# Cardiff celebrates 25 years of Pride with a focus on advocacy and activism



### Cardiff Celebrates 25 Years of Pride

Cardiff commemorates 25 years since its first formal Pride event, initially known as Cardiff Mardi Gras, which began in 1999. This inaugural event saw nearly 5,000 attendees gather at Coopers Field to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community during a time when many legal and societal barriers still existed.

Now rebranded as Pride Cymru, the event has grown significantly and continues to be held in Cardiff. It remains organized by local LGBTQ+ community members and allies. Pride in Cardiff, while celebratory, also serves as a protest advocating for equality and positive policy changes.

Wales' Pride activism dates back to the 1980s, influenced by the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York. The UK's first Pride took place in London in 1972, with notable activists like Peter Tatchell emphasizing the need for visibility and rights.

Despite significant progress over the years, recent trends reveal increased hostility towards the LGBTQ+ community, particularly against the trans community. The UK's ranking for LGBTQ+ rights has fallen from first to 17th in Europe, according to the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association.

As the event marks a quarter-century, Pride Cymru continues to be a vital platform for celebrating LGBTQ+ culture and advocating for the community’s needs, especially in an election year.