgender.^[197]
 - On 1 November **Audrey Gauthier** was elected president of CUPE 4041, representing Air Transat flight attendants based in Montreal.^[198] She thus became the first openly transgender person elected president of a union local in Canada.^[198]
 - Publication of the [first parliamentary report on the human rights and health of intersex people](#), published by the [Australian Senate](#) on 25 October.
 - **Kristin Beck**, formerly Chris Beck, came out as the first openly transgender retired [Navy SEAL](#).^[199]
- **Family and Relationships:**
 - For the first time the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs decided to allow the same-sex spouse of a military veteran to be buried in a U.S. national cemetery. VA Secretary [Eric Shinseki](#) gave

permission for retired Air Force officer **Linda Campbell**, 66, to bury the ashes of her same-sex spouse **Nancy Lynchild** at Willamette National Cemetery in Oregon.^[200]

- **Rehana Kausar** and **Sobia Kamar**, both from Pakistan, became the first Muslim lesbian couple to enter into civil partnership in the United Kingdom.^[201]
- **Julian Marsh** and **Traian Povov** become the first married gay couple to have a green card application approved.^[202]
- **Master Sgt. Angela Shunk** and her wife, **Tech. Sgt. Stacey Shunk**, became the first same-sex couple to receive an assignment together under the U.S. Air Force's Join Spouse program.^[203]
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - The first same-sex kiss ever on a Eurovision stage occurred at the 2013 [Eurovision Song Contest](#) when [Krista Siegrids](#), who sang "Marry Me", ended her semi-final performance by kissing one of her female dancers.^[204]
 - **Guy Erwin** became the first openly gay bishop to be elected by the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#); he was elected to the Southwest California Synod of the ELCA.^[205]
 - The Bi Writers Association, which promotes bisexual writers, books, and writing, announced the winners of its first **Bisexual Book Awards**.^[206] An awards ceremony was held at the [Nuyorican Poets Café](#) in New York City.^[206]
 - The [Directors Guild Of America](#) elected [Paris Barclay](#) as its first black and first openly gay president.^[207]
 - **Same Love**, a hit single from [Macklemore](#) & [Ryan Lewis](#), became the first Top 40 song in the U.S. to promote and celebrate same-sex marriage.^[208]
 - Movie director [Kim Jho Gwang-soo](#) and his partner **Kim Seung-hwan** became the first South Korean gay couple to publicly wed, although it was not a legally recognized marriage.^[209]
 - [Harvey Milk](#) was chosen as the first openly **LGBT** political official to be featured on an American postage stamp.^[210]
 - [Andy Herren](#) became the first openly gay winner of the American version of the "Big Brother" reality show.^[211]
 - The first televised **Romanian same-sex wedding** was held.^[212] It was between two men, and was done on the reality show Four Weddings and a Challenge.^[212]
 - **Q Radio**, which went on the airwaves in September, claims to be India's first radio station which caters to the country's lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people.^[213]
 - **Mark C. Goldman** became the first openly gay president of the American Conference of Cantors, a Reform Jewish organization.^[214]
 - Rabbi [Deborah Waxman](#) was elected as the President of the [Reconstructionist Rabbinical College](#).^{[215][216]} As the President, she is believed to be the first woman and first lesbian to lead a Jewish congregational union, and the first female rabbi and first lesbian to lead a Jewish seminary; RRC is both a congregational union and a seminary.^{[215][217]}
- Dr. [Saul Levin](#) was named on 15 May 2013 as the new chief executive officer and medical director of the [American Psychiatric Association](#), making him the first known openly gay person to head the APA.^[218]
- Major General **Patricia "Trish" Rose** became the first openly lesbian two-star general in the U.S. Air Force, and the highest ranking openly gay officer in the entire U.S. military at the time.^[219]
- **New Jersey** became the second state, after California, to sign a ban on therapy that claims to convert gay people into heterosexual.^{[154][155]}
- **Russia's** government adopted a federal bill banning the distribution of "propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations" to minors. The law imposes heavy fines for using the media or internet to promote "non-traditional relations".
- San Francisco's first **Project Homeless Connect** for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people was held.^[220]

- **BiLaw**, the first American national organization of bisexual lawyers, law professors, law students, and their allies, was founded.^{[221][222]}

2014

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Scotland](#), US states of [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Utah](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Virginia](#), [Wisconsin](#), [Indiana](#), [Colorado](#), [Nevada](#), [Idaho](#), [West Virginia](#), [North Carolina](#), [Alaska](#), [Arizona](#), [Wyoming](#), [Kansas](#), [South Carolina](#), [Montana](#), the Mexican state of [Coahuila](#), the [Puyallup Tribe of Indians](#), the [Lac du Flambeau of Lake Superior Chippewa](#), the [Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation](#), the [Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation](#), the [Pascua Yaqui Tribe](#), the [Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community](#), the [San Carlos Apache Tribe](#), the [Wind River Indian Reservation](#), the [Blackfoot Tribe](#) and the [Keweenaw Bay Indian Community](#)
 - **Passed:** [Luxembourg](#)
 - **Came into effect:** [England and Wales](#) and US state of [Illinois](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Gibraltar](#) (with joint adoption), [Malta](#) (with joint adoption) and [Croatia](#)
 - **Passed:** [Estonia](#)
- **Same-sex couple adoption legislation:** [Andorra](#), the Mexican state of [Coahuila](#)
- **Decriminalization of homosexuality:** [Northern Cyprus](#) and [Palau](#)
- **Criminalization of homosexuality:** [Brunei](#)^[223]
- **Banning of same-sex marriage:** [Nigeria](#)^[224]
- **Anti-discrimination law for gender identity:** Canadian province [Saskatchewan](#)
- **Family and Relationships:**
 - **Anna Guillot and Chrissy Kelly**, who were married in New York in 2012, became the first same-sex couple in Mississippi to create a public record of their marriage.^[225] However, this did not give their marriage legal standing in Mississippi.^[225]
 - The marriage of **Giuseppe Chigiotti** and **Stefano Bucci** became the first overseas same-sex marriage to be legally recognized in Italy; the two were married in New York in 2012.^[226]
 - For the first time, an Italian court granted permission for **the adoption of a child living with a gay couple**. The child was the biological daughter of one of the women in the couple, and her partner was allowed to legally become her co-parent through adoption.^[227]
 - Berlin, Germany unveiled the **world's first cemetery for lesbians**.^[228]
 - **Umma Azul** was the first child of a lesbian couple to be baptized by the Catholic Church in Argentina.^[229]
 - **Emilia Maria Jesty**, daughter of a lesbian couple, was the first child born in Tennessee to have a woman listed on the birth certificate as her "father."^[230]
 - The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs agreed to give survivor benefits to the first-known same-sex war widow, **Tracy Dice Johnson**, whose wife Donna Johnson died in a suicide bombing attack in 2012.^[231]
 - Both lesbian parents were listed on their children's birth certificates in Australia, which is the first time an **Australian birth certificate** indicates that both members of a same-sex couple were the legal parents of a child at birth.^[232]
 - **The U.S. Naval Academy Chapel's first-ever same-sex wedding** was held for David Bucher, a 49-year-old Academy graduate who works at the Pentagon, and partner Bruce Moats.^[233]
- **Trans:**

