

VIRGINIA WOOLF

was a British essayist, novelist and literary critic - born in London in 1882 - who is today regarded as one of the iconic literary figures of the 20th Century. She was a founding member of the Bloomsbury Group: writers and intellectuals whose works influenced modern attitudes towards feminism and sexuality. Woolf openly discussed the rights of women, also known for her open contribution to mental health visibility. In 1922, Woolf met and began a relationship with Vita Sackville-West. Their love letters have since been published.

Icons: Who Made LGBT History

BOOAN TEMPLE

is a British feminist and lesbian rights activist, who is best remembered today as being one of the campaigners who stormed the BBC News studio in 1988 during the live six o'clock news to protest against the introduction of Section 28, the law which banned "promotion of homosexuality" in schools across the UK. Temple said that the group's efforts took place because "by getting on the news, we would be the news". She would continue to campaign against Section 28 until the law was finally repealed over a decade later.

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OSCAR WILDE

was a 19th Century Irish poet and playwright, known for his novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and play "The Importance of Being Earnest". In 1895, at the height of his career, Wilde took the Marquess of Queensberry - the father of his lover Lord Alfred Douglas - to court for criminal libel. The trial revealed evidence that forced Wilde to drop his charges but resulted in his own arrest for homosexuality. He was convicted and sentenced to two years of hard labour. Upon his release, he moved to Paris, France: where he died, aged 46 and in exile.

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GILBERT BAKER

was an American artist, best known for being the original designer of the rainbow flag - a global symbol of LGBT equality. In 1978, he hand stitched together brightly coloured fabric into the rainbow flag, which was first displayed at the San Francisco Pride parade of that year. In 1994, Baker created a mile long rainbow flag - the world's longest at the time - to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. His flag has become a worldwide symbol, and global landmarks have been lit up in Baker's rainbow colours.

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KASHA NABAGESERA

is a Ugandan LGBT rights activist, founder and executive director of LGBT rights organisation Freedom & Roam Uganda (FARUG). Considered the "founding mother" of Uganda's LGBT rights movement, in 1999 she began to publicly campaign to end homophobic prejudice in the nation, where homosexuality remains illegal. She has spoken of experiencing oppression and discrimination throughout her life and, in 2010, a Ugandan newspaper published the names of LGBT Ugandans - Nabagesera was included, and she sued the outlet.

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STEPHEN WHITTLE

is a British transgender rights campaigner and legal scholar, who was a founder of 'Press For Change', a legal advocacy group for transgender rights. Press For Change used legal case work and social education to achieve legislative rights for trans people in Britain, and won a number of cases in the European courts which led to the introduction of the Gender Recognition Act in 2004. Whittle has won a number of awards for his work in achieving non-discrimination rights and protections for transgender people in Britain.

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MAUREEN COLQUHOUN

was a British economist and former Labour Party politician. Elected as the Member of Parliament for Northampton North in 1974, she was a vocal advocate of women's causes. In 1975, Colquhoun became Britain's first known gay or lesbian MP, and began a relationship with Barbara Todd. Afterwards, she was deselected by her constituency party, who claimed her sexuality and feminism was the reason why. Whilst this was overturned by Labour's National Executive Committee, she lost her seat in the next election.

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CAROL ANN DUFFY

is a Scottish poet and playwright, considered one of Britain's most successful modern poets. She became the first woman and Scot to have been appointed Britain's Poet Laureate in 2009. Her poetry explores themes including contemporary culture, gender issues, and social inequality. Duffy describes her own style as adopting "simple words, but in a complicated way". She holds honorary doctorates from numerous universities, and her work is studied in schools throughout Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom.

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RUDOLF BRAZDA

was the last known concentration camp survivor who was deported specifically for being gay. Before the rise of the Nazi party, Brazda was able to live relatively openly, and met his first boyfriend at the age of 20. He was arrested for being a 'suspected homosexual' and, in 1942, was deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp where he was assigned the prisoner number '7952' and forced to wear a pink triangle on his uniform with other gay and bisexual men. He told his story in later life, in the hope that it would never happen again.

