

What in the Pride Flag does this mean?

History and Meaning of Pride Flags (2024)



First Pride Flag - 1978

- Gilbert Baker created the gay pride flag in 1978
- It was first unveiled June 25, 1978 at the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade.
- Originally had eight stripes:
 - Hot pink to represent sexuality
 - Red for healing
 - Yellow for sun
 - Green for serenity with nature
 - Turquoise for art
 - Indigo for harmony
 - Violet for spirit



Pride Flag 2.0 - 1979

- The flag has been reduced to six colors:
 - Because of production issues, the pink and turquoise stripes were removed
 - Indigo was replaced by basic blue, which resulted in the contemporary six-striped flag



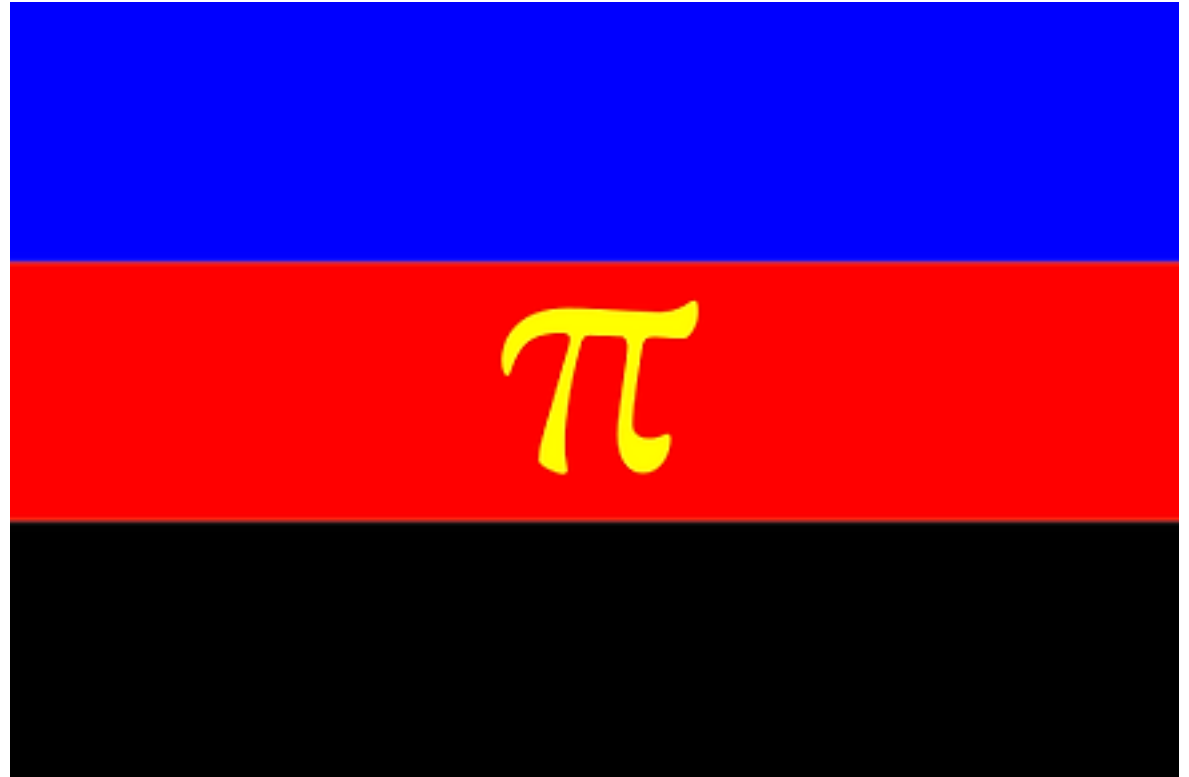
Bear Pride Flag - 1995

- Created by Craig Byrnes
 - The gay bear culture celebrates secondary sex characteristics such as growth of body hair and facial hair, which is typically considered a "bear" trait.
 - The colors represent the fur colors and nationalities of bears throughout the world and the flag was designed with inclusivity in mind.



