

TIMELINE OF LGBT RIGHTS MILESTONES IN THE US

- 1924** Society for Human Rights, the first US gay-rights organisation, is founded and shut down by police
- 1956** The Daughters of Bilitis, the first national lesbian organisation in the US is formed
- 1962** Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalise homosexual acts
- 1969** Stonewall riots in New York gain national attention for gay rights
- 1970** First Gay Liberation Day March held in NYC; similar events held in LA, San Francisco
- 1973** American Psychiatric Association removes definition of 'homosexuality' as a mental disorder
- 1978** Rainbow flag first used as symbol of gay pride
- 1979** First national gay-rights march held in Washington, DC
- 1980** Democratic National Convention endorses gay-rights platform
- 1982** Wisconsin becomes first state to outlaw discrimination on basis of sexual orientation
- 1993** 'Don't ask, don't tell' policy allows closeted gays to serve in US military
- 1996** Supreme Court says protections for gays and lesbians are the same civil rights guaranteed to all citizens
- 2000** Vermont becomes first state to legally recognise civil unions between gays/lesbians
- 2003** Supreme Court rules sodomy laws unconstitutional (Lawrence v. Texas)
- 2004** Massachusetts legalises same-sex marriage; 11 other states ban it through referendum
- 2005** Civil unions become legal in Connecticut
- 2006** Civil unions become legal in New Jersey
- 2007** Logo hosts first presidential forum focusing on LGBT issues
- 2008** California's State Supreme Court allows gay marriage; Proposition 8 eliminates it
New York recognises same-sex marriages performed outside the state
Oregon allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners
Arizona and Florida ban same-sex marriage;
Arkansas bans unmarried
Connecticut Ok's same-sex marriage
- 2009** Vermont, Iowa, Maine and New Hampshire allow same-sex marriage