

Key Points:

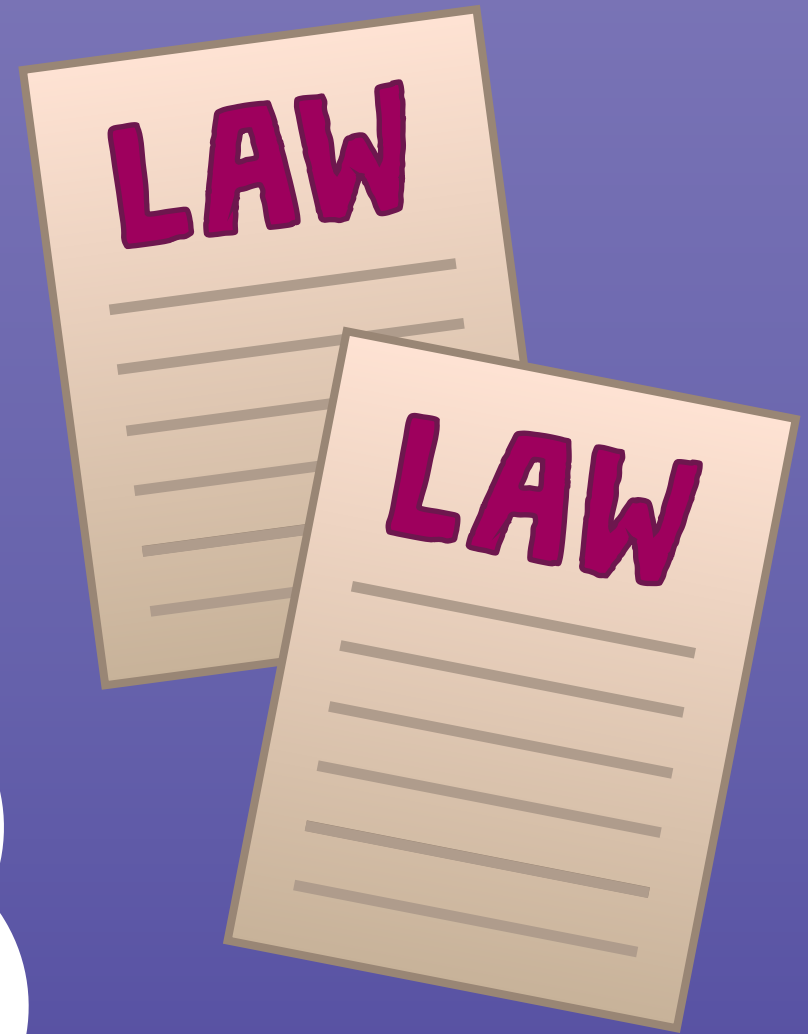
- Laws can sometimes change because people say they want a change.
- Some laws change because of public protest.
- The Stonewall uprising was an example of people protesting against unfairness. It was part of a movement that led to LGBT+ equality.

Most slides are self-explanatory and tell the story of the Stonewall Uprising. Activity slides are as follows:

Slide 2	• Why do we have laws? This could include reference to rules in school, as well as UK laws.	Individual or Paired Discussion
Slide 6	• How do you think it felt to be LGBT+ in the 1960's with these laws in place? Focus on empathy and encouraging an understanding of being stopped from just being yourself.	Paired Discussion
Slide 13	• How do you think people felt about what had happened? This could include different perspectives, such as the LGBT+ people and allies who were there on the day and also those learning about the events from the media.	Paired Discussion
Slide 18	• Do you think it is OK to break the law if you don't agree with the law? This could include the impact of breaking different laws and thoughts about whether protest and disobedience is ever a positive thing. • What can we learn from the people who protested? This could include discussions on bravery, changing the law, not being a bystander, and supporting equality.	Paired Discussion

**Why do
we have
laws?**

**What do you
think people
should do if they
don't agree with
the law?**



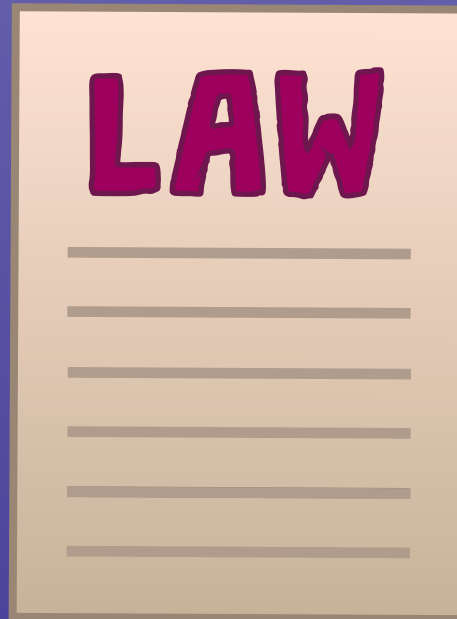
Being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender is completely legal in the UK and in many countries around the world. Maybe you've seen a Pride Parade celebrating this? But it hasn't always been this way...