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DAVID LEE PEARSON

is a multiple gold medallist Equestrian and Paralympian, considered one of the most successful athletes in British history. Throughout his career, he has won 30 gold medals representing Britain for European, World, and Paralympic titles. Born with Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, Pearson lives with plastic splints around his legs and was unable to stand on his feet until he was 6 years old. Ahead of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, Pearson was outspoken in protest of Russia's anti-gay policies.

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MARIE MAITLAND

was a Scottish poet who lived in East Lothian, and is believed to have been the transcriber of the Maitland Quarto Manuscript - a primary source of Scots literature from the Early Modern period. The 49th text in the manuscript is an anonymous nine stanza poem written in the Scots language, which explores the author's frustration at being unable to marry her female lover. It is believed that Marie authored the poem, one of the earliest examples of it's kind, writing about same-sex love at a time when it could have been dangerous to do so in Scotland.

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ALAN TURING

was a British scientist and mathematician. During WWII, Turing initiated major advancements in code-breaking which played a central role in enabling the Allies to defeat the Nazis. Yet, in 1952 Turing was convicted of 'homosexual acts'. In 1954, he died of cyanide poisoning - which an inquest determined as suicide. He was posthumously pardoned in 2013, providing impetus for the "Alan Turing law" of 2017 which granted pardons to men convicted of same-sex relations. From 2021, he features on the new £50 note in Britain.

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SYLVIA RIVERA

was an American transgender rights campaigner, an early member of the US Gay Liberation Front and founding member of S.T.A.R (Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries) - a group which helped homeless transgender youth. A regular attendee at the Stonewall Inn, she is thought to have been present on the second night of rioting in 1969. Throughout her life, Rivera was homeless and spent time living at the docks in New York City. She fought for the rights of those within the LGBT community whom she believed were being left behind.

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RITA MAE BROWN

is an American author, feminist and lesbian rights activist, who was a key participant in the US Gay Liberation Movement in the 1960s. Brown protested the National Organisation for Women's exclusion of lesbian women and was involved in the famous 'Lavender Menace' zap - which was organised by an informal group of lesbian feminists - during the Second Congress to Unite Women in 1970. She co-wrote 'The Woman Identified Woman' manifesto, now considered a foundational turning point document in the movement for women's rights.

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KATHARINA LINDNER

was a German academic and footballer, who was the striker for Glasgow City Football Club from 2005 until 2011. In her time with the team, the club won five Scottish Premier Women's League titles, two Scottish Women's cups and two Scottish Women's Premier League cups. She has been described as "one of the finest players ever to play in Scotland". Lindner was also a lecturer at the University of Stirling, and her most cited work critically analysed how women are objectified in women's fashion magazines and media advertisements.

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BAYARD RUSTIN

was a gay civil rights activist and leader across American social movements. He organised the 1947 Freedom Ride and became a strategist for the Civil Rights Movement from 1955-1968. He was the chief organiser of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, where Martin Luther King Jr delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. Rustin was routinely attacked by political opponents due to his sexual orientation, and often avoided being a public spokesperson. In the 1980s, he began to publicly advocate for gay and lesbian rights.

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STORMÉ DELARVERIE

was a drag king, butch lesbian and civil rights activist who is known for her involvement in the uprising at the Stonewall Inn in Manhattan, 1969. Described by friends as rebellious, DeLarverie is considered the spark that ignited the riots after being clubbed by police officers during a raid. Turning to the observing crowd, she is alleged to have cried: "Why don't you do something?" - after which the bar's patrons fought back. Later, she was a volunteer street patrol worker, protecting those who attended the city's lesbian bars from violence.

