

Colours of Pride:



The Stories of the Pride Flags



The Pride Flag has been a long standing **symbol of strength and unity** to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Just like our community the Pride Flag has **evolved** and changed over the years. Keep reading for some of the stories of the Pride Flag.

TWO SPIRIT PRIDE FLAG



In 1990, Elder Myra Laramie introduced the term Two-Spirit at the Third Annual Intertribal Native American/First Nations Gay and Lesbian American Conference in Winnipeg. It comes from the Anishinaabemowin term *niizh manidoowag*, describing a person with both masculine and feminine characteristics. The Two - Spirit flag has evolved and changed with its own unique history. From the Squamish Nation Flag in 2020 to the new flag that was unveiled in 2024, Designed by Anishnaabe artist Patrick Hunter. The new flag features two eagle feathers, representing the balance of masculine and feminine spirits. Around them is *giizis* (the sun) and a rainbow of dots. Hunter explains, "The two feathers on top of the sun speak to feminine energy as well as masculine energy and how two-spirit people walk between those worlds. We walk Turtle Island (Earth) with these two perspectives at all times, and if they are in harmony, we can achieve anything."

ORIGINAL PRIDE FLAG



Created by artist Gilbert Baker, the original pride flag was raised in 1978. Baker created the flag when famed gay liberation activist and politician Harvey Milk called upon him to create a symbol for the community. Baker describes it as a statement about human rights but also, "something that is torn from the soul of our people. The ideas that we're all of the colours, we're all of the genders, we're all of the sexes, we're all of the races, all of it. The whole spectrum of our humanness. "



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TRADITIONAL PRIDE FLAG



After the assassination of Harvey Milk, the flag was in high demand. Due to the inaccessibility of the pink fabric the stripe was removed. The turquoise stripe was removed later as a design choice from Baker.

PHILIDELPHIA PRIDE FLAG



The Philidelphia City Council commissioned the creation of this flag to incorporate queer communities of colour. It was first unveiled during their pride event in 2017. The black and brown stripes symbolize all the contributions of people of colour to the community and the movement.

PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG



Evolving from the Philadelphia Pride Flag Daniel Quaser added a white, pink, and light blue stripe to represent the Trans community. The black and brown stripe still represent People of Colour while the black stripe also is a nod to the individuals the community lost during the HIV/AIDS crisis.

INTERSEX- INCLUSIVE PROGRESS PRIDE FLAG



The Intersex - Inclusive Progress Pride Flag adds the intersex community to the Progress Pride Flag. This update came in 2021 and was created by Valentina Vecchietti of Intersex Equality Rights UK.

REFERENCES

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