Being trans or lesbian was never illegal, but being a gay man was against UK law until 1967 and in the USA it only became fully legal to be gay in 2003.

Laws often change when people protest and object.

One of the biggest and most famous protests arguing for gay rights was in 1969 in New York, USA.





It took place at a bar called The Stonewall Inn.

In the USA, in 1969, LGBT+ people wanted to go out to bars and meet people, just the same as everyone else, but the law made this really difficult...

It was illegal for men to hold hands or show affection in public.

It was illegal to run a bar where gay or lesbian people could meet.

Police used very old laws to arrest anyone who wasn't wearing clothes that matched their birth gender.

How do you think it felt to be LGBT+ in the 1960s with these laws in place?

LGBT+ people were often arrested, fined or sent to prison just for being themselves.



In the early hours of June 28, 1969, LGBT+ people were talking, drinking and dancing at The Stonewall Inn.

The police turned up to arrest people for 'breaking the law' (just being themselves).

This sort of thing happened a lot, but on this night something was different...



No one knows exactly what sparked it, but the LGBT+ people inside the bar had all grown tired of their unfair treatment and together they decided 'ENOUGH!'



LGBT+ people knew they deserved equality, respect and freedom... And so they protested and refused to be arrested. It was quite a dangerous thing to do, but still, they stood strongly together for what they believed in.

Three Stonewall Inn regulars, who are thought to have played a role in the Stonewall Riots were...



Sylvia Rivera



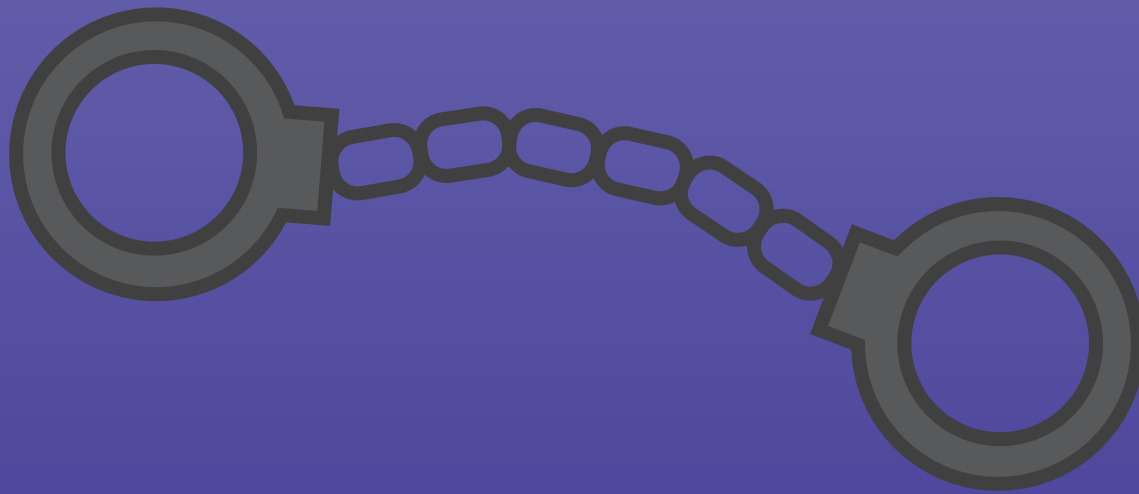
Marsha P. Johnson

Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson, who both self identified as drag queens and who were both passionate about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights...

