

Role Models: Sally Ride

In 1983, Sally Ride was the first American woman to go into space (two Russian women had been before her), she was also the youngest American astronaut at 32 years old, and the only lesbian woman, so far, to go into space.

She flew in the Orbital Challenge Space Shuttle twice before she left NASA in 1987. She then worked as a scientist, writer (writing 6 children's books) and consultant for NASA serving on two committees looking at two tragic disasters.

While she was married to a man in 1982, and divorced in 1987, she spent 27 years living with her girlfriend Tam O'Shaughnessy, until Sally's death in 2012.

Sally was a private person who never spoke about her relationship with her partner, but after she died her sister, Bear Ride, said that she hoped that, in death, her sister could be a role model for LGBT young people as she was for women in science during her life.



Role Models: Guion Bluford

Guion Bluford was the first African American man in to space in 1983. He was the second black man in space, after the Cuban astronaut Arnaldo Tamayo Méndez.

He flew 4 space shuttle missions between 1983 and 1992 after training for over a year, starting in 1979.

Bluford was also a member of the US Air Force, completing training in 1966. He flew over 5,000 hours of flight time, including training other air force pilots, before joining NASA and becoming an astronaut.

Since retiring from NASA and the Air Force in 1993, Bluford worked for a number of research and development companies focusing on a range of aerospace technologies.

Bluford was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante listed Bluford on his list of 100 Greatest African Americans.



Role Models: Shane Ortega

Shane Ortega is an Indigenous (Native American - he is part of the Haudenosaunee -Tuscarora tribe) former US Marine who served as a flight engineer in the US Army. In 2004, he signed up for service straight after school, following both his parents and all of his male close relatives into the military. He served over 11 years in service and completed three dangerous tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2008 Shane started his transition to become male. He is one of the first openly transgender soldiers in the US army.

Shane also created a campaigning group, SPART*A, to support transgender soldiers and veterans and since retiring in 2015 at the rank of Staff Sergeant, he has committed himself to improving the world for transgender people and for his tribe and other Indigenous People in North America.



Role Models: Charles Curtis



Charles Curtis was the 31st Vice-President of the United States of America (he was Vice-President for Herbert Hoover) and served from 1929 to 1933. Curtis was the first and only Native American Vice-President. He also served in many other areas of the American government including as Senate Majority Leader from 1924 to 1929.

He was from Kansas and his father's family came from Scotland. His mother's family were Native American and Curtis was an active member in the Kaw Nation. He saw education and inclusion in the American way of life as very important for the Native American tribes and peoples and worked tirelessly for their rights and to improve their lives.

He is most well remembered for the Curtis Bill which saw five tribal authorities powers stripped away and brought into the governance of the United States government. He did this to bring the Native American communities closer to the rest of society.



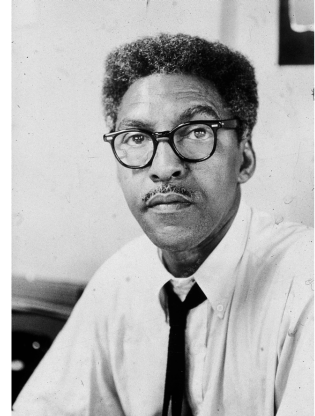
Role Models: Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin was a leader in the American Civil Rights movement, committed to ending race inequality. He was a friend and teacher (particularly in relation to non-violent protest) to Martin Luther King Jr, and helped him organise marches, protests and movements.

Rustin was born in 1912 in an America which was heavily segregated (separating Black and White people) America. He campaigned from a young age for a more equal society and in 1941 organised his first march on Washington DC.

He organised many conferences, boycotts and initiatives including in 1963 when he organised the march for Martin Luther King Jr in which he made the 'I Have a Dream' speech.

As an openly gay man in a time where being in a same-sex relationship was illegal, Rustin often worked behind the scenes in the Civil Rights movement. His contributions were often overlooked, but in 2013 he was given the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in recognition of his work.



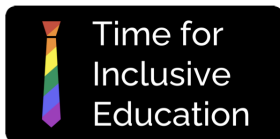
Role Models: Lech Wałęsa

In 1990, Lech Wałęsa (pronounced **Lek** vuh-**Wen**-sah) was the first President of Poland after it became independent from Russia and removed itself from the Soviet Bloc.

Before this, Wałęsa had spent years working as an electrician in the shipyards in the north of Poland and had been persecuted by the Communist Secret Police for being a trade unionist and organising worker's rights marches and meetings.

In 1980, he co-founded the Solidarność (Solidarity) movement which spent the decade using pro-democracy, non-violent and community organising efforts to end Communist rule in Poland.

This saw Wałęsa organise many marches, trade union meetings and initiatives, often despite facing arrest and criminalisation for his actions. He has won countless awards for his work in Poland, including the Nobel Peace Prize.



Role Models: Katharina Lindner

Katharina was a German born footballer who, after playing for Harvard in the USA and being named one of the best players in American universities, settled in Scotland.

