

# The Rainbow Flag

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The first Rainbow Flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a San Francisco artist, as a symbol of gay and lesbian community pride. When Harvey Milk, San Francisco's first openly gay Supervisor was assassinated that year, the planning committee decided to use the flag in the 1979 Pride Parade to demonstrate the gay community's strength and solidarity. Slowly, the flag took hold, offering a colorful alternative to the more common symbol of the pink triangle. Today, the Rainbow Flag is recognized by the International Congress of Flag Makers. Its colors 12 represent the diversity of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

As with the pink triangle, the rainbow flag is a symbol of liberation and pride and it is seen in many Pride Day parades, on clothing jewelry, bumper stickers. It is seen in the typical urban "Gay Ghettos," but has become more common suburbs and beyond. Despite the advances in recent years, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people continue to face oppression in society, as well as in the current political climate as we see every day in our struggles with discriminatory legislation and proposed marriage amendments on Capital Hill and in many State Houses.