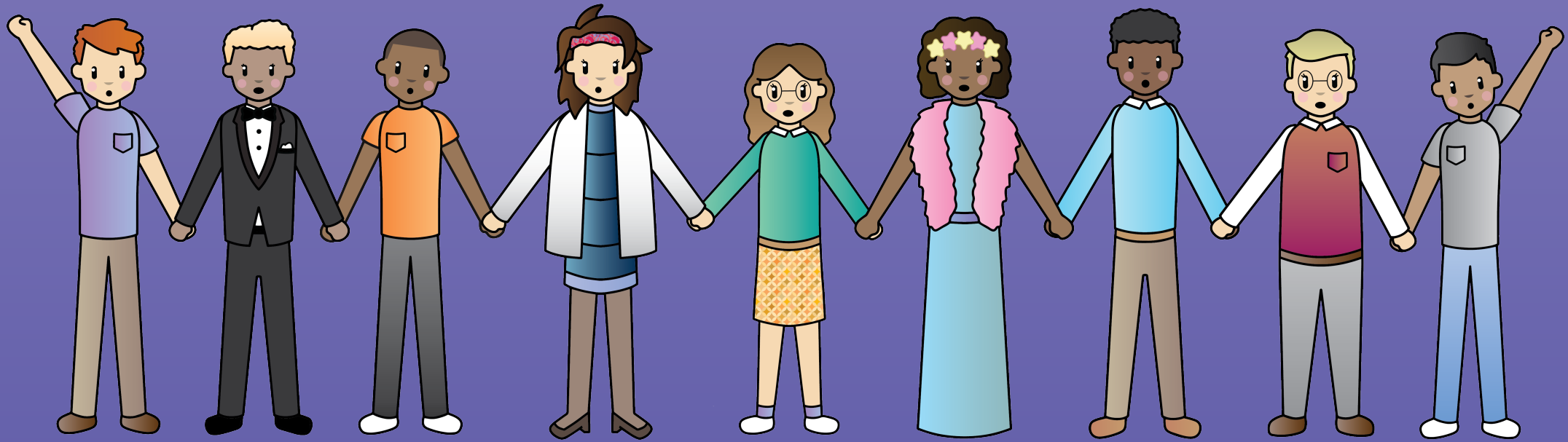
...and Stormé DeLarverie - who, allegedly, when arrested and taken outside shouted to the crowd...

‘Why don’t you guys do something?!’

...inspiring them to fight back,
thus beginning ‘The Stonewall Riots’.



Stormé DeLarverie



The riots went on for six days and although there had been riots before none had been as strong as this one. Thousands of people were involved, there was major media coverage and the riots inspired multiple LGBT+ rights groups to form.



**How do you think
people felt about what
had happened?**

Some people felt it was wrong to fight and that everyone should just follow the law.

For other people it gave them the confidence to argue for greater freedom for LGBT+ people.

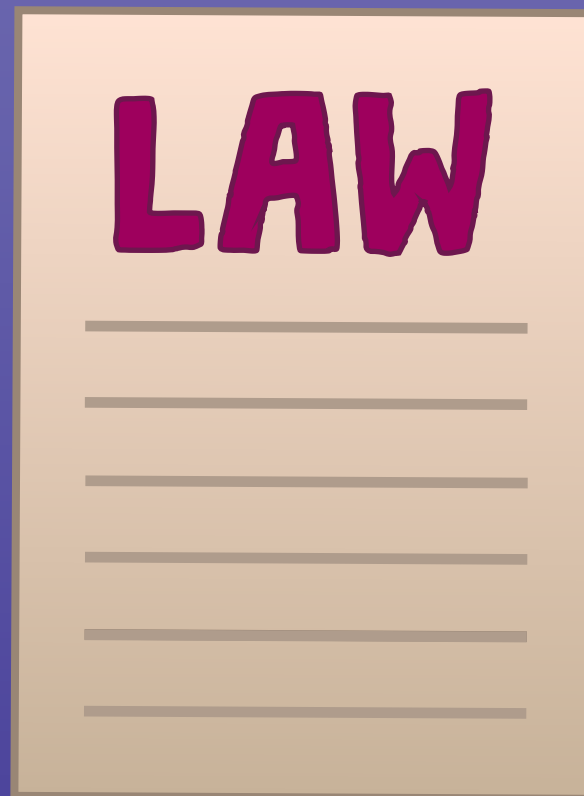


A year later, in 1970, the very first Pride event was held in New York City to remember what had happened at The Stonewall Inn.



Over the following years, many LGBT+ people and their allies argued for equality in the law.

Eventually laws were changed and it's now legal to be lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in many countries around the world.



Every year, at Pride events around the world, LGBT+ people and their allies celebrate this freedom, whilst also continuing to make noise and draw attention to other inequalities that need to change.



Watch the following Pop'n'Olly videos on YouTube:



Pride Explained for Kids



*LGBT+ Heroes: Stormé, Sylvia & Marsha
- The Stonewall Riots*

Questions

- Do you think it is OK to break the law if you don't agree with the law?
 - What can we learn from the people who protested?