

LGBTQ