

SLAUGHTER AND MAY / PRISM

LGBT
firsts

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PRISM, Slaughter and May's LGBT group, is a platform for the firm's LGBT staff to network as well as focusing on recruitment and building client relationships. PRISM organises a range of events throughout the year open to everyone in the firm. We work with our European Best Friend firms through our Best Friends LGBT initiative and support DiversCity, an annual event for LGBT students considering a career in law.

We have received high profile recognition for our work in this area. The firm ranks amongst Stonewall's Top 100 Employers 2017 and a number of current and former employees and partners have featured on the OUTstanding LGBT leaders and allies lists.



27 BCE
First recorded same-sex marriage

The Roman Empire is established under the rule of Augustus. The first recorded same-sex marriage occurs during his reign.



1791
First to decriminalise

The French Penal Code of 1791 is the first Western code of law to decriminalise homosexuality.

EQUAL RIGHTS NOW



1969
Stonewall riots

June 28, 1969: From a small bar in Greenwich Village, NYC, the Stonewall riots of 1969 were a catalyst for the LGBT civil rights movement in the United States.

1978
The rainbow flag

June 25, 1978: the original rainbow flag, designed by Gilbert Baker, flies in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade. The rainbow flag has now become the symbol of the LGBT community worldwide.

2014
Openly bisexual CEO of Lloyds

January 2014: Inga Beale becomes the first female and openly bisexual CEO of Lloyds of London.

1967
50 years ago

July 27, 1967: 50 years ago this summer, the Sexual Offences Act 1967 decriminalised homosexuality in the UK.

1912 – 1954
First general purpose computer

Alan Turing's work in theoretical computer science is widely regarded as having provided the first model for a general purpose computer.



1977
First openly gay US public official

November 8, 1977: Harvey Milk becomes one of the first openly gay public officials in the United States, when he is elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.



2014
England and Wales

March 29, 2014: the first same-sex marriages take place in England and Wales.



1972
Legal right to change sex

Sweden becomes the first country in the world to give transgender individuals the legal right to change their sex, and provides free hormone therapy.

2013
Queen's Counsel

Caroline Harrison becomes the first transgender QC.



1972
First UK Pride

July 1, 1972: The first official UK Gay Pride Rally takes place in London. Today, LGBT Pride events are held annually throughout the world towards the end of June to mark the Stonewall riots.

2009
First openly gay head of government

February 1, 2009 - Jóhanna Sigurðardóttir is elected Prime Minister of Iceland, becoming the first openly gay leader of government in the world.



2016
First openly gay bishop of Church of England

September 2, 2016: Nicholas Chamberlain becomes the first openly gay bishop of the Church of England.

1998
First gay member of the House of Lords

July 18, 1998: Waheed Alli becomes the first openly gay member of the House of Lords. Waheed is a media entrepreneur and was previously the chairman of Asos.



2017
Slaughter and May

Slaughter and May enters the list of Stonewall Top 100 employers for the first time.

“Every young person – no matter who they are or what they look like or what gender they identify as – deserves to be valued and loved for who they are.”

President Barack Obama

2015
First country to legalise same-sex marriage by referendum

May 22, 2015: Ireland votes by a large majority (62%) to legalise same-sex marriage, becoming the first country in the world to do so by a referendum.



Why do we need Pride?

73 countries
where homosexuality
remains illegal

10 countries
where homosexuality is
punishable by death

12 months
celibacy required for gay men
to give blood in the UK

1 openly gay
Fortune 500 CEO

25%
of homeless young people in
the UK are LGBT

40%
of LGBT people experience a form
of mental health issue, compared
to 25% of the general population

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