# Pride Month Celebrations and Allyship: A Look at Key Events and Support



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Pride Month, recognized annually in June, commemorates the LGBTQ+ community, with events including rallies, parties, and concerts held worldwide. Originating from the 1970 liberation march marking the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, where patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City resisted a police raid, Pride Month has evolved significantly. In 1999, President Bill Clinton officially declared June as “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month,” a designation expanded in 2009 by President Barack Obama to encompass the broader LGBTQ+ community.

Key Pride events include the New York City Pride March, the largest LGBTQ+ celebration in North America. Sandra Perez, executive director of NYC Pride, noted the crucial role of volunteers, with up to 1,000 individuals aiding the organization's efforts. Similarly, Ashley Smith, president of the Capital Pride Alliance Board in Washington, DC, emphasized the importance of ally involvement in supporting and contributing to the LGBTQ+ community.

Allyship during Pride Month is multifaceted, encompassing attendance at events, volunteering, and educating oneself on LGBTQ+ history and current legal challenges. More than 516 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced across the United States, with various degrees of success. Recent notable legal actions include the overturning of a 2023 Florida law that restricted gender-affirming care for transgender minors and adults.

Both Perez and Smith underline the significance of allies in combating discrimination and supporting LGBTQ+ rights. Allies are encouraged to identify publicly as supporters, engage actively in Pride events, and educate themselves on the issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community.

Overall, Pride Month serves as both a celebration of LGBTQ+ identity and a call to action for continued support and advocacy.