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AUDRE LORDE

was a Caribbean-American writer, civil rights activist and feminist. A prominent essayist and poet; Lorde discussed intersectionality, gender, sexuality and race, whilst being credited for her intense emotional expression. Lorde publicly came out as a lesbian by reading 'Love Poem' in 1973. Lorde politicised every aspect of herself, including her battle with cancer, articulating her experiences in powerful prose. Poet Sonia Sanchez describes Lorde as "...a burst of light at a time when a lot of darkness was moving amongst us."

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RUBY ROSE

is an Australian model and actor, who rose to global prominence in her role in the Netflix series "Orange Is the New Black". Rose came out as a lesbian at the age of 12, and suffered bullying and taunts from other pupils at school. An outspoken advocate for LGBT equality, in 2019 she was cast as the titular character on the television series Batwoman - which is the first ever superhero series to be led by a lesbian character. Rose describes her gender expression as gender-fluid, and has spoken about who she is to let young people know they aren't alone.

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LARRY KRAMER

was an American author, playwright, and activist. He co-founded both the Gay Men's Health Crisis in 1982 during the early days of the AIDS epidemic, and AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP) - a direct action advocacy group. Frustrated with the apathy towards those affected by the epidemic, and inaccessible treatment, Kramer became a prominent voice for a community which had been disregarded. Kramer was tireless in his efforts to raise awareness. His award-winning autobiographical play 'The Normal Heart' explores this era.

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SALLY RIDE

was an American astronaut and engineer, who became the first American woman, the youngest American, and the first known lesbian or gay astronaut to travel to space in 1983. After answering an advertisement in a student newspaper seeking applicants for NASA's space program, Ride joined in 1978. Prior to her first flight as a crew member for space shuttle Challenger, she faced sexist questioning from the media. In later life, Ride worked with her partner Tam to tackle gender stereotypes in STEM subjects and write children's science books.

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LADY GAGA

is an American singer, songwriter, and actor, who has twice been named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. After her initial rise to fame, she spoke publicly about being bisexual and raised awareness of LGBT rights. She fought against Don't Ask, Don't Tell - a law which banned American military personnel from being out as gay, bisexual, or lesbian; and she has campaigned against homophobic bullying experienced by young people. She founded the Born This Way Foundation in 2012 to empower youth, improve mental health, and prevent bullying.

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MARSHA P. JOHNSON

was an American civil rights activist and 'street queen' from Manhattan, NYC. A fixture within the Christopher Street LGBT community, Johnson is best known for her involvement in the 1969 Stonewall uprising; where patrons resisted oppressive police raids. She was involved in the gay liberation movement and was a founding member of S.T.A.R (Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries), where she advocated for homeless trans people, drag queens and runaway youth. Johnson died under suspicious circumstances in 1992 but her legacy lives on.

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BARBARA GITTINGS

was an American activist, and organiser of the New York chapter of Daughters of Bilitis, the USA's first lesbian rights organisation. Gittings was involved in many of the earliest LGBT actions and movements across the States. In the 1960s, she co-led the first protests against the ban on the employment of gay people in the US Government. Later, she became a leading voice in the movement urging the American Psychiatric Association to drop homosexuality as a mental illness. She also fought against gay conversion therapy.

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SHANE ORTEGA

is a Native American retired Staff Sergeant, who was the first openly transgender person to serve in the United States Army. From 2008, Ortega began to advocate for the rights of LGBT people serving in the military, at a time when the Don't Ask, Don't Tell law - which barred lesbian, gay or bisexual people from serving openly - was still in place. Since retiring, Ortega has remained outspoken about the experiences of LGBT Americans in the military, and has campaigned against Donald Trump's 2017 ban on trans people serving in the US Army.

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BILLIE JEAN KING

is an American former World Number One tennis player. She was one of the first prominent openly lesbian athletes, and advocated for gender equality throughout her career. She is perhaps most remembered for her 1973 match against former men's champion Bobby Riggs, which became known as the "Battle of the Sexes". After publicly daring King to play him, she defeated Riggs in the match - which was viewed by an audience of 90 million. King is still regarded as one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

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STEFAN HOGGAN-RADU

is a Scottish retired para swimmer, swimming coach and triathlete. Born with part of his right arm missing, Hoggan was subject to bullying at school but built resilience through sport. Refusing to allow his disability to interfere, he broke through as an upcoming athlete, representing the United Kingdom in a series of major international sporting events. Hoggan has continued to open doors for young athletes since retiring, and he has spoken out against bullying - advocating for LGBT Inclusive Education and mental health awareness in schools.