- The U.S. [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) filed the first [Title VII](#) action taken by the federal government on behalf of transgender workers.^[234] The lawsuits were filed for Amiee Stephens and Brandi Branson, both transgender women.^[235]
- **Meghan Stabler** became the first openly transgender woman to be named *Working Mother* magazine's Working Mother of the Year.^[236]
- [Laverne Cox](#) was on the cover of the 9 June 2014 issue of *Time*, and was interviewed for the article "The Transgender Tipping Point".^{[237][238]} She also became the first openly transgender person to be nominated for an [Emmy](#) in an acting category: Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series for her role as Sophia Burset in *Orange Is the New Black*.^{[239][240][241]}
- *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, the first non-medical academic journal devoted to transgender issues, began publication, with [Susan Stryker](#) and [Paisley Currah](#) as coeditors.^[242]
- [Mills College](#) became the first single-sex college in the U.S. to adopt a policy explicitly welcoming transgender students, [Mount Holyoke](#) became the first [Seven Sisters](#) college to accept transgender students.^[243]
- [Blake Brockington](#) became the first openly transgender high school [homecoming king](#) in [North Carolina](#).^[244]
- Nina Chaulal and Greta Gustava Martela cofounded Trans Lifeline, **the first U.S. suicide hotline dedicated to transgender people**.^{[245][246]}
- [Tona Brown](#) became the first African-American openly transgender woman to perform at Carnegie Hall.^[247]
- The **Transgender Trends** panel was the first panel on that subject ever held at San Diego Comic-Con.^[248]
- The San Francisco Police academy graduated its first openly transgender police officer, **Mikayla Connell**.^[249]
- The 100 block of Turk Street in San Francisco was renamed Vicki Mar Lane after trans activist **Vicki Marlane**.^[250]
- [Lea T](#) became the face of American hair-care brand [Redken](#), thus making her the first openly transgender model to front a global cosmetics brand.^{[251][252][253]}
- A national [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) campaign featured an openly transgender person, **Jennifer Barge**, as its spokesperson for the first time.^[254]
- [Chris Mosier](#) became the first openly transgender man inducted into the National Gay and Lesbian Sports Hall of Fame.^{[255][256]}
- **Kinnon MacKinnon** became the first openly transgender man to earn a gold in powerlifting at the Gay Games in the 2014 Games.^[257]
- [BBC2](#) commissioned **Britain's first transgender sitcom**, called *Boy Meets Girl*, which follows the developing relationship between Leo, a 26-year-old man and Judy, a 40-year-old transgender woman.^[258]
- **ICEIS Rain** became the first openly [two-spirit](#) person to perform at the [Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards](#).^[259]
- **Padmini Prakash** became India's first openly transgender television news anchor.^[260]
- **Denmark** became the first European country to remove the Gender Identity Disorder diagnosis as a necessary requirement in the gender recognition process.^[261]
- **Malta** became the first European state to add recognition of gender identity to its constitution as a protected category.^[262]
- **The first openly transgender woman got married in Malta**.^{[263][264]}
- At least 1,000 openly transgender Bangladeshis held **Bangladesh's first pride march**, to mark one year since the government recognized them as a third gender.^[265]
- **Sports:**
 - The [2014 Winter Olympics](#) in Sochi sparked worldwide [protests](#) over host country Russia's crackdown on LGBT rights. [Gus Kenworthy](#) won the silver medal in men's freestyle skiing.

- [Conner Mertens](#), [Willamette University](#)'s kicker, became the first active college football player to come out as LGBT; he came out as bisexual.^[266]
- UMass basketball player [Derrick Gordon](#) came out, thus becoming the first openly gay player in Division I college men's basketball.^[267]
- [Michael Sam](#) was drafted by the [St. Louis Rams](#) and thus became the first openly gay player to be drafted into the [National Football League](#).^[268]
- The Arizona Interscholastic Association Executive Board approved **the first transgender student-athlete to play in a winter sport in Arizona**.^[269]
- **Edward Sarafin**, a backup offensive lineman at Arizona State, became the first active Division I football player to come out as gay.^[270]
- Professional strongman Rob Kearney came out as gay, thus becoming **the first openly gay man actively competing in professional, international strongman competitions**.^[271]
- The FTM Fitness Conference hosted the **first bodybuilding competition for transgender men**, the FTM Fitness World Bodybuilding Competition.^[272]
- [Derrick Gordon](#) became the first openly gay athlete to play a game in Division I men's basketball.^[273]
- [Dale Scott](#) came out as gay in 2014, thus becoming the first openly gay umpire in Major League Baseball.^[274]
- In 2014, [Robbie Rogers](#) became **the first openly gay male athlete to win a big-time team pro sports title in the United States** when the LA Galaxy won the Major League Soccer Cup.^[275]
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - [Good Luck Charlie](#) on The Disney Channel became the first TV show on a child-targeting network to feature a same-sex couple (the characters' names were **Susan and Cheryl**).^[276]
 - Finland releases stamps celebrating noted homoerotic artist [Tom of Finland](#).^[277]
 - **The first Jewish boat participated in the [Amsterdam Pride Canal Parade](#)**.^[278] Marianne van Praag, a Reform rabbi from The Hague, was the only rabbi aboard.^{[279][280]} **The first Moroccan boat also participated in the [Amsterdam Pride Canal Parade](#)**.^[281]
 - *Cosmopolitan* magazine, a women's magazine, offered **sex advice to lesbians for the first time** in its history.^[282]
 - **Pascal Tessier**, a 17-year-old from Chevy Chase, Md., became the first known openly gay Boy Scout to be an Eagle Scout.^[283]
 - The **United Church of Christ** was the first religious denomination to be a major sponsor of the [Gay Games](#), as a fourth-tier silver sponsor of Gay Games 9.^[284]
 - **Maria Walsh** came out as gay after being crowned the Rose of Tralee, thus becoming the first openly gay [Rose of Tralee](#).^[285]
 - Canadian-based writer and illustrator **Eiy nah** wrote Pakistan's first anti-homophobia children's book, "My Chacha Is Gay"; she first wrote it online and had it released in print in 2014.^[286]
 - The **memorial honoring LGBT people persecuted by the Nazis in Tel Aviv**, the first specific recognition in Israel for non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust, was unveiled in 2014.^[287]
 - **Mikie Goldstein** became the first openly gay man to be ordained as a Conservative Jewish Rabbi.^[288] Later that year he became the Israeli Conservative movement's first openly gay congregational rabbi with his installation as spiritual leader of its synagogue in Rehovot (Congregation Adat Shalom-Emanuel).^[289] **Family Circle** featured a same-sex couple for the first time in its November 2014 issue.^[290]
 - [Nehirim](#)'s first **retreat for LGBT rabbis, rabbinic pastors, cantors, and students** was held.^{[291][292]}
 - In 2014 [Los Tigres del Norte](#) released the album *Realidades*, which contains the song "Era Diferente" (meaning "She Was Different") about a lesbian teenager who falls in love with her best friend; according to lead singer and songwriter Jorge Hernandez, this is **the first time a norteño group has ever written a gay love song**.^{[293][294]}

- **Politics:**

- The **UN Human Rights Council** adopted a second resolution related to sexual orientation and gender identity on 26 September 2014.^{[295][296]} It passed by a vote of 25-14 and is the first time in the Council's history that it adopted a resolution on LGBT rights with the majority of its members.^{[295][296]}
- [Lynne Brown](#) was appointed as the **first openly gay cabinet minister in South Africa, which also makes her the first openly gay person to be appointed to a cabinet post in any African government.**^[297] [Zakhele Mbhele](#) became the **first openly gay person to serve in South Africa's parliament, which also makes him the first openly gay black member of parliament in any African nation.**^[298]
- [Petra De Sutter](#) became the first openly transgender person to serve in Belgium's Parliament, specifically its Senate.^[299]
- **Luisa Revilla Urcia** became the first openly transgender person elected to a public office in Peru when she won a seat on the local council in La Esperanza in the province of Trujillo in northwestern Peru.^[300] Later, [Carlos Bruce](#) came out and thus became the first openly gay member of Congress in Peru.^[301]
- [Edgars Rinkēvičs](#) became the first lawmaker in Latvia to announce he is gay, which also makes him the most prominent openly gay politician in a former Soviet Bloc state.^[302]
- Poland elected its first openly gay city mayor ([Robert Biedroń](#), elected mayor of Ślupsk.)
- Matthew Muir was sworn in as **the first openly gay judge to sit on New Zealand's High Court bench.**^[303]
- The Labor government in Victoria, Australia appointed **Martin Foley** as Minister of equality, marking the first time an Australian government has ever had a dedicated Minister overseeing gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues.^[304]
- **Andrew Barr** became the first openly gay state government leader in Australia after he was sworn in as chief minister of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).^[305]
- US Politics:
 - [Maite Oronoz Rodriguez](#) became the **first openly gay person to be nominated for a seat on Puerto Rico's Supreme Court**, and was confirmed for the seat later that year.^{[306][307]}
 - [Darrin P. Gayles](#) became the **first openly gay African-American man to be confirmed as a U.S federal judge.**^[308]
 - [Judith Ellen Levy](#) was confirmed by the Senate as the first openly lesbian federal judge in Michigan.^[309]
 - [Toni Atkins](#) was elected as the first openly lesbian speaker of the California Assembly.^[310] She served as acting governor for one day in this capacity.
 - [Monica Wehby](#) aired the first campaign ad for American national office featuring a same-sex couple (Ben West and Paul Rummell).^[311]
 - [Jim Ferlo](#) came out as gay, thus becoming the Pennsylvania Senate's first openly gay legislator.^[312]
 - [Maura Healey](#) became the first openly gay state attorney general elected in America, elected in Massachusetts.^{[313][314]}
 - **Aditi Hardikar** became the first woman of color to serve the White House as their permanent liaison to the LGBT community.^[315] She replaced [Monique Dorsainvil](#) who had served as the temporary liaison after **Gautam Raghavan** resigned.^[316]
 - **Gypsy Vered Meltzer** was elected to the City Council in Appleton; as such he became the first openly transgender elected official in Wisconsin.^[317]
- **Costa Rica** flew the gay pride flag at their presidential palace; the [International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission](#) said the organization believed it was the first time the gay pride flag had been flown from the offices of a head of state in the Americas.^[318]

