# Protests against erasure of trans heroes from Stonewall Monument site



The Stonewall Monument in Christopher Park, New York City, saw thousands congregated to voice their discontent over recent changes made by the National Park Service (NPS), who announced the removal of all mentions of transgender and queer identities from the monument’s webpage, a decision attributed to an executive order from President Donald Trump that prohibited official recognition of transgender individuals within U.S. government agencies.

Activists expressed their confusion and anger online, noting that the NPS replaced the acronym LGBTQ+ with LGB, omitting essential recognition of the transgender community, including historical figures such as Zazu Nova, who have been stripped of their identity as a "black transgender woman," now simply referred to as a "black woman."

The demonstration, timed to coincide with Valentine's Day, began around noon and attracted a crowd of over 1,000 participants. As the hours progressed, the number of attendees at the Stonewall site continued to swell, underscoring the resonance of the issue within the community and beyond.

The Stonewall Riots, which serve as a cornerstone in LGBTQ+ history, took place from June 28 to July 3, 1969, in response to systemic oppression and harassment faced by the homosexual and gender nonconforming communities. The riots ignited at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar situated in Greenwich Village, following repeated raids by law enforcement. The moment marked a pivotal shift, as patrons began to resist the harassment they faced, leading to confrontations that lasted for several days.

Notable figures emerging from those historic events include Marsha P. Johnson [pictured] and Silvia Rivera, both of whom were transgender women and key figures in the riots. Zazu Nova is also credited by many as having played a significant role, with her being alleged to have thrown the "first brick" during the uprising.

As the protests unfolded today, there was a palpable sense of urgency among attendees to reclaim the historical significance of the Stonewall Monument in light of recent efforts to marginalise the identities at its heart. The actions of the NPS, coupled with the ongoing political climate surrounding LGBTQ+ issues, have reignited discussions about representation and recognition within national history.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.ktvq.com/us-news/lgbtq/governments-stonewall-website-removes-transgender-and-queer-references> - This article corroborates the removal of transgender and queer references from the Stonewall National Monument website, highlighting the change from LGBTQ+ to LGB and the backlash from LGBTQ+ advocacy groups.
* <https://abcnews.go.com/US/transgender-references-removed-stonewall-national-monument-website/story?id=118804553> - This report confirms the National Park Service's decision to eliminate references to transgender people from the Stonewall National Monument website, replacing LGBTQ+ with LGB, and notes the criticism from New York Governor Kathy Hochul.