



COMMUNITY & PRIDE

Why Does Pride Matter?

“Pride events have been the moments in time where our communities have come together in solidarity... We need Pride now more than ever.”

A Time for Solidarity:

As a community and as individuals we've been through a lot of struggles: dehumanized by governments, forced to undergo surgeries, criminalized for living or loving, brutalized by police, attacked and harassed in our towns, bullied by those we know. We keep count of how many in our community have lost their jobs, lost their families, lost their lives.

Pride gives our community a chance to go through these experiences together.

We remember, celebrate, support, and fight together.



An Opportunity for Visibility and Progress:

In the 50 years since the Stonewall riots our worldwide community has made great strides towards progress!

- ~ More than 26 countries have now legalized gay marriage!⁴
- ~ About 10 countries will now allow for non-binary gender markers on legal documents!⁶
- ~ Legal movement against the required sterilization of trans people is gaining momentum!⁷
- ~ LGBT+ representation across media: movies, television, music, print is at an all time high!¹

Pride is a time to celebrate our victories,
as well as a time to push for the liberation of all LGBTQIA+ people from oppression!

Homosexuality is still criminalized in 72 countries!⁵

Intersectionality:

There is also more work to be done in addressing our intersectionalities:
race, sexuality, ability, mental health, gender, HIV status, and more.

*Together we can support each other and
follow the lead of those intersectional communities!*



A Place for Community:

Having a Haven

Pride parades allow us to come together as a community, to celebrate who we are, exist in a space for us with people like us. It's a place where gender non-conforming presentation is celebrated, where kissing a good partner regardless of their gender is seen as just a normal kiss, and talking about LGBT+ topics is not seen as looking for attention. The Pride Festival itself provides us with a space to commune with like minded people, come in contact with resources, meet new friends and reconnect with old, and most of all feel safe being ourselves.

Understanding

It's being around others with shared experiences and being able to freely express ourselves in that space. Often times members of smaller groups (such as the asexual and Intersex community) or members with multiple intersectionalities can feel particularly alone in their experiences. We need understanding to make these members of our community feel welcome and supported. We are also striving to bring understanding of LGBT+ individuals to the general public so that some day everyday will be Pride.



Pride and Progress in Japan

There are currently 7 municipalities that recognize same-sex partnerships: Fukuoka, Shibuya, Sapporo, Iga, Naha, Setagaya, and Takarazuka⁸

Osaka City has opened up opportunities for same-sex foster parents!

Iruma has the first openly transgender man elected to office, Tomoya Hosoda!

Yukiya Terai is a gay Japanese chef who is one example of not shying down from living life by his own means, "When you tell them who you are and who you love, more people will lean in than opt out. I know this from experience."³

¹<https://www.allure.com/story/lgbtq-people-first-pride-parade-stories>

²https://i-d.vice.com/en_uk/article/pa9n3b/9-queers-on-powering-up-the-community-activists-lgbtq

³ <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2018/04/03/food/im-not-one-hide-yukiya-terai-shows-pride-sexuality-skill-chef/>

⁴www.fortune.com/2017/12/07/countries-that-legalized-same-sex-marriage/

⁵<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/27/gay-relationships-still-criminalised-countries-report>

⁶<https://tgeu.org/third-gender-marker-options-in-europe-and-beyond/>

⁷<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/12/world/europe/european-court-strikes-down-required-sterilization-for-transgender-people.html>

LGBTQIA+ Pride and Awareness Days

★ March 1	Zero Discrimination Day
★ March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility
★ April 26	Lesbian Visibility Day
★ April *	Day of Silence
★ May 17	International Day Against Homo/Bi/Transphobia
★ June	LGBT Pride Month
★ June 12	Pulse Night of Remembrance
★ June 28	Stonewall Riots Anniversary
★ September 23	Bisexuality Pride Day
★ October 11	National Coming Out Day
★ October 26	Intersex Awareness Day
★ October *	Asexual Awareness Week
★ Novembre 8	Intersex Day of Remembrance
★ November 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance
★ December 1	World AIDS Day
★ December 8	Pansexual/Panromantic Pride day

*Dates vary
