

YWCA Alaska

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LGBTQ+ Pride Month Resources

For LGBTQ+* Pride Month and Beyond

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**LGBTQ+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others with diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. "LGBTQ+" and "queer" are used interchangeably in this resource guide.*

This resource guide is meant to provide a starting point for deeper reflection and learning about major events in the LGBTQ+ community, including the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, the United States' HIV/AIDS epidemic that began in the 1980s, controversy over LGBTQ+ corporate sponsorship, and what queer identities look like in Alaska. This is by no means comprehensive, as so many other topics could be pursued – the disproportionate levels of violence against Black transgender women, the ways queer youth experience homelessness and poverty, blatant attacks on transgender youth and adults seeking lifesaving gender-affirming care in the US, and much more – but this is a starting point.

Questions to reflect on:

What does a more expansive and inclusive way to live look like? How do each of these pieces illustrate that?

What new information have I gained here and how has it shifted my perspective on the LGBTQ+ community?

What does a deeper commitment to these issues look like for me? Examples include donating time or money to organizations, political activism, further education, or having thoughtful conversations with others.

Where is my place in this issue? What am I responsible to and for? How do I play a role in perpetuating the issues, as well as breaking them down?

How can I use what's available to me to commit myself more deeply? What's accessible and what do I need to do more work to acquire in my social justice journey?

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["How the Stonewall Riots Inspired Today's Pride Celebrations," by Emanuella Grinberg, CNN](#)

An overview of the Stonewall uprising on June 28th, 1969, often cited as the commemorative event of Pride Month and an organizing force in the LGBTQ+ liberation movement. Those who participated in the uprising directly resist calling the event a "riot," which the author uses, since the term was used by police to justify an unjust use of force and violence against LGBTQ+ people. The term "uprising" or "rebellion" is preferred.

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[“1969: The Stonewall Uprising,” the Library of Congress](#)

A resource guide and overview of the Stonewall Uprising and the first Pride March in New York City in 1970, with archival footage from the one-year anniversary of the uprising.

[“LGBTQ History Month: The Early Days of America’s AIDS Crisis” by Tim Fitzsimons, NBC News](#)

A written history of the HIV/AIDS crisis in the United States, including the inaction of the federal government to address the crisis and widespread homophobia that stigmatized the disease. HIV stands for “Human Immunodeficiency Virus,” which when left untreated can lead to AIDS, “Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.” HIV and AIDS are two separate medical conditions – those with HIV do not necessarily have AIDS. To this day, homophobia, offensive stereotypes, and misinformation are deeply ingrained in myths around transmission, prevention, and treatment.

[“GMHC History,” GMHC](#)

A scrolling visual and written timeline of GMHC, formerly known as the Gay Men’s Health Crisis, the world’s first HIV/AIDS service organization officially formed in 1982. This history coincides with the United States’ ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic, when government inaction and stigmatization of queer people and others affected by the disease resulted in thousands of deaths and the elimination of a generation of LGBTQ+ people. While advances in modern medicine, public attention, and treatment options have increased life expectancy and reduced transmission, many communities of color, transgender people, and low-income people continue to experience disproportionately high rates of HIV/AIDS due to high drug costs, inaccessible treatment, and continued discrimination and marginalization.

[“Apayauq Reitan Makes History” by Shady Grove Oliver, Alaska Public Media](#)

A profile of musher Apayauq Reitan (pronounced Ah-pah-YAH-ook REYE-tan,) the first out transgender woman to compete in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Reitan was awarded the Red Lantern Award at the 2022 Iditarod, a testament to her perseverance and determination as she was the final musher to complete that year’s race. Audio piece and written article available.

[“Rainbow Capitalism Raises Questions” by Lisa Desjardins et al., PBS NewsHour](#)

A conversation between Lisa Desjardins and Karen Tongson, author and professor of gender and sexuality studies at the University of Southern California, on “rainbow capitalism,” or the gestures of support to the LGBTQ+ community from corporations during Pride Month. Desjardins and Tongson discuss what deeper commitments to LGBTQ+ communities, particularly those excluded from other mainstream queer movements, look like.

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Updated: May 26th, 2023