



AUDRE LORDE

American writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist. self-described "Black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet" who dedicated her life and her work to confronting and addressing injustices of racism, sexism, classism, capitalism, heterosexism, and homophobia.



BAYARD RUSTIN

African American leader in social movements for civil rights, socialism, nonviolence, and gay rights.

He worked closely with Dr Martin Luther King Jr during the civil rights movement and worked toward achieving gay rights.



HARVEY MILK

African American leader in social movements for civil rights, socialism, nonviolence, and gay rights.

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MARSHA P JOHNSON

As a Black trans woman, her actions during the Stonewall Riots contributed to a new phase of the LGBTQ+ movement in 1969. With Sylvia Rivera, she established the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) in 1970--a group to support transgender youth experiencing homelessness in New York City.



EDITH WINDSOR

A gay rights pioneer whose 2013 lawsuit against the federal government following a sizeable estate tax after the death of her first wife went before the Supreme Court, which ruled in her favor. That decision laid the groundwork for establishing a constitutional right to gay marriage.



GILBERT BAKER

In 1978 he created the first gay pride rainbow flag in San Francisco. He was dubbed "the gay Betsy Ross." Baker was inspired by flags and the connections they had to identity, nationhood, and revolution. He decided on a rainbow, to represent the magic and diversity of his community.



BARBARA GITTINGS

As an advocate for normalizing homosexuality, she joined the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian rights organization, and started its New York chapter. She also edited the Ladder, a magazine for lesbian women. Additionally, she was instrumental in reversing the American Psychiatric Association's belief that homosexuality was a mental illness.



BRENDA HOWARD

Following the Stonewall Riots, she helped organize the first Pride March as a bisexual activist. Her work coordinating the event and her idea that there should be a week of pride events around the march earned her the title 'Mother of Pride'.

She also founded the New York Area Bisexual Network, which fought for bi visibility.