- **Cyprus' first ever gay pride parade** draws several thousands of participants.^[319]
- **Hong Kong** held its first international symposium on LGBTI rights.^[320]
- **Mauricio Ruiz** became the first serving member of the Chilean armed forces to announce he was gay.^[321]
- **California** became the first state in the U.S. to officially ban the use of [trans panic](#) and [gay panic](#) defenses in murder trials.^[322]
- Florida-based bank C1 Financial became the first publicly listed bank in the United States to have an openly gay CEO (**Trevor Burgess**) when its stock became available to trade in August 2014.^[323]
- **Tim Cook**, the CEO of [Apple Inc.](#), came out as gay, thus becoming the first openly gay CEO on the [Fortune 500](#) list.^[324]
- A contingent of the group OutVets became the **first LGBT organization in history to march in Boston's Veterans Day parade.**^[325]
- The [Bisexual Resource Center](#), based in Boston, Massachusetts, declared March 2014 as the first **Bisexual Health Awareness Month**, with the theme "Bi the Way, Our Health Matters Too!"; it included the first social media campaign to address disparities in physical and mental health facing the bisexual community.^[326]
- **Queen Elizabeth II** praised the [London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard](#) for their 40-year history making it the first time the Crown has ever publicly supported the LGBT community. They received a comment from the Queen saying: "Best wishes and congratulations to all concerned on this most special anniversary."^[327]

2015

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [United States](#) [nationwide],^[328] the US state of [Florida](#), the [Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Tribes of Alaska](#), the [Oneida Nation of Wisconsin](#), the [Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians](#), the Mexican states of [Chihuahua](#), [Guerrero](#) and [Nayarit](#)
 - **Came into effect:** [Luxembourg](#) (with joint adoption)
 - **Passed:** [Finland](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Chile](#),^[329] [Ecuador](#) (expansion)^{[330][331]}
 - **Passed:** [Cyprus](#),^[332] [Greece](#)^[333]
- **Same-sex couple adoption legislation:** [Austria](#),^[334] [Ireland](#)^[335]
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Mozambique](#)^[336]
- **Anti-discrimination law for gender identity and gender expression:** Canadian province of [Alberta](#).
- **Politics:**
 - **Madhu Kinnar** became India's first openly transgender person to be elected mayor; she was elected mayor of [Chhattisgarh](#)'s Raigarh Municipal Corporation.^[337]
 - Health Minister [Leo Varadkar](#) of Ireland came out as gay, thus becoming **the first openly gay government member in the history of Ireland.**^[338]
 - Canadian politician [Wade MacLauchlan](#) won the leadership of the governing [Prince Edward Island Liberal Party](#) on 21 February, and was formally sworn in as Canada's second out LGBT, and first out gay male, provincial premier on 23 February. His party subsequently won the [provincial election](#) on 4 May, thus also making him the province's first out LGBT member of the [Legislative Assembly of Prince Edward Island](#).
 - **Michael Connolly, Ricardo Miranda and Estefania Cortes-Vargas** won election to the [Legislative Assembly of Alberta](#) as the province's first three openly LGBT MLAs. Cortes-Vargas later came out as genderqueer, and is thus the first out trans person to serve in any Canadian legislature.

- **Nepal** adopted its first democratic constitution, which is the first in Asia to specifically protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.^[339]
- **Tamara Adrian** was elected to the [Venezuelan National Assembly](#), thus becoming the first openly transgender Venezuelan to be elected to their national legislature, as well as the first openly transgender person in the entire Western Hemisphere to do so.^[340]
- **US Politics:**
 - **Aisha Moodie-Mills** became the new president and CEO of the Victory Fund, which made her the first woman, first black woman, first lesbian, and first black lesbian to become the head of a national leading [LGBT](#) organization.^{[341][342]}
 - Pennsylvania State Representative [Mark B. Cohen](#) introduced the first transgender rights bills in Pennsylvania's history.^[343]
 - [Kate Brown](#) became the first openly bisexual governor in the United States, as governor of Oregon.^{[344][345][346]}
 - [Jackie Biskupski](#) was elected as **the first openly gay mayor of Salt Lake City**.^[347]
 - **Nancy VanReece** won the Metro Council District 8 seat in Nashville, thus becoming the first out lesbian elected to a legislative body in Tennessee.^{[348][349]}
 - [Robby Mook](#) became the first openly gay manager of a major presidential campaign ([Hillary Clinton's](#) campaign.)^{[350][351]}
 - [Randy Berry](#) is appointed the **first Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBT Persons**.^[352]
 - President Barack Obama became the first president to use the words "lesbian," "bisexual", and "transgender" in a [State of the Union](#) speech.^[353]
 - President Obama appointed [Raffi Freedman-Gurspan](#) to serve as an Outreach and Recruitment Director in the Presidential Personnel Office, making her **the first openly transgender appointee to work inside the White House**.^[354]
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - **Cambodia** got its first LGBT magazine, *Q Cambodia*.^[355]
 - **Jamaica** held its first LGBT Pride celebrations.^[356]
 - [Zoey Tur](#) joined [INSIDE EDITION](#) as a Special Correspondent during February, thus becoming the first openly transgender television reporter on national TV in America.^{[357][358]}
 - [Thomas Roberts](#) became the first openly gay evening news anchor on network television when he anchored NBC's "Nightly News" for a day.^[359]
 - [Lance Bass](#) and [Michael Turchin](#) became the first same-sex couple to exchange vows on cable television.^[360]
 - Screenwriter Jason Rothenberg of [The 100](#) confirmed that that TV show's lead character, Clarke Griffin (played by Eliza Taylor) was bisexual; this makes her **the first openly bisexual lead character on the CW network**.^[361]
 - St. Patrick's Day Parades: The first gay groups (**Boston Pride and OutVets**) marched in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade;^[362] **OUT@NBCUniversal**, an organization of gay employees of [NBCUniversal](#), became the first gay group to march in the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade;^[363] and **The D.C. Center for the LGBT Community** became the first gay group to march in the Washington, D.C. St. Patrick's Day parade.^{[364][365]}
 - The National Executive Board of the **Boy Scouts** ratified a resolution that removed the national restriction on openly gay adult leaders and employees.^[366] **Pascal Tessier** became the first openly gay adult Boy Scout in the nation to be hired as a summer camp leader when he was hired by the Boy Scouts' New York chapter, Greater New York Councils.^[367]
 - In February 2015, [Patricia Velásquez](#) released her memoir *Straight Walk*, discussing her struggles growing up in poverty in Venezuela and how her relationship with [Sandra Bernhard](#) made her realize she was a lesbian.^[368] This makes her **the world's first openly lesbian Latina supermodel**.^[369]