She played for Glasgow City FC (a club co-founded by her partner Laura Montgomery) for six years at a time when the club won five Scottish Premier Women's League titles, two Scottish Women's cups and two Scottish Women's Premier League cups. She played in 173 games and scored 128 times - one of the most successful players the team has ever had.

While playing for Glasgow City FC she also completed a PhD in Film Studies focusing on the way women are portrayed in film and media. She went on to be a lecturer in the University of Stirling and wrote many academic articles.

When she retired, the Glasgow City FC manager Glasgow City manager Eddie Wolecki-Black paid tribute to her contribution: "Kat, few would argue, is without doubt one of the finest players ever to play in Scotland."



Role Models: Alex Morgan



Alex Morgan is an American soccer player who has played professionally in America and Europe, including one season at Tottenham Hotspur in London, since her college days at the University of Berkley, California.

After being named one of the best players in the American universities, Morgan was picked to play for the Western New York Flash where she helped the team win the Championship, something she has done for many of her clubs.

She's spent most of her playing career at Orlando Pride and, as of September 2021 has played 146 games and scored 65 times.

Outside of football, Alex Morgan has written books for children which focus on challenging gender stereotypes and are designed to inspire young girls. She has also starred in a movie based on her life, and helped adapt her books for television.



Role Models: Lady Phyll

Phyllis Opoku-Gyimah, known as Lady Phyll, is an activist based in the United Kingdom and is Executive Director of Kaleidoscope Trust (a charity set up to fight for LGBT rights in countries around the world where LGBT people are criminalised). She is a tireless campaigner on issues relating to race, gender and LGBT rights.

Since 2005, Lady Phyll has worked to create a UK Black Pride in order to "promote unity and co-operation among all Black people of African, Asian, Caribbean, Middle Eastern and Latin American descent, as well as their friends and families, who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender". She is currently the Executive Director of UK Black Pride.



Keen to amplify Black LGBT voices, she also partnered with Rikki Beadle-Blair and John R Gordan to edit a book called *Sista!*, a collection of writings by LGBT women of African/ Caribbean descent with a connection to the United Kingdom.

Role Models: Bernard Kouchner

Bernard Kouchner is a French politician and doctor who co-founded Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). This charity sends medics all over the world to some of the most war-torn and desperate situations so that people everywhere have access to healthcare.



While he didn't stay with Médecins Sans Frontières, he continued to work in that field and set up a similar group called Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World).

He was repeatedly Minister for Health in France, serving a number of different French Governments and worked continuously to promote children's rights, access to healthcare and human rights all over the world.



As the son of a Jewish man in France, he has spoken about the anti-semitism he, and other French politicians, have faced over their heritage.

Role Models: Alan Turing

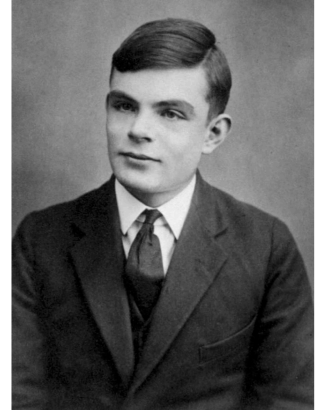
Alan Turing was a mathematician and computer scientist though published work in many academic fields.

He studied in Cambridge before completing his PhD in mathematics in the USA in 1938, just before the start of World War 2. During the War he worked as a code-breaker in Bletchley Park decoding Nazi orders and instructions.

While there he created a machine which automatically checked combinations of possibilities to crack codes and was the start of what we know as the modern computer. His work in breaking codes is thought to have shorted the war by two years, and saved 1,400,000 (1.4 million) lives.

Owing to the Official Secrets Act, which kept all war records secret for decades, his contribution to the war wasn't well known until recently, but since they have come to light he has been awarded many honours including being placed on the £50 note and he was voted the greatest person of the 20th Century in a public vote.

Sadly, Turing died in 1954 after having been arrested and criminalised for being gay in 1952.



Role Models: Ada Lovelace

Ada Lovelace was a mathematician and writer who is now recognised as one of the world's first computer scientists having written the first computer algorithm in 1840, over 100 years before the first actual computer was built in 1943!



Her work in computing and mathematics stemmed from her work with Charles Babbage who had invented an 'Analytical Engine'. Lovelace recognised that the engine had wider applications beyond the calculations that Babbage had created it for and wrote an extensive collection of notes (published in a book called, 'Notes') describing how algorithms and computing may work.

Due to being a woman, and that she tragically died of cancer at 36 so couldn't continue her work, her contributions were overlooked for generations and many, mainly male, historians chose to ignore her work, or claim that it couldn't be her who'd completed the mathematics. They claimed this as they didn't think a woman could be that clever.



Role Models: Laverne Cox

Laverne Cox is an American actress, film maker and activist for the LGBT community.

