# The Pansy Project marks 20 years of resistance against anti-LGBTQIA sentiments



In response to a series of executive anti-LGBTQ+ orders by the Trump administration, The Pansy Project has initiated a series of peaceful protests, marking its 20th anniversary with a symbolic act of resistance. Led by artist Paul Harfleet, this project involves planting pansies at locations that have been sites of homophobic and transphobic incidents, assaults, and hate crimes.

The most recent planting took place outside the US Embassy, an intentional choice given the current political climate surrounding LGBTQ+ rights. This event forms part of a wider campaign, which will see 20 pansies planted throughout the year, as a way to amplify awareness of issues affecting the LGBTQIA community. Harfleet is also encouraging public participation through social media, inviting individuals to nominate additional sites for planting.

The history of The Pansy Project dates back to 2005, when Harfleet and his boyfriend experienced verbal abuse from individuals in a passing vehicle in Manchester. In an effort grounded in the restorative qualities of gardening, Harfleet chose to plant a single pansy at the site of the incident as a way to reclaim the space. Harfleet explained, “I felt that planting a small unmarked living plant at the site would correspond with the nature of the abuse. A plant continues to grow as I do through my experience.” Since that first planting, he has installed over 300 pansies in various locations, each symbolising a response to violence and ignorance faced by the community.

The project’s latest planting outside the US Embassy underscores a continuing struggle against societal ignorance. Harfleet remarked, “Decades after I planted the first pansy in 2005, I am still gently fighting ignorance. It is still unbelievably depressing that there is a need to do it.” He has engaged with hundreds of individuals over the years, using the project as a platform to promote unity and transformation, turning sites of violence into spaces of beauty and protest.

This year, the final pansy will be planted on 15 October, coinciding with the 20th anniversary of the murder of Jody Dobrowski, an emblematic case that highlights the continuing violence faced by LGBTQIA individuals. Harfleet's project remains an ongoing testament to resilience and advocacy within the LGBTQIA community, as each pansy serves not only as a marker of remembrance but also as a beacon of hope for change.

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

## References

* <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/02/06/thousands-protest-against-trump-administration-policies/> - This article supports the claim of protests against the Trump administration's policies, including those affecting LGBTQIA rights. It highlights the widespread demonstrations across the US against Trump's executive orders.
* <https://time.com/7213087/trump-administration-policies-protests/> - This article further corroborates the protests against Trump's policies, mentioning specific locations and the involvement of various groups. It also discusses the backlash against Elon Musk's role in the administration.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This source is mentioned as the origin of information about The Pansy Project, though it does not provide direct access to specific articles or details about the project's activities.
* <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jun/27/pansy-project-artist-paul-harfleet-lgbtq-rights> - This article would provide background on The Pansy Project and its mission to symbolize resistance against homophobic and transphobic incidents through the planting of pansies.