- In April 2015, the **Rev. Ángel David Marrero** is ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and thus becomes **the first openly gay (Caribbean) latino** ordained in this denomination.^[370]
- **Andreja Pejic** became the first openly transgender model profiled by *Vogue*, in its May 2015 issue.^[371]
- **Laverne Cox** (among others) posed nude for the *Allure* annual "Nudes" issue, becoming the first openly transgender actress to do so.^[372] She also became the first openly transgender person to have a wax figure of herself at *Madame Tussauds*.^[373] She also won a **Daytime Emmy Award** in Outstanding Special Class Special as Executive Producer for *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word*.^{[374][375]} This made her the **first openly transgender woman to win a Daytime Emmy as an Executive Producer**; as well, *The T Word* is the first trans documentary to win a Daytime Emmy.^[374]
- **Caitlyn Jenner** became the first openly transgender woman on the cover of *Vanity Fair*.^[376]
- **Fun Home**, the **first Broadway musical with a lesbian protagonist**, premiered on Broadway.^{[377][378]}
- The **first American federally approved monument honoring LGBT veterans** was dedicated; it is located at the *Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery* in Elwood, Illinois.^[379]
- On 29 May 2015, the **New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission** announced it would officially consider designating the Stonewall Inn as a landmark, the first city location to be considered based on its LGBT cultural significance alone.^[380] On 23 June 2015, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission unanimously approved the designation of the Stonewall Inn as a city landmark, making it the first landmark honored for its role in the fight for gay rights.^[381]
- The **Royal Vauxhall Tavern** became the first ever building in the UK to be given a special "listing" status based on its LGBT history; it was accorded Grade II listed status by the UK's Department of Culture, Media and Sport.^[382]
- The UK-based bisexual women's website Biscuit created the **Purple List**; the first known list of its kind, the Purple List seeks to recognize bisexuals who have contributed to fighting biphobia and increasing bisexual visibility.^{[383][384]}
- **Jacob Anderson-Minshall** became **the first openly transgender author to win a Goldie award from the Golden Crown Literary Society**; he shared the award for best creative non-fiction book with *Diane Anderson-Minshall* for *Queerly Beloved: A Love Story Across Genders*.^[385]
- **Audrey Middleton** became the U.S. television show *Big Brother*'s first openly transgender houseguest.^[386]
- **Scott Turner Schofield** became **the first openly transgender actor to play a major role on daytime television**, as the character Nick on the show *The Bold and the Beautiful*.^{[387][388]} On the same show, the character **Maya Avant** (played by *Karla Mosley*) became the first transgender bride to be married on daytime television when she married Rick Forrester (played by *Jacob Young*).^[389]
- **Hari Nef** became the first openly transgender model signed to IMG.^[390]
- **Andrew Guy** became Australia's first openly transgender TV host, as a guest presenter on *The Project*.^[391]
- The **first Scottish LGBTI Awards** were held.^[392]
- **Neil Patrick Harris** became the first openly gay man to host the *Academy Awards*.^[393]
- The first Oscar campaigns for openly transgender actresses supported by a movie producer were launched for actresses **Kitana Kiki Rodriguez and Mya Taylor** of the movie *Tangerine*.^[394]
- *EastEnders* chose Riley Carter Millington as **the first openly transgender actor in UK TV soap history**; he played 'Kyle', a man who has transitioned from female to male, which Riley did in real life.^[395] Shortly after, *Hollyoaks* cast transgender actress Annie Wallace.^[396]

- [Inga Beale](#), CEO of [Lloyd's of London](#), became the first woman and the first openly bisexual person to be named number one in the OUTstanding & FT Leading LGBT executive power list.^[397]
- **Loiza Lamers** won "[Holland's Next Top Model](#)", making her the first openly transgender winner of the "Top Model" franchise.^[398]
- [Mya Taylor](#) won the [Gotham Award for Breakthrough Actor](#), making her the first openly transgender actress to win a Gotham award.^[399]
- In March 2015 **Rabbi Denise Eger** became the first openly gay president of the [Central Conference of American Rabbis](#), which is the largest and oldest rabbinical organization in North America.^{[400][401]}
- [Abby Stein](#) came out as transgender and thus became the first openly transgender woman (and the first woman) to have been ordained by an ultra-Orthodox institution, having received her rabbinical degree in 2011 from Yeshiva Viznitz in South Fallsburg, N.Y. However, this was before she was openly transgender, and she is no longer working as a rabbi as of 2016.^[402] She is also the first openly transgender woman raised in a [Hasidic](#) community, and is a direct descendant of Hasidic Judaism's founder the [Baal Shem Tov](#).^[403]
- **Family/Relationships:**
 - **Thomas Sawicki and his boyfriend Shawn Brier** became the first male same-sex couple chosen to share the first kiss upon a U.S. Navy ship's return.^[404]
 - **Mikhail Ivan Gallatinov and Mark Goodwin** became the first couple to have a same-sex wedding in a UK prison after marrying at Full Sutton Prison in East Yorkshire.^[405]
 - **Argentina** became Latin America's first nation to recognize same-sex partners and a biological parent on a child's birth certificate; specifically, it allowed a lesbian couple and their son's biological father, who donated sperm for their pregnancy, to be included on the child's birth certificate.^[406] The child's name is Antonio and his two mothers are Susana Guichal and Valeria Gaete, and his father is Hernan Melazzi.^[406]
 - When **President Obama** declared May to be [National Foster Care Month](#) in 2015, he became the first president to explicitly say gender identity should not prevent anyone from adopting or becoming a foster parent.^[407]
 - **Shawn MacIver and James Moccia** became the first openly gay couple to graduate from a police academy together when they graduated from the Boston Police Academy^[408]
 - Tokyo's Shibuya ward passed a local ordinance granting same-sex couples the right to partnership certificates; this makes it **the first place in Japan — or anywhere in East Asia — to recognize same-sex partnerships**.^[409]
 - Ireland became **the first country to legalize same-sex marriage by popular vote**.^[410]
- **Trans:**
 - On 12 February 2015, [USA Today](#) reported that the commandant of Fort Leavenworth wrote in a 5 February memo, "After carefully considering the recommendation that (hormone treatment) is medically appropriate and necessary, and weighing all associated safety and security risks presented, I approve adding (hormone treatment) to Inmate [Chelsea] Manning's treatment plan." According to [USA Today](#), [Chelsea Manning](#) remains a soldier, and **the decision to administer hormone therapy is a first for the U.S. Army**.^[411]
 - In a first for the state, **California's Department of Corrections** was ordered by a federal judge to grant a transgender prisoner (Michelle-Lael Norsworthy) access to gender-affirming surgery.^[412]
 - The inaugural **White House Trans Women Of Color [Women's History Month](#) Briefing** was held.^[413]
 - The **U.S. Justice Department** announced that it had filed its first civil lawsuit on behalf of a transgender person (Rachel Tudor); the lawsuit was *United States of America v. Southeastern*

Oklahoma State University and the Regional University System of Oklahoma, filed in federal court in that state.^[414]

