

THE FIGHT FOR QUEER RIGHTS

“_____” is a complicated word. It’s used today to describe anyone who doesn’t easily fit into the place carved out for them in the mainstream, heterosexual world. Originally it was a _____, an insult, that was used to draw attention to someone’s differences and make them feel ashamed, or threatened. That still happens sometimes, but queer has now become one of a number of words that people of many diverse orientations and _____ can use to describe themselves and their _____. Alongside queer you may find the words lesbian, _____, bisexual, and trans, which are often represented together as _____.

The queer community hasn’t always existed. For a long, long time queer people were, and in many parts of the world continue to be, cruelly oppressed. Laws making it _____ for gay men and women to exist openly are very recent developments in many countries, and in many others being queer is still illegal... Even in places where LGBTQ+ people are _____ by law, they can run into _____ and prejudice on a daily basis.

And yet, people still organize _____, and people still come. The _____ flag—the best recognized symbol of the LGBTQ+ community—still flies, even in places where being seen holding it can lead to arrest or worse. Some years ago, queer people around the world realized that speaking out in the face of homophobic abuse was better than keeping quiet. However scary that might be. No matter its size, every act of _____ against the mainstream is in itself a revolution.

Use the words below to fill in the blanks in the passage above!

RAINBOW

DISCRIMINATION

GAY

LEGAL

SLUR

GENDERS

LGBTQ+

QUEER

COMMUNITY

PARADES

PROTECTED

RESISTANCE

THE STONEWALL

Stonewall was a gay bar; a place where lesbians, gay men, bisexual, trans, and other _____ people went to dance, have fun, and _____ themselves. That wasn't easy to do in _____ at the time. Laws about same-sex relationships and how people were supposed to look and _____ made being queer extremely dangerous... Even the smallest act, such as men _____ hands in public could result in a prison sentence.

Many bars and businesses refused to serve queer people and could fire their _____ if they even suspected they might be queer. People had to keep their sexuality _____ and pretend to be straight, because if anyone found out, they could lose their jobs, their friends, and even their family.

Bars like the Stonewall Inn were _____ spaces where everyone could look as much like a man, woman, or anything in between as they liked... They were lively, welcoming places where, for a few hours, queer people could escape the hatred, bullying, and _____ they experienced in their day-to-day _____.

The NYC Police regularly raided the gay bars in Greenwich Village, looking for _____ to close them down—and on June 28th, they tried to close the _____ Inn... Customers who resisted, or who the police simply didn't like, were _____ and bundled outside in handcuffs.

Storme Delarverie, a biracial queer woman, was furious and struggled with the police. She looked at the silent faces of the crowd around her and started shouting at them, asking them to help: "Why don't you do something?". People began to shout back at the police, yelling for them to let her go. The anger spread through the crowds. People started to move, to _____.

Over the next six days, thousands of queer people took to the _____ to protest against the hatred and mistreatment they'd experienced all their lives.

Use the words below to fill in the blanks in the passage above!

NEW YORK	EMPLOYEES	HOLDING	ABUSE	SAFE	LIVES	QUEER	ARRESTED
STONEWALL	STREETS	SECRET	ORGANIZE	EXPRESS	REASONS	BEHAVE	

THE CREATION OF THE RAINBOW FLAG

Gilbert Baker, an activist and artist, wanted to _____ a symbol that the queer _____ could rally around. For years, activist groups had been using the _____ triangle as an emblem of identity and resistance, but Baker felt its associations with the Nazis made it too _____. He wanted something that could take the community into the future, full of hope and _____—something that belonged only to _____ people, not to their enemies.

So Baker designed a _____ that he believed was a truly positive and _____ representation of the LGBTQ+ community. 2nd, on June 25, 1978 at the annual Gay Freedom Day _____, it was unveiled. Held up against the bright _____ sky, the flag was striped with beautiful, vivid colors: a dazzling _____.

The different colored stripes _____ the diversity of the queer community, while the rainbow itself is a symbol of nature. The flag was the first emblem that the queer community had made for itself, and people felt _____ of it, and proud to stand beneath it. “_____” soon became a name for the movement Stonewall had begun, and the rainbow flag became its symbol...

Over the years, the rainbow flag has become a symbol of freedom, hope, and friendship for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans people, and is a powerful image of resistance in parts of the world where being queer is still _____ or illegal... You may also see people wearing the rainbow flag as a badge, signaling that they are queer, or an ally (_____) of the queer community.

Use the words below to fill in the blanks in the passage above!

NEGATIVE	FRIEND	QUEER	PARADE	PINK	PROUD	DESIGN	JOY
COMMUNITY	INCLUSIVE	BLUE	RAINBOW	PRIDE	REPRESENT	DANGEROUS	FLAG

AUDRE LORDE

Audre Lorde was a writer and civil rights _____ who dedicated her life to _____ inequality and injustice wherever she saw it. A gifted poet, Lorde spun _____ together into beautiful, powerful poetry in order to _____ on the world around her, and to make people think about the oppression and _____ they faced and their own _____ in oppressing others.

Born in 1934, Lorde _____ through many decades of world-changing _____. She was a vocal participant in the civil rights and feminist _____, joined the protests against the Vietnam _____ in the 1960s, and became a wellknown figure in New York's _____ scene. She published several books of _____, all reflecting different periods of her life and describing her _____ as being a black, queer woman in the United States. She publicly came out as a _____ in her second volume of poems, *Cables to Rage*, in 1970.

Lorde understood that people's identities were _____ and multifaceted, and challenged society's tendency to categorize people into separate _____. She _____ herself as "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet," and strove to have all the different aspects of her _____ recognized.

Use the words below to fill in the blanks in the passage above!

WORDS	MOVEMENTS	PREJUDICE	LESBIAN	IDENTITY
ROLES	ACTIVIST	POEMS	GROUPS	DESCRIBED
LIVED	WAR	FIGHTING	COMPLEX	
COMMENT	QUEER	ACTIVISM	EXPERIENCE	