



DEMANDING CIVIL RIGHTS: THE ROOTS OF THE LGBTQ MOVEMENT

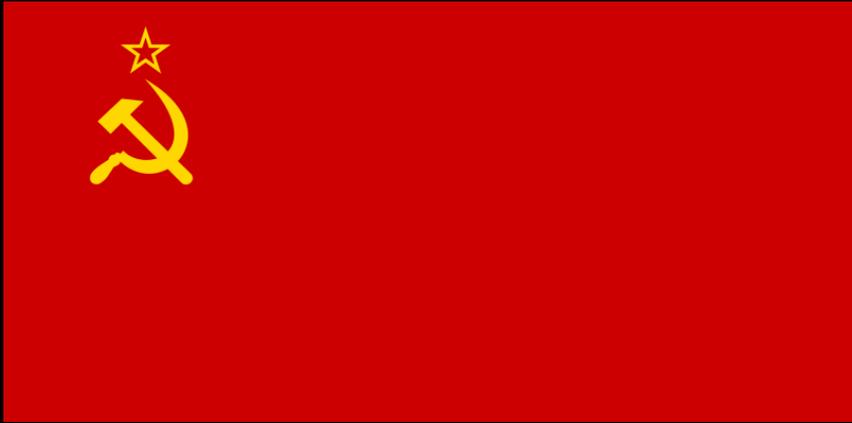


The 1950s and early 1960s were difficult times for many LGBTQ individuals.

Subject to routine discrimination and harassment, many chose not to come out.

On a national level the fear of Communism grew.

Coupled with the “Red Scare” there was also a
“Lavender Scare”



The Lavender Scare or Executive Order 10450 barred “sexual deviants” from federal government employment. Thousands of LGBT individuals lost their jobs.

In the 1950s two organizations formed to support gay and lesbian people



The Mattachine Society
founded in Los Angeles



The Daughters of Bilitis
founded in San Francisco

As the Mattachine and Daughters of Bilitis grew, the organizations began setting up chapters in some of the major U.S. cities.



As the chapters spread, leadership began to form. Two East Coast leaders:

Barbara Gittings



Frank Kameny



Gittings and Kameny set out to protest the discrimination that they faced. They sought to take their message to the public.

They wanted to protest at a location that would call attention to their plight and resonate with their cause

Independence Hall- Birthplace of the United States



They marched on the
busiest day of the year-
July 4th, 1965

Around forty
participants carried
signs across the street
from Independence
Hall.



IN CONGRESS. JULY 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such Principles, and organizing its powers in such a Manner, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and permanent Happiness.—That the Declaration of Independence, 1776



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They handed out pamphlets to onlookers describing why they were protesting and framed their case in the language of the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution

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A DECLARATION

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.



Public reaction was mixed. They were the targets of derision, but most people simply didn't know what to think.

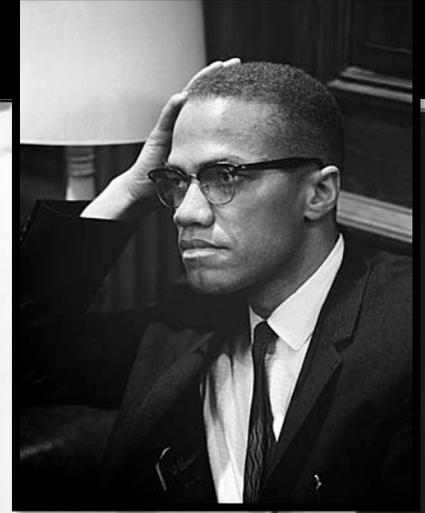
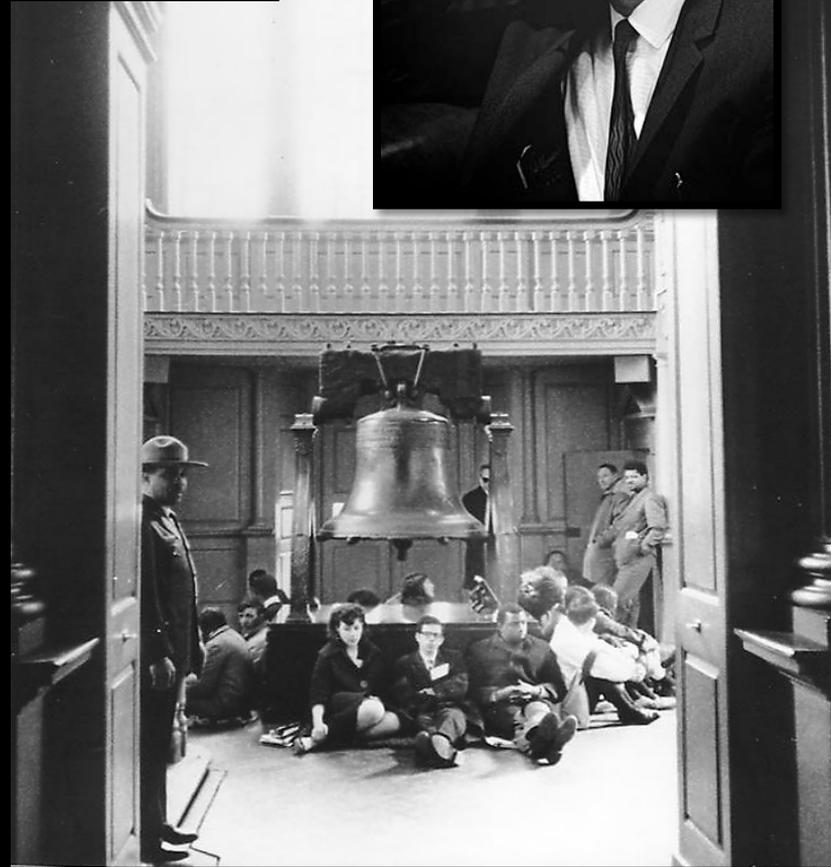
...for one People - to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them
th, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of
of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them
...en are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain
nd the Pursuit of Happiness-- That to secure these Rights, Governments are
tried, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these
are Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing
nd Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long ex-
all Experience hath shown, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while
are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, peris-
sionable, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Governments;
fferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains
King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all
To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.
...blic Good,
...here, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained;
...People, unless these People would relinquish the Right of Representation in
...rope of
...re re-
...rithin-
...others

...harras our People, and eat out their Substance,
...out of our Legislatures,
...lower,
...ution, and unacknowledged by our Law; giving his Assent to their Acts of
...ch they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States;



Protest organizers and participants felt the event such a success that they planned to return and march on in front of Independence Hall on July 4th every year to remind the public that they did not enjoy all the rights guaranteed to them as American citizens. They called the event the "Annual Reminder"

During this time, political unrest and activism spread across the country. The nation was in a state of change.



June 28, 1969- The Stonewall Inn Riots



As the New York Police made a typical raid on a LGBT bar, patrons and the community fought back. They rioted through the early morning. This event ushered in a new era of LGBT rights.

Less than a week after the Stonewall Riots, July 4th, 1969 marked the final Annual Reminder demonstration.



Organizers decided to move the event from Philadelphia to New York in commemoration of the Stonewall Riots, it would come to be known as the Pride Parade.



**GAY RIGHTS
DEMONSTRATIONS**
July 4, 1965-1969

Annual public demonstra-
tions for gay and
lesbian equality were
held at Independence
Hall. These peaceful
protests and New York's
Stonewall riots in 1969
& Pride Parade in 1970,
transformed a small
national campaign into a
civil rights movement.

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