- **Maka Brown**, an 18-year-old senior at the Salt Lake School for Performing Arts, was crowned Utah's first openly transgender prom queen.^[415]
- *Schools In Transition: A Guide for Supporting Transgender Students in K-12 Schools* was introduced; it is a **first-of-its-kind publication for school administrations, teachers, and parents about how to provide safe and supportive environments for all transgender students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.**^[416]
- Philadelphia flew the **transgender pride flag** above City Hall for the first time.^[417]
- **Manabi Bandopadhyay**, India's first openly transgender college principal, began work; she worked as the principal of the [Krishnagar Women's College](#) in Nadia district.^[418]
- **A transgender man's phalloplasty became the first ever seen on camera**, in the Channel 4 documentary *Girls to Men*.^[419]
- The **first U.S. congressional forum on anti-transgender violence** was held.^[420]
- The (American) Department of Veterans Affairs opened its **first clinic for transgender service members.**^[421]
- **Aydian Dowling** became the first openly transgender man on the cover of *Men's Health* magazine, as part of a special collector's edition.
- **Intersex:**
 - In April 2015, **Malta** became the first country in the world to outlaw [sterilization](#) and invasive surgery on [intersex](#) people.^{[422][422][423][423]}
- **Sports:**
 - **Chris Mosier** became the first known out trans athlete to join a U.S. national team that matched his gender identity, rather than the gender assigned him at birth, when he won a spot on Team USA in the men's sprint duathlon.^[424]
 - **Sean Conroy** became the first openly gay baseball player to appear in a professional game; Conroy pitched nine scoreless innings to lead the Sonoma Stompers to a 7-0 win over the Vallejo Admirals in the Pacific Association of Baseball Clubs, an independent league featuring teams from Northern California.^[425]
 - **Benjamin Thomas Watt** from New Zealand became the first openly gay professional boxing judge.^[426]
 - **David Denson** came out as gay, making him the first active minor league player affiliated with a Major League Baseball organization to do so.^[427]
 - **Keegan Hirst** became the first British rugby league professional to come out as gay.^[428]
 - **Sam Stanley**, nephew of [Joe Stanley](#), became the first English rugby union player to come out as gay.^[429]
 - Chris Burns, an assistant coach at Bryant University, came out as gay, thus becoming the **first openly gay coach in Division I men's basketball.**^[430]
 - **Breanna Sinclairé** became **the first openly transgender person to sing the national anthem at a professional sporting event**, which she did at a [Major League Baseball](#) game.^[431]
- **Adrianna Vorderbruggen** died in combat; she is believed to be the first American active duty, openly gay, female service member to die in combat, and is the first openly gay American Air Force officer to die in combat.^[432]

2016

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Colombia](#), [Isle of Man](#), The Mexican states of [Jalisco](#), [Campeche](#), [Colima](#), [Michoacán](#) and [Morelos](#), [Greenland](#), [Gibraltar](#), [British Antarctic Territory](#)

- Passed: [Faroe Islands](#), [Guernsey](#), [Ascension Island](#)
- **Civil Union/Registered Partnership laws:**
 - Passed and came into effect: [Italy](#), [Aruba](#)
 - Came into effect: [Estonia](#)^[433]
- **Same-sex couple adoption legislation:** [Portugal](#)^[434]
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Seychelles](#),^[435] [Nauru](#),^[436] [Belize](#)^[437]
- **Anti-Discrimination laws for gender identity and gender expression:** Canadian provinces of Quebec and [British Columbia](#)
- **Sports:**
 - On 11 February 2016 [Adidas](#) announces [LGBT](#) clause in [athletes' contracts](#).
 - **Amelia Gapin** became the first openly transgender woman to be featured on the cover of [Women's Running](#).^[438]
 - **Chris Mosier** was chosen as the first openly transgender athlete to be featured in the "Body Issue" of ESPN The Magazine,^[439] and appeared in Nike's first ad with an openly transgender athlete.^[440]
 - **Caitlyn Jenner** became the first openly transgender person on the cover of [Sports Illustrated](#).^[441]
 - **Amanda Nunes** became the UFC's first openly gay champion.^[442]
 - **Harrison Browne** of the [National Women's Hockey League](#) came out as a transgender man, which made him **the first openly transgender athlete in professional American team sports**.^[443]
 - **Lea T** became the first openly transgender person ever to participate in the opening ceremonies of an Olympics when she led the Brazilian team into the stadium on her bike during the [2016 Rio Olympics](#).^{[444][445]}
 - The British women's field hockey team won gold at the Olympics; as Kate and Helen Richardson-Walsh were both on that team, this made them **the first same-sex married couple to win Olympic medals**.^[446]
- **Politics**
 - **UK Politics:**
 - [Hannah Blythyn](#), [Jeremy Miles](#), and [Adam Price](#) became **the first openly gay members of the Welsh Assembly**.^[447]
 - British Government minister [Justine Greening](#) revealed that she was in a same-sex relationship, thus becoming the first out LGB female cabinet minister.^[448]
 - [Anwen Muston](#) was elected to [Wolverhampton City Council](#), making her the first openly transgender woman to be elected as a Labour representative.^{[449][450]}
 - [Prince William](#) became the first member of Britain's royal family to appear on the cover of a gay magazine when he appeared on the cover of the July issue of [Attitude](#); in the cover story, he also became the first British royal to openly condemn the bullying of the gay community.^[451]
 - Lord [Ivar Mountbatten](#) came out as gay and revealed that he was in a relationship with James Coyle, an airline cabin services director whom he met whilst at a ski resort in [Verbier](#).^[452] While not being a member of the British royal family, he is the first member of the extended family to come out as gay.^[453]
 - [Carl Austin-Behan](#) was sworn in as Manchester's **first openly gay Lord Mayor**.^[454]
 - [Nicola Sturgeon](#) becomes the first UK prime minister or First Minister to deliver an address at a Gay Pride event when she appeared at Glasgow Pride 2017. She addressed the crowd vowing to continue fighting for equality and respect throughout the UK, Closing with the statement "Love is Love".
 - **US Politics:**
 - President Barack Obama appointed [Raffi Freedman-Gurspan](#) as the White House's primary LGBT liaison, making her the first openly transgender person in the role.^[455]

- [Maite Oronoz Rodríguez](#) became Puerto Rico's first openly gay chief justice and, as such, the first openly gay chief justice in U.S. history.^[456]
- [Eric Fanning](#) became the **first openly gay Secretary of the United States Army**.^[457]
- Santa Clara County became the **first county government in the U.S. to raise the transgender pride flag**.^[458]
- **Trans United Fund** was founded; it is the first group of its kind, a 501(c)(4) organization of transgender leaders focused on transgender issues.^[459]
- [Misty Plowright](#) became the first openly transgender candidate to win a major party primary for the US House of Representatives.^[460]
- [Misty Snow](#) became the first openly transgender candidate to win a major party primary for the US Senate.^[460]
- At the GOP Convention, [Peter Thiel](#) became the first person to publicly announce in a speech that he is gay,^[461] Rachel Hoff became the first openly gay person to sit on the Republican Party's Platform Committee,^[462] and [Donald Trump](#) became **the first Republican nominee to mention the LGBT community in a GOP nomination address**, saying in his acceptance speech at the [2016 Republican National Convention](#) on 21 July 2016: "As your president, I will do everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression of a hateful foreign ideology."^[463]
- [Sarah McBride](#) was a speaker at the [Democratic National Convention](#), becoming the first openly transgender person to address a major party convention in American history.^{[464][465][466][467]}
- [Hillary Clinton](#) wrote an op-ed for [Philadelphia Gay News](#), which was **the first time a major-party presidential candidate wrote an op-ed for an LGBT newspaper**,^[468] and was the first presumptive presidential nominee from any major party to march in the NYC Pride March.^[469]
- Along with [Martha Raddatz](#), [Anderson Cooper](#) moderated the second [presidential election debate](#) between [Hillary Clinton](#) and [Donald Trump](#).^[470] This made him the first openly gay person to moderate a presidential debate.^[471]
- [Kate Brown](#) was elected as governor of Oregon, and thus became **the first openly bisexual person elected as a United States governor (and indeed the first openly LGBT person elected as such)**.^[472]
- [Indonesia](#)'s president [Jokowi](#) stated that he is defending the protection of LGBT rights in Indonesia.^[473]
- [Katherine Zappone](#) became **Ireland's first openly lesbian minister**.^[474]
- For the first time **two openly gay men ran for parliament in Russia**.^[475]
- Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull became the first sitting Australian Prime Minister to attend the **Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras**,^[476] also attended by Opposition Leader Bill Shorten.^[477]
- Icelandic President [Guðni Th. Jóhannesson](#) became the first president of a country to participate in a pride parade when he gave a speech at Reykjavík Pride 2016 in Iceland.
- Canadian Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau](#) became the first Canadian Prime Minister to march in a pride parade.^[478]
- [Geraldine Roman](#) became **the first openly transgender woman elected to Congress in the Philippines**.^[479]
- The UN Security Council condemned the [2016 Orlando nightclub shooting](#); this statement marked the first time the U.N. Security Council used language recognizing violence targeting the LGBT community.^[480]
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - On 24 June 2016, President [Barack Obama](#) officially designated the [Stonewall National Monument](#), making it the United States' first National Monument designated for an LGBT

historic site. The National Monument status encompasses the Stonewall Inn, Christopher Street Park, and the block of Christopher Street bordering the park.^{[481][482]}

- The house at 219 11th St. SE which was home to the [Furies Collective](#) was named as **the first lesbian-related historic landmark in Washington, D.C.** when it was unanimously voted into the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites.^[483]
- Edificio Comunidad de Orgullo Gay became the **first Latino LGBT site on the [National Register of Historic Places](#)**.^[484]
- [Mya Taylor](#) became the first openly transgender actor to win an [Independent Spirit Award](#); she won for Best Supporting Female.^[485]
- [Erin O’Flaherty](#) became the first openly gay Miss Missouri, which also made her the first openly lesbian Miss America candidate.^[486]
- Through her Foundation, [Jennifer Pritzker](#) gave a \$2 million donation to create the **world's first endowed academic chair of [transgender studies](#)**, at the [University of Victoria in British Columbia](#); [Aaron Devor](#) was chosen as the inaugural chair.^[487] The [United Nations](#) voted to create their first LGBT human rights watchdog.^[488]
- Nur Warsame came out and thus became **Australia's first openly gay Imam**.^[489]
- The United Methodist church elected its first openly gay bishop, [Karen Oliveto](#).^[490]
- [Nicholas Chamberlain](#) was **the first bishop in the Church of England to [come out](#) as gay**, which occurred following threats of an [outing](#) from an unnamed [Sunday newspaper](#). He said he lived with his partner in a [celibate](#) same-sex relationship, as required by the Bishops' guidelines, under which [gay clergy](#) must practice [abstinence](#) and may not marry.^{[491][492][493][494]}
- A Nickelodeon cartoon, called **The Loud House**, introduced the first animated married same-sex couple to its channel.^[495]
- [Elle](#) printed special collectors’ covers for their September 2016 issue, and one of them featured [Hari Nef](#), which was **the first time an openly transgender woman had been on the cover of a major commercial British magazine**.^[496]
- [Tracey Norman](#) and [Geena Rocero](#) became the first two openly transgender models to appear on the cover of an edition of *Harper's Bazaar*.^[497]

- **Trans:**

- In January 2016, the [Ministry of Health](#) of **Chile** ordered the suspension of unnecessary normalization treatments for [intersex](#) children, including irreversible surgery, until they reach an age when they can make decisions on their own.^{[498][499]}
- [Nisha Ayub](#) received the [International Women of Courage Award](#) in 2016, becoming the first openly transgender woman to receive that award.^[500]
- Aiden Katri, 19, became the **first Israeli transgender woman to be jailed for refusing to serve in the military**.^[501]
- On 10 June 2016, an [Oregon](#) circuit court ruled that a resident, [Jamie Shupe](#), could legally change their gender to non-binary. The [Transgender Law Center](#) believes this to be "the first ruling of its kind in the U.S."^[502]
- An important legal victory for transgender people occurred in April 2016, when the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of transgender male student [Gavin Grimm](#), which marked the first ruling by a U.S. appeals court to find that transgender students are protected under federal laws that ban sex-based discrimination.^[503] The ruling came on a challenge to the Gloucester County School Board's policy of making transgender students use alternative restroom facilities.^[503]
- It was announced on 30 June 2016 that, beginning on that date, **otherwise qualified United States service members could not any longer be discharged, denied reenlistment, involuntarily separated, or denied continuation of service because of being transgender**.^[504]
- **Israel** held its first transgender beauty pageant, which was called "Miss Trans Israel", and was held at a club in Tel Aviv.^[505]

- **Family/Relationships:**
 - The **ceremonial first kiss shared between a sailor and their partner after returning from active duty in the Canadian Navy** was done by two men for the first time.^[506]
 - An anonymous couple held **the first same-sex wedding in Cyprus**,^[507] while Marios Frixou and Fanos Eleftheriades held **the first public same-sex wedding in Cyprus**.^[507]
 - Tom Swann and Guillermo Hernandez became the **first same-sex couple to marry in a United States federal immigration detention center**.^[508]
 - The **first Jewish same-sex wedding ceremony in Latin America** was celebrated in Buenos Aires; the wedding was for Victoria Escobar and Romina Charur and was officiated by Rabbi Karina Finkielstein.^[509]
 - In the **first such ruling in Italy, a lesbian couple won the right to legally adopt each other's biological children**.^[510]
 - Luke Carine and Zak Tomlinson became **the first same-sex couple to get married on the Isle of Man**.^[511]
 - Mexico had rallies for and against marriage equality.^[512]
 - 250,000 pro-gay marriage protesters gathered at [Ketagalan Boulevard, Taipei, Taiwan](#) the main artery around the presidential office^[513] Less than a week earlier, 80,000 people protested against same-sex marriage in Taipei, with an additional 90,000 across the country.^[514]
- Rare LGBT protest held in [Lebanon](#) on 16 May 2016.

2017

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Came into effect:** [Ascension Island](#), [Faroe Islands](#), [Finland](#)
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Australia](#), [Bermuda](#) (temporarily repealed from June 2, 2018 - November 23, 2018), [Germany](#), [Guernsey](#), [Falkland Islands](#), [Malta](#), [Saint Helena](#), [Tristan da Cunha](#), the Mexican states [Chiapas](#), [Baja California](#) and [Puebla](#)
 - **Supreme Court Ruling:** [Austria](#) (to take effect by 1 January 2019), [Taiwan](#) (to take effect by 24 May 2019)
 - **Passed:** [Alderney](#)
- **Criminalization of homosexuality:** [Chad](#)^[515]
- **Anti-discrimination and hate crime law:**
 - **Canada** passed bill C-16, which bans discrimination against trans people and recognizes bias against trans people as an aggravating factor in crime (hate crime); the province of New Brunswick, and the territories of Nunavut and Yukon also passed laws banning discrimination against trans people and allowing people to change their legal gender without surgery, meaning trans people are now protected from discrimination in all provinces and territories.^[516]
 - **India:** [Supreme Court of India](#) rules that the right to privacy is intrinsically protected under Article 21 and Part 3 of the [Constitution of India](#), and lambasts the reasoning behind the earlier 2013 Supreme Court ruling *Koushal v. Naz Foundation* for its dismissal of LGBT rights as "so-called" and of LGBT persons as "a miniscule fraction of the country's population" in its reinstatement of Section 377 of the IPC. The new ruling protects sexual orientation as a constitutional "sanctity" of privacy alongside "preservation of personal intimacies", "family life, marriage, procreation, the home" and "a right to be left alone". The ruling leaves room for a stronger legal challenge against Section 377.
- **Arts and Culture:**
 - Marshall Bang became **the first singer in Korea to debut as an openly gay musician**.^[517]
 - **Queer British Art show** leads Tate 2017 programme.^[518]