Polyamorous Pride Flag - 1995

- Created by Jim Evans
 - Blue: openness and honesty among partners
 - Red: representing love and passion
 - Black: represents solidarity with those forced to hide their polyam relationships due to societal pressure
 - Pi: references the word “polyamory” as it starts with p
 - Gold: represents value placed on emotional attachments



Bisexual Pride Flag - 1998

- Created by Michael Page, and was unveiled on December 1998, at BiCafe's (an early bisexual website) 1st anniversary party.
 - The pink is intended to represent attraction to the same gender identity
 - The purple represents attraction to two or more genders
 - The blue represents attraction to a different gender



Labrys Lesbian Flag - 1999

- Created by Sean Campbell
- The flag is a symbol for the lesbian feminist community.
 - The labrys was adopted in the 1970s by lesbian feminists as a symbol representing strength, empowerment, and female divinity
 - The color violet became associated with lesbians through the representation of the violet flower as a symbol of lesbian love, which originates from a poem by Sappho
 - The inverted black triangle originated in Nazi Germany. Similar to the pink triangle design, the black triangle was used in concentration camps to designate prisoners with “anti-social” behavior, which included lesbians.
 - Some lesbians reclaimed this symbol as gay men reclaimed the pink triangle



Trans Pride Flag

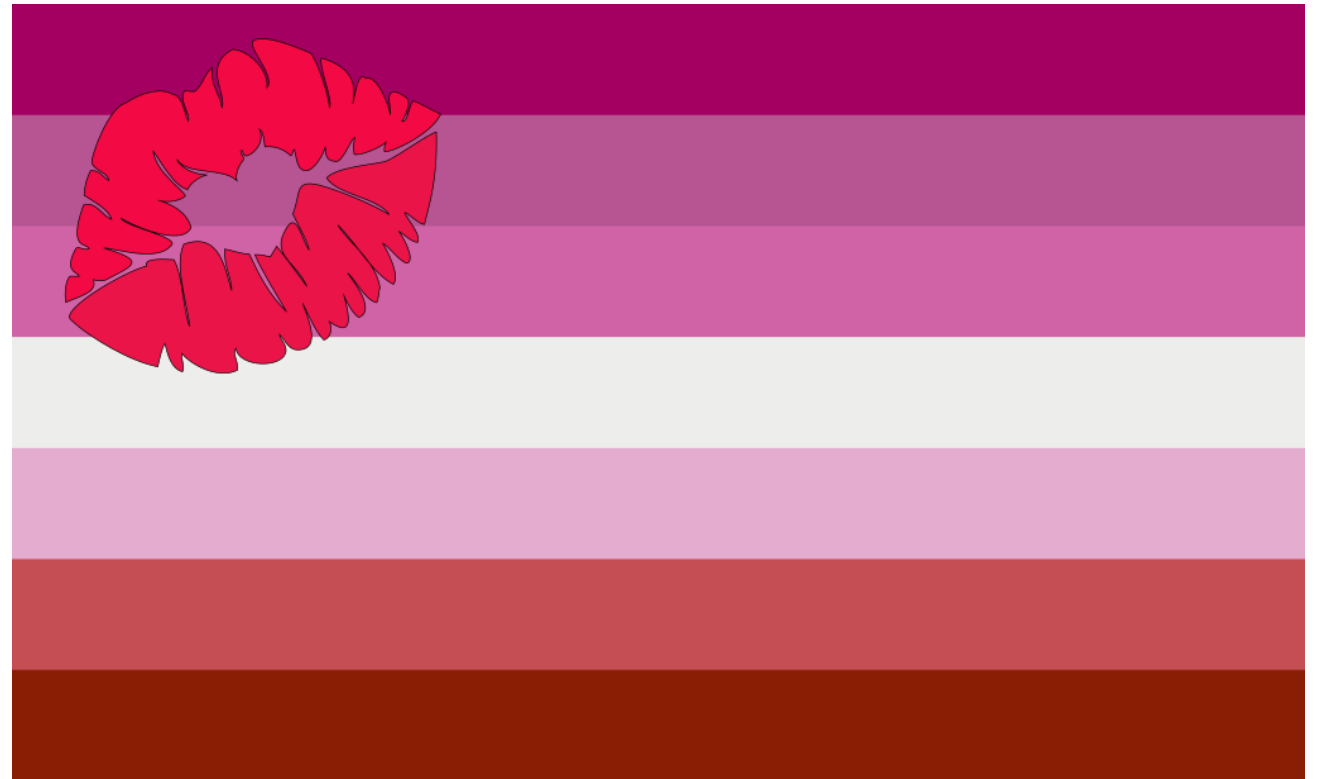
- 1999

- Created by Monica Helms, an openly transgender American woman that was a navy veteran.
 - The light blue and pink are the traditional colors for baby girls and baby boys
 - The white represents intersex, transitioning, or a neutral or undefined gender.
 - The flag is symmetrical so “no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives.”
 - The first flag flown was at a pride parade in Phoenix, Arizona in 2000 by her.



