# Hoisting of Progress Pride Flag Marks Start of Pride Month in Los Angeles



On June 1, 2023, the Progress Pride Flag was hoisted at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in downtown Los Angeles. This act marked the beginning of Pride Month, recognized annually to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ community. The Progress Pride Flag, recognized for its inclusivity, encompasses elements representing marginalized LGBTQ+ communities of color, along with the traditional rainbow design.

Gustavo Arellano, a columnist, shared his personal journey from a homophobic youth to a LGBTQ+ ally through a poignant article. Arellano's transformation story garnered letters from readers, commending his courage and addressing their own experiences with prejudice and inclusion.

One letter, from Robert M. Saltzman of West Hollywood, emphasized how personal stories can advance LGBTQ+ equality and counteract hatred. Karen Neville from Palm Desert reflected on her own bullying behavior during adolescence and highlighted the need for counseling in middle schools to help adolescents navigate their complex emotional challenges. Bill Burke from Santa Barbara also expressed gratitude toward Arellano's impactful article.