

# THE PRIDE FLAG: A BRIEF HISTORY



In 1974, Harvey Milk met Gilbert Baker. This was three years before Harvey was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors – making him the first openly gay person to hold a high public office in a major American city. Gilbert Baker was an artist, and Harvey challenged him to come up with a positive symbol for the LGBT community, which he did.



Harvey Milk



Gilbert Baker



First flown in 1978 at the “Gay Freedom Parade” in San Francisco, the first Pride flags were handmade. The eight colour design represented the diversity within the LGBT community.

Later on, the pink section was removed due to scarcity of pink fabric at the time, and by 1979, the indigo section had also been removed, to make the colours split evenly. This became the six coloured flag we commonly see today:



In recognition that People of Colour are often missing from conversations about LGBT+ people, the folks at Philadelphia Pride launched a new eight-stripe Pride flag in 2017 that truly represents the diversity within the LGBT+ community.



Building on the Philadelphia Pride version, in 2018 graphic designer Daniel Quasar designed their “Progress Flag”. This version further incorporates the colours of the trans flag, and the chevron shape indicates “inclusion and progression”, the forward motion of LGBT+ rights.