Lipstick Lesbian Flag - 2010

- Created by Natalie McCray
 - The term "lipstick lesbian" has been met with controversy. Some authors have commented that the term lipstick lesbian is commonly used broadly to refer to feminine bisexual women or to heterosexual women who temporarily show romantic or sexual interest in other women to impress men
 - The creator has also held transphobic and racist views, and thus the community has largely moved away from this flag



Lesbian Pride Flag - 2018

- Created by Emily Gwen
- “A Lesbian Flag for Everyone”
- This flag retained the seven stripes from the lipstick flag, but changed the top set to orange shades.
 - Dark Orange - Represent gender non-conformity
 - Orange - independence
 - Light Orange - community
 - White - unique relationships to womanhood
 - Pink - serenity and peace
 - Dusty Pink - love and sex
 - Dark Rose - femininity



Pansexual Pride Flag - 2010

- Created by Jasper V
- According to most definitions,
 - The pink represents attraction to people who are female identified
 - The blue represents attraction to people who are male identified
 - The yellow represents nonbinary attraction



Asexual Pride Flag - 2010

- Created by The flag was created by Asexual Visibility and Education Network
 - The black stripe represents asexuality
 - The grey stripe represents the grey-area between sexual and asexual
 - The white stripe represents sexuality
 - The purple stripe represents community.



Genderqueer Pride Flag - 2011

- This flag was designed by Marilyn Roxie, a genderqueer writer and advocate
 - The lavender stripe is a mix of blue and pink—colors traditionally associated with men and women—and represents androgyny as well as queer identities.
 - The white stripe, like in the transgender pride flag, represent agender or gender-neutral identities.
 - The chartreuse stripe is the inverse of lavender and represents third gender identities and identities outside the gender binary.



Genderfluid Pride Flag - 2013

- JJ Poole created this flag
 - Pink represents femininity
 - Blue represents masculinity
 - Purple represents both masculinity and femininity
 - Black represents all other genders
 - White for lack of gender



Intersex Pride Flag - 2013

- Created by Morgan Carpenter.
 - The color yellow has long been regarded as an intersex color, neither blue nor pink. Purple, too, has been used for the same purpose.
 - “The circle is unbroken and unornamented, symbolizing wholeness and completeness, and our potentialities. We are still fighting for bodily autonomy and genital integrity, and this symbolizes the right to be who and how we want to be.”



Nonbinary Pride Flag - 2014

- Kye Rowan created the nonbinary pride flag
- It is intended to represent nonbinary people who did not feel that the genderqueer flag represents them
 - The yellow stripe represents people whose gender exists outside of the binary
 - The white stripe represents people with many or all genders
 - The purple stripe represents people with genders considered a mix of male and female
 - The black strip represents people who identify as not having a gender.



Agender Pride Flag - 2014

- Created by Salem X
 - The black and white stripes represent an absence of gender
 - The gray stripes represent being semi-genderless
 - The central green stripe represents nonbinary genders.



Aromantic Pride Flag - 2014

- This flag was designed by Cameron Whimsy
 - Dark Green: Represents aromanticism.
 - Light Green: Represents the aromantic spectrum.
 - White: Represents platonic and aesthetic attraction, as well as queer/quasi platonic relationships.
 - Grey: Represents grey-aromantic and demiromantic people.
 - Black: Represents the sexuality spectrum.