She studied creative writing, dance and acting at universities in Alabama, Indiana and New York where she stayed after university working as an actress in short films and theatre productions before getting her break in the HBO series *Orange is the New Black*, set in a women's prison.

That was in 2012 and since then she's has worked on a number of TV shows, hosted documentaries and been a commentator on talk shows. She's been nominated for numerous awards including the Emmy's (America's television award ceremony, similar to the BAFTAs), and she won an Emmy for her show 'The T Word'.



Laverne was the first transgender woman of colour to have a leading role on a mainstream, scripted television show. She's also an Emmy-winning documentary film producer.

She was the first transgender woman to be featured on the front cover of Time magazine.

Role Models: Reese Witherspoon



Reese Witherspoon is an American actress and television producer. As a child, she achieved high grades at school and loved to read books. Raised religious, she felt that this taught her about "being responsible and never taking for granted what you have in your life".

She studied English literature at Stanford University, but left to begin a career in acting. Reese has starred in many films, such as *Legally Blonde*, and television shows. She has won awards throughout her career, including an Emmy award, an Academy Award, and two Golden Globe Awards.

Reese is a strong believer in supporting the rights of children and women, and has fought for gender equality in the entertainment industry. She began her own production company, Hello Sunshine, to make films and television shows to change the way that women are represented in media to help advance equality.

In 2019, she was listed by Forbes as one of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women and featured on the cover of Time magazine in 2021.



Role Models: Stefan Hoggan-Radu

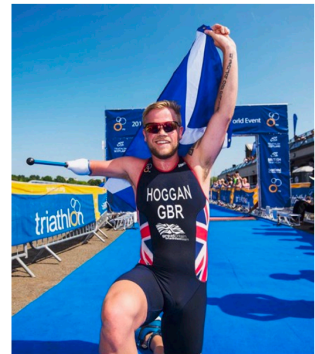
Stefan Hoggan-Radu is a retired para swimmer and para triathlete who competed all over the world, finishing 6th in the World Paratriathlon Event in 2015.

Stefan has spoken openly about how being born without his lower right arm led to him experiencing bullying in school which impacted his mental health and affected him long after leaving school.

Since retiring as an active competitor, Stefan has focused on coaching the next generation of Scottish swimmers; both swimmers with and without a disability.

He is also a tireless campaigner for disability sports, anti-bullying, LGBT inclusion and political causes close to his heart. He's said: "I believe that everyone, no matter their age, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity has the right to live their lives free from bullying, discrimination and hate, and that's what I'll always continue to fight for."

Stefan has spoken openly about initially struggling with this sexuality, particularly in school, but in 2019 happily married his husband in Edinburgh.



Role Models: Marcus Rashford



Marcus Rashford MBE is a footballer who plays for Manchester United and the England mens national team. He became the youngest English male player ever to score on his international debut in 2016.

He is a campaigner against racism, homelessness and child hunger. Rashford has been praised for using his celebrity to be a campaigner and philanthropist to help bring change in society. For his efforts, he has received widespread praise.

In October 2019 he set up the In The Box campaign to give homeless people essential items over the Christmas period.

Then, in June 2020, Rashford wrote an open letter to the UK government calling on them to end UK child poverty. The following day the government announced that they would provide free school meals for children during the summer holidays. His campaign was credited as a major influence in the government's decision.



Role Models: Billie Jean King

Billie Jean King is one of the most celebrated tennis players of all time. She competed from 1959, started winning tournaments in 1964, and won her first Grand Slam in 1966 at Wimbledon, a tournament she would win six times! In her career she won 39 grand slam titles, 12 singles, 16 in women's doubles and 11 in mixed doubles. She was world number one in six of the ten years from 1966 through 1975.

King has always campaigned for gender equality in tennis, highlighting the disparity in women's and men's prize money. After winning the 1972 US Open she won \$15,000 less than the man who won the same tournament and refused to play there again unless men and women were awarded the same prizes, which from 1973 onwards they were.

Billie Jean King was married to Larry King in 1965, and despite divorcing in 1987 the pair remained very close friends. They divorced when Billie Jean fell in love with her female doubles partner Ilana Kloss, who she remains with to this day.

Billie Jean King has been presented with numerous awards including being inducted into the tennis Hall of Fame in 1987 and In 2009 she was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama.



Role Models: Layne Beachley



Layne Beachley is one of the most successful surfers ever, being the only person, male or female, to win six consecutive World Championship titles which she did from 1998 to 2003. She also won in 2006 making her the only woman in history to win seven World Championships titles.

She has been a strong advocate for the charities and communities she works with and has received a number of honours, including being appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (Layne is Australian).

In addition to her charity work, Beachley also worked with many other female divers to fight for equal pay in world surfing events. In 2018, eight years after Beachley retired, women were awarded equal prize money in events.

She said, "It was up to my generation to challenge the status quo, often requiring us to make enormous sacrifices and endure unacceptable circumstances that no current professional surfer will ever have to experience."

