# The Impact of Stonewall Riots and Ongoing Advocacy for LGBTQIA+ Rights



June is recognized globally as Pride Month, commemorating the LGBTQIA+ community and its ongoing struggle for equality and acceptance. This period marks the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a significant event in LGBTQIA+ history that took place in June 1969 in the United States.

The Stonewall Riots began on June 28, 1969, following a police raid at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. The raid incited a series of protests led by members of the LGBTQIA+ community, including notable figures such as transgender activists Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. The events at Stonewall are widely considered a catalyst for the modern LGBTQIA+ rights movement.

In the UK, several leaders have made notable contributions to the advancement of LGBTQIA+ rights. Peter Tatchell has been a prominent activist since the 1970s, co-founding the direct action group OutRage! in 1990. Munroe Bergdorf, a model and activist, advocates for transgender rights and racial justice, leveraging her platform to address intersectional issues. Lady Phyll Opoku-Gyimah co-founded UK Black Pride, focusing on LGBTQIA+ people of color, and has been a staunch advocate for social justice. Ruth Hunt, as Chief Executive of Stonewall from 2014 to 2019, expanded the organization’s focus to include transgender issues. Olly Alexander, lead singer of Years & Years, uses his public presence to address homophobia, mental health stigma, and HIV awareness.

The impact of the Stonewall Riots continues to be felt today, with annual Pride marches commemorating the uprising and promoting visibility and acceptance. The first such marches took place on June 28, 1970, in New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago.

Upcoming in advocacy, the program "HIV: Towards Zero by 2030" will launch on World AIDS Day, December 1, 2024. This initiative will tackle stigma, advance preventative measures, and spotlight treatment improvements. Contributions will come from notable organizations like the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the National AIDS Trust, aiming to end new HIV transmissions by 2030.