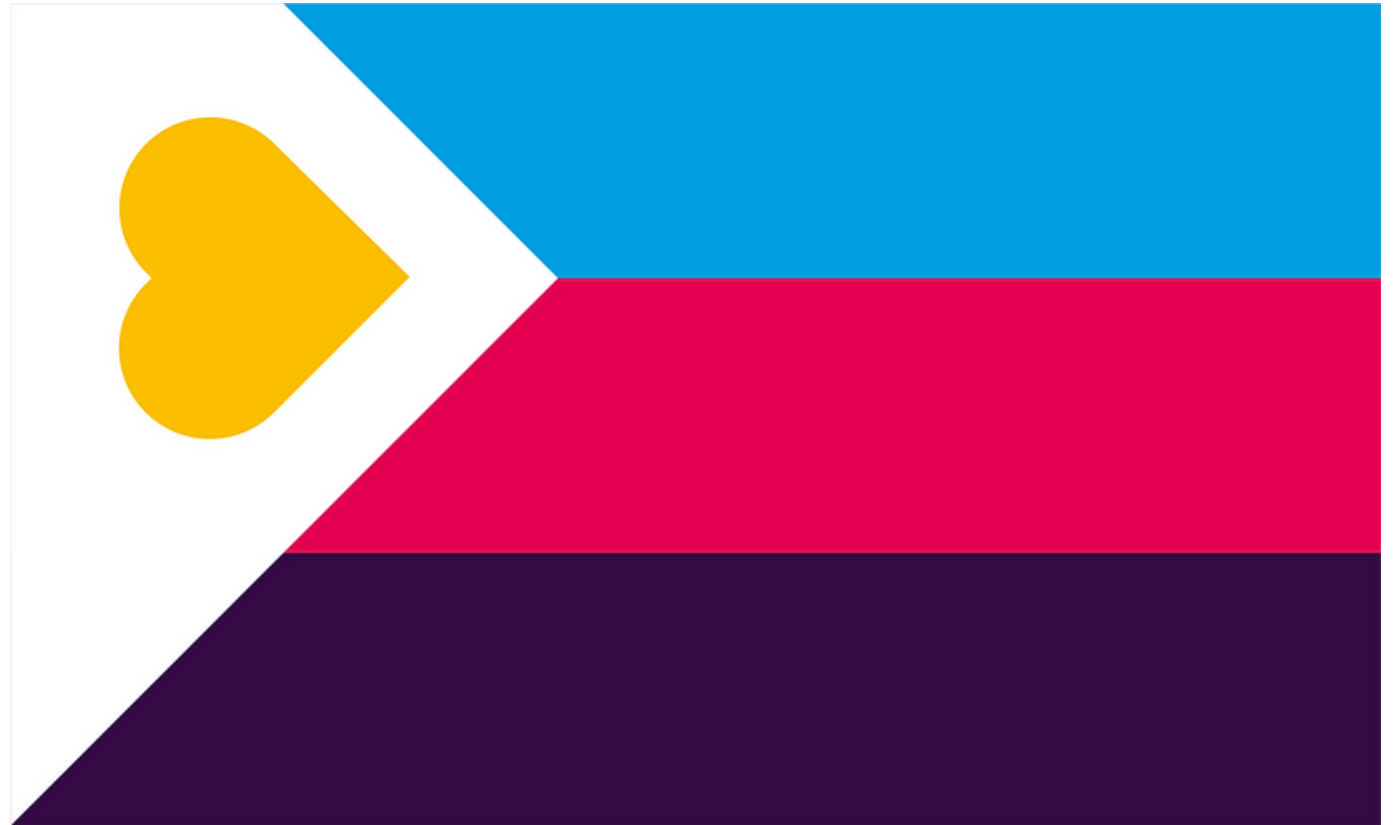
Progress Pride Flag- 2018

- This is a revised pride flag by Daniel Quasar, a nonbinary American artist.
- The redesign celebrates the diversity of the LGBTQ community and calls for a more inclusive society.
- The black, brown, light blue, pink, and white stripes represent marginalized people of color, trans people, and those living or who were lost due to HIV/AIDS. The arrow pointing to the right resembles that progress still needs to be made.



Polyamorous Pride Flag- 2023

- This is a community voted pride flag, created by Red Howell.
- Red stands for love and attraction
- Blue stands for openness and honesty
- Gold represents the energy and perseverance of those in the non-monogamous community
- Purple represents a united non-monogamous community



Why a Flag?

- Baker, creator of the first Gay Pride Flag, later revealed that he was urged by Harvey Milk, one of the first openly gay elected officials in the U.S., to create a symbol of pride for the gay community.
- Baker decided to make that symbol a flag because he saw flags as the most powerful symbol of pride.
- “Our job as gay people was to come out, to be visible, to live in the truth, as I say, to get out of the lie. A flag really fit that mission, because that’s a way of proclaiming your visibility or saying, ‘This is who I am!’”





Design your own Flag!

- Pull out a piece of paper and some coloring tools and design a flag.
 - Use colors that represent your gender identity, sexuality, values, and anything else!
 - No paper? No problem!
 - Try out this website to make a virtual flag
- <https://tennessine.co.uk/flags/>

Apologies if you didn't see a flag that you know should be here! Please let us know what we should add!