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MEGAN RAPINOE

is an American professional football player, who is the co-captain of Reigns FC in the National Women's Soccer League. She helped the United States win the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup and gold at 2012 London Olympics. Rapinoe began playing football at an early age, while growing up in California. She has been outspoken about the stereotyping of lesbians and women in sport, and in 2019 was named the Sports person of the Year by Sports Illustrated. She is an advocate of many LGBT rights organisations.

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SYLVESTER JAMES

was an American singer and activist. He is best known for his song "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)", released in 1978. Publicly gay and famous for his androgynous appearance, Sylvester was a fixture within the San Francisco LGBT community both before and after he achieved commercial success. Diagnosed with AIDS in 1987, he sought to raise awareness of the impact that the virus was having within the African-American community. Prior to his death in 1988, he ensured that royalties from his music would be donated to AIDS charities.

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JAKE DANIELS

is an English professional football player, who became the first male professional football player to come out as gay while active in the sport in 32 years. Daniels, who was 17 when he came out and playing for Blackpool Football Club, was met with a positive response - with football clubs and fellow football players across the United Kingdom expressing their support and praise. In a public statement, he wrote: "You don't have to change who you are, or how you should be, just to fit in. You being you and being happy, is what matters most."

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HANS SCHOLL

was a founder of the White Rose resistance group, which emerged in 1942 in Nazi Germany. Along with his sister Sophie Scholl, fellow students and academics at the University of Munich; Scholl organised the group, which created and distributed anti-Nazi leaflets. Years earlier, Scholl was arrested for being in a same-sex relationship, which he was open about. Contemporary scholars regard his trial for homosexuality as being a crucial factor behind the resistance of both Scholl and his sister. Both were arrested and executed in 1943.

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LAVERNE COX

is an American actor and LGBT rights advocate, who rose to mainstream prominence in the Netflix series "Orange is the New Black" for which she became; the first known transgender person to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for acting, to have a Madame Tussauds wax figure and to appear on the cover of TIME magazine. She has consistently used her platform to increase awareness of trans equality, championing the rights of trans people of colour. She received an Honorary Doctorate from The New School for her advocacy work.

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MARK ASHTON

was a British gay rights activist, who co-founded Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM). The group operated during the UK miners' strike of 1984-85, raising funds for the striking miners. The personal bonds forged between the miners and LGBT activists had a lasting legacy. A resolution supporting LGBT rights passed at the Labour Party's 1985 conference, after block voting from the National Union of Mineworkers. Ashton died shortly after being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in 1987. The group LGSM is the focus of the 2014 movie "Pride".

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JACKIE FORSTER

was a news reporter and lesbian rights activist. Born in London, she attended St Leonard's School in Fife, Scotland. After coming out publicly, she joined the Campaign for Homosexual Equality and attended the first British Pride march in 1972. She was a founder of the UK Gay Liberation Front as well as Sappho magazine - which ran from 1972-1981, covering and supporting lesbian causes. Until her death, Forster was a member of the Lesbian Archive and Information Centre (LAIC) - which is now part of the Glasgow Women's Library.

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LADY PHYLL OPOKU-GYIMAH

is a British LGBT rights campaigner, the co-founder and Executive Director of UK Black Pride - founded in 2005 to give a voice to minority communities within the wider movement. She has been outspoken about her experiences as a black, lesbian woman - and the various prejudices and challenges that she has both faced and overcome. In 2016, she publicly refused an MBE in the New Year Honours to protest the persecution of LGBT people across the Commonwealth, under laws put in place by the former British Empire.

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