Lesbian & gay people have for centuries struggled to be accepted as equal and treated humanely, fairly and with dignity. They have been oppressed, persecuted and killed due to prejudice, intolerance and indifference. The table below, written on the colours of the Gay Pride Flag, gives a brief reflection of that struggle, highlighting some of the significant steps in a long and often brutal history.

### Gay Pride Flag

The colours represent:
- **Life**
- **Healing**
- **Sun**
- **Nature**
- **Art**
- **Spirit**

#### Life
- 1953: German anti-homosexual law strengthened by Nazis.
- 1989: First openly gay man was elected as an MP.

#### Healing
- 1933: The Nazis destroyed the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee founded in 1897 and destroyed its library.
- 1981: The first UK gay newspaper, *One In Five*, was founded.

#### Sun
- 1982: Male homosexuality was decriminalised in Scotland.
- 1999: House of Lords defeated the clause to lower the age of consent for gay men at 16.

#### Nature
- 1992: Second action group OutRage! was set up by Peter Tatchell after a west London queerbashing murder of actor Michael Boothe.
- 2005: British government lifts ban on gays in the military.

#### Art
- 1965: The first Lesbian & Gay Pride march took place in New York to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion.
- 2002: Equal rights are granted to lesbian and gay couples applying for adoption.

#### Spirit
- 1986: Male homosexuality was decriminalised in Northern Ireland.

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The Knitting Circle Timetable of Lesbian & Gay History site has more detailed information.

[www.sbu.ac.uk/~stafflag/timetable.html](http://www.sbu.ac.uk/~stafflag/timetable.html)