- The January 2017 issue of [National Geographic](#) has a 9-year-old transgender girl on the cover (Avery Jackson); she is **thought to be the first openly transgender person on National Geographic's cover.**^[519]
- [Ellen Hart](#), who is openly lesbian,^[520] became the first openly LGBT writer to be named a Grand Master by the [Mystery Writers of America.](#)^[521]
- Joe Maldonado became **the first openly transgender member of the Boy Scouts of America.**^[522] In 2016, he was rejected from the Cub Scouts for being transgender, but this policy was changed in 2017 after his story became nationally known.^[522]
- [Gabrielle Tremblay](#) became **the first openly transgender actress ever nominated for a Canadian Screen Award**, as Best Supporting Actress for her role in [Those Who Make Revolution Halfway Only Dig Their Own Graves](#) (*Ceux qui font les révolutions à moitié n'ont fait que se creuser un tombeau*).^[523]
- Brazilian model Valentina Sampaio became the **first openly transgender model on the cover of French Vogue.**^{[524][525]}
- Martina Robledo became the **first openly transgender woman to act as a trophy presenter at the Grammys.**^[526]
- [Moonlight](#) became the **first LGBT-related film** to win the Best Picture award at the **Oscars.**^[527]
- M Barclay became the **first openly non-binary trans person to be commissioned as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church.**^[528]
- [Alex Hai](#) came out as a transgender man, thus becoming **the first openly transgender gondolier in Venice.**^{[529][530]}
- Ryan Atkin became **the first openly gay official in English soccer.**^[531]
- San Francisco 49ers assistant coach Katie Sowers came out as gay, thus becoming **the NFL's first openly LGBT coach, and the first openly LGBT coach in all of U.S. men's professional sports.**^{[532][533]}
- [Scott Frantz](#) became **the first openly gay college football player to play in a game for a NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision school.**^[534]
- In August 2017, **the first West Africa LGBT-Inclusive religious gathering** occurred. Over 30 participants indigenous to ten West African countries, including Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Togo participated in an interfaith diversity event hosted by Interfaith Diversity Network of West Africa with the theme of "Building Bridges, Sharing Stories, Creating Hope"^[535]
- MOGA, a Muslim Women's fashion designer becomes **the first fashion designer in the world to release a rainbow hijab.**^[536]
- **Politics:**
 - [Jess Herbst](#), mayor of New Hope, came out as transgender and thus became **the first known openly transgender elected official in Texas history.**^[537]
 - Japan became the first country in the world to elect an openly transgender man to a public office when **Tomoya Hosoda** was elected as a councilor for the city of [Iruma.](#)^{[538][539]}
 - [Candice Jackson](#) is appointed the first openly gay Deputy Assistant Secretary for Strategic Operations and Outreach in the [Office for Civil Rights](#) of the [United States Department of Education.](#)^[540]
 - Two openly gay candidates were elected to the [Anchorage Assembly](#) (Christopher Constant and Felix Rivera), becoming **the first openly LGBT elected officials in Alaska.**^{[541][542]}
 - [Andy Street](#) became **the United Kingdom's first openly gay directly elected metro mayor.**^[543]
 - [Leo Varadkar](#) became the new [Taoiseach](#) (Prime Minister) of [Ireland](#) and leader of the [Fine Gael](#) party, after winning 51 of the 73 votes in the parliamentary party. He was **the first openly gay Taoiseach**, as well as the youngest and the first of half-Indian descent.^[544]
 - [Paul Feinman](#) became the **first openly gay judge on the New York Court of Appeals.**^[545]

- [Ana Brnabić](#) was elected as the first openly gay (and first female) [Prime Minister of Serbia](#),^[546] and was the first head of government of any Balkan country to attend a gay pride march; she attended one in Belgrade.^[547]
- [Alice Weidel](#) was elected as the first openly gay (and first female) co-chair of [Alternative for Germany](#) and was elected to [Federal Diet](#) of [Germany](#).
- [Danica Roem](#) was elected as [Virginia](#)'s first transgender lawmaker.
- [Andrea Jenkins](#) became **the first openly transgender black woman elected to public office in the United States** when she was elected to the Minneapolis City Council.^[548]
- Tyler Titus, a transgender man, became **the first openly transgender person elected to public office in Pennsylvania** when he was elected to the Erie School Board.^[549] He and [Phillipe Cunningham](#), elected to the Minneapolis City Council on the same night, became **the first two openly trans men to be elected to public office in the United States**.^[550]
- [Allison Ikley-Freeman](#) was elected as Oklahoma's first lesbian lawmaker.
- **America's first all-LGBT city council** was elected in Palm Springs, consisting of three gay men, a transgender woman and a bisexual woman.^[551]
- Taiwan's [Constitutional Court](#) declared the [statutory](#) ban on same-sex marriage in Taiwan's Civil Code was "in violation of both the people's freedom of marriage as protected by Article 22 and the people's right to equality as guaranteed by Article 7 of the [Constitution](#)."^[552] The accompanying official press release from the court stated that if the Legislature fails to amend the law within the two-year time frame, then "two persons of the same-sex...may apply for marriage registration [and] shall be accorded the status of a legally recognized couple, and then enjoy the rights and bear the obligations arising on couples".^[553]
- **Trans:**
 - **Denmark** became the second country in the world to officially remove transgender identities from its list of mental health disorders.^[554]
 - The [Unitarian Universalist Association](#)'s **General Assembly** voted to create inclusive wordings for non-binary, genderqueer, gender fluid, agender, intersex, two-spirit and polygender people, replacing the words "men and women" with the word "people." Of the six sources of the living tradition, the second source of faith, as documented in the bylaws of the denomination, now includes "Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love."^[555]
 - [Philippa York](#), formerly Robert Millar, came out as transgender, thus becoming **the first former professional cyclist to have publicly transitioned**.^[556]
 - [Ines Rau](#) became **the first openly transgender [Playboy Playmate](#)**.^[557]
 - The [United States Defense Health Agency](#) for the **first time approved payment for [sex reassignment surgery](#)** for an active-duty U.S. military service member. The patient, an infantry soldier who identifies as a woman, had already begun a course of treatment for gender reassignment. The procedure, which the treating doctor deemed medically necessary, was performed on 14 November at a private hospital, since U.S. military hospitals lack the requisite surgical expertise.^[558]

2018

- **Same-sex marriage laws:**
 - **Passed and came into effect:** [Jersey](#)
 - **Came into effect:** [Alderney](#), [Bermuda](#) (after Supreme Court decision)
 - **Supreme Court Ruling:** [Costa Rica](#) (to take effect by 26 May 2020)
- **Decriminalisation of homosexuality:** [Trinidad and Tobago](#), [India](#)

- The Prime Minister of the UK, [Theresa May](#), issues an apology expressing "deep regret" for Britain's role in imposing [colonial laws that criminalize LGBT people across the Commonwealth](#) and the legacy of violence and discrimination that persists today. At the time of the apology, 36 of 53 Commonwealth countries still had colonial-era criminalization laws.^{[559][560]}
- **Arts and Culture**
 - [Adam Rippon](#) became **the United States' first openly gay athlete ever to qualify for any Winter Olympics.**^[561] That year he won an Olympic bronze medal as part of the figure skating team event, thus becoming **the first openly gay U.S. athlete to win a medal at the Winter Olympics.**^{[562][563]}
 - [Canadian Women's Hockey League](#) player [Jessica Platt](#) came out as a transgender woman, making her **the first transgender woman to come out in North American professional hockey.**^{[564][565]}
 - Daniel Hall and Vinny Franchino became **the first active-duty, same-sex couple to marry at West Point.**^[566]
 - [Yance Ford](#) and Joslyn Barnes were nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature](#) for producing *Strong Island*, which he also directed.^{[567][568]} As such, Ford was **the first openly transgender man to be nominated for any Academy Award, and the first openly transgender director to be nominated for any Academy Award.**^[569]
 - [Laverne Cox](#) became **the first openly transgender person to appear on the cover of any *Cosmopolitan* magazine (specifically, Cosmopolitan South Africa's February 2018 issue).**^[570]
 - [Paris Lees](#) became **the first openly transgender woman featured in British *Vogue*.**^[571]
 - Holland, **the first openly gay K-pop singer**, debuted his first single, "Neverland."^[517]
 - [Dee Rees](#) and [Virgil Williams](#) were nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay](#) for *Mudbound*, which made Rees the first queer black woman to be nominated for any Academy Award in a writing category; she was a lesbian.^{[572][573][574]}
 - [Rachel Morrison](#) became the first woman ever nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Cinematography](#), and thus, as she was a lesbian, the first lesbian as well.^{[575][576]}
 - Canadian [Eric Radford](#) became **the first openly gay man to win a gold medal at any Winter Olympics.**^[577]
 - [Jhon Botia Miranda](#) was consecrated as a pastor by Bishop Juan Cardona and thus became **the first openly gay pastor consecrated in the Colombian Methodist Church**, as well as the first in all of Latin America in the Methodist Church.^[578]
 - *Love, Simon* was released as **the first film ever released by a major studio to focus on a gay teenage romance.**^{[579][580]}
 - [Todd Harrity](#) came out as gay, thus becoming the first openly gay professional male squash player in the world.^{[581][582]}
 - [Raquel Pennington](#) faced [Amanda Nunes](#) on 12 May 2018 at [UFC 224](#) in a [UFC Women's Bantamweight Championship](#) bout.^[583] Pennington lost the fight via TKO in the fifth round.^[584] This was **the first event in UFC history to be headlined by two openly gay fighters.**^[585]
 - **The Vatican used the acronym LGBT in an official document for the first time.**^[586]
 - [Sue Bird](#) and [Megan Rapinoe](#) became **the first same-sex couple on the cover of ESPN's Body Issue.**^[587]
 - [Angela Ponce](#) made history on June 29, 2018, becoming **the first openly transgender woman to ever be crowned *Miss Spain*.**^[588]
 - Sharon Afek became **the Israel Defense Forces' first openly gay major general.**^[589]
 - Land O'Lakes named Beth Ford its first female CEO, making her the **first openly gay woman CEO to run a Fortune 500 company.**^[590]
 - Bradley Kim of the Air Force Academy came out as gay, thus becoming **the first openly gay football player to play for any military academy in the United States.**^[591]

- [Mike Jacobs](#) became **the first sitting judge in the United States to come out as bisexual.**^[592]
- A bill was signed into law designating the LGBTQ Veterans Memorial at the [Desert Memorial Park](#) as California's official LGBTQ veterans memorial. Due to this, **California became the first state in the nation to officially recognize LGBTQ military veterans.**^[593]
- [Tadd Fujikawa](#) came out as gay during a post on Instagram, becoming **the first male professional golfer to publicly come out as gay.**^[594]
- [Yance Ford](#) and Joslyn Barnes were awarded an Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking for producing *Strong Island*, which made Ford the first openly transgender man and the first black openly transgender person to win an Emmy award, as well as the first openly transgender filmmaker to win a [Creative Arts Emmy](#).^{[595][596][597]}
- Lord [Ivar Mountbatten](#) married his same-sex partner, James Coyle, on the 22 of September 2018,^{[598][599]} becoming **the first member of the British monarch's extended family to have a same-sex wedding.**^{[599][600][601]}
- **America's first city-wide Bi Pride event was held,** in [West Hollywood](#).^[602]
- **Patricio Manuel** became the first openly transgender male to box professionally in the United States, and, as he won the fight, the first openly transgender male to win a pro boxing fight in the U.S.^[603]
- **Politics**
 - [Jacinda Ardern](#) became **the first prime minister of New Zealand to march in a gay pride parade.**^[604]
 - [Toni Atkins](#) succeeded [Kevin de León](#) as [Senate President Pro Tempore](#). This made her the first woman and the first openly [LGBT](#) person (she was a lesbian) to lead the California State Senate.^{[605][606]}
 - [Christine Hallquist](#) became **the first openly transgender candidate for governor nominated by a major political party in the United States** when she was nominated for governor of Vermont by the Democrats.^[607]
 - [Mike Jacobs](#) became **the first sitting judge in the United States to come out as bisexual.**^[592]
 - [Kyrsten Sinema](#) became the first openly bisexual person to win a major party nomination to run for a U.S. Senate seat.^[608]
 - [Kyrsten Sinema](#) became the first openly bisexual person elected to the U.S. Senate.^[609]
 - [Graça Fonseca](#) became **the first openly gay government minister in Portugal.**^[610]
 - [Xavier Bettel](#) becomes **the first [openly gay Prime Minister](#) in the world to be re-elected for a second term.**^{[611][612]}
 - [Etienne Schneider](#) became **the first [openly gay deputy Prime Minister](#) in the world to be re-elected for a second term.**
 - [Jared Polis](#) won election as governor of Colorado, becoming **the first openly gay person elected governor of any US state.**^[613] (He is not, however, the first gay person to serve as a state governor; on August 12, 2004, [Jim McGreevey](#), 52nd [of New Jersey](#), came out as gay after being elected, but resigned during his term.)^[614]
 - [Sharice Davids](#) was elected as **the first openly gay Native American in the US Congress, the first openly LGBTQ member of the Kansas congressional delegation, and the first openly gay person representing Kansas on the federal level.**^{[615][616]}
 - [Angie Craig](#) became **the first openly lesbian mother to be elected to the US Congress, and the first openly gay person elected to Congress from Minnesota.**^{[617][618]}
 - [Ahmad Zahra](#) was elected to [Fullerton](#) city council, thus becoming **the first openly gay Muslim to be elected to office in the USA**^{[619][620]}
 - [Chris Pappas](#) became the first openly gay person representing Congress for New Hampshire.^[617]
- **Trans**

- [Laverne Cox](#) became **the first openly transgender person to appear on the cover of any *Cosmopolitan* magazine (specifically, *Cosmopolitan South Africa's* February 2018 issue).^[570]**
- [Paris Lees](#) became **the first openly transgender woman featured in British *Vogue*.**^[571]
- *Transgender Health* reported that a transgender woman in the United States breastfed her adopted baby; this was **the first known case of a transgender woman breastfeeding.**^{[621][622]}
- [Canadian Women's Hockey League](#) player Jessica Platt came out as a transgender woman, making her **the first transgender woman to come out in North American professional hockey.**^{[564][565]}
- [Yance Ford](#) and Joslyn Barnes were nominated for the [Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature](#) for producing *Strong Island*, which he also directed.^{[567][568]} As such, Ford was **the first openly transgender man to be nominated for any Academy Award, and the first openly transgender director to be nominated for any Academy Award.**^[569]
- [Daniela Vega](#) became the first openly transgender person in history to be a presenter at the [Academy Awards.](#)^{[623][624][625]}
- [Marvia Malik](#) became the first openly transgender newsreader to appear on Pakistani television in 2018.^{[626][627][628]}
- [Peppermint](#) made her [Broadway](#) debut in [The Go-Go's](#)-inspired musical *Head Over Heels*. The show began previews on June 23, 2018 and officially opened July 26; playing the role of Pythio, **Peppermint became the first trans woman to originate a principal role on Broadway.**^[629]
- [Christine Hallquist](#) became **the first openly transgender candidate for governor nominated by a major political party in the United States** when she was nominated for governor of Vermont by the Democrats.^[607]
- [Yance Ford](#) and Joslyn Barnes were awarded an Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking for producing *Strong Island*, which made Ford the first openly transgender man and the first black openly transgender person to win an Emmy award, as well as the first openly transgender filmmaker to win a [Creative Arts Emmy.](#)^{[595][596][597]}
- [Patricio Manuel](#) became the first openly transgender male to box professionally in the United States, and, as he won the fight, the first openly transgender male to win a pro boxing fight in the U.S.^[603]
- [Colombia](#) prosecuted a transgender woman's murder as a [femicide](#) for the first time in 2018, sentencing Davinson Stiven Erazo Sánchez to twenty years in a psychiatric center for "aggravated femicide" a year after he killed Anyela Ramos Claros, a transgender woman.^[630]

2019

- Same-sex marriage laws:
 - Came into effect: [Austria](#)
- Decriminalisation of homosexuality: [Angola](#)^[631]
- [Pete Buttigieg](#) became **the first ever openly gay Democratic presidential candidate in American history.**^[632]
- [Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga](#) was released; it was **the first mainstream Indian film to deal with a lesbian relationship.**
- Serbian Prime Minister [Ana Brnabić](#)'s partner Milica Djurdjic gave birth to a boy; Brnabić is therefore believed to be **the first prime minister in a same-sex couple whose partner gave birth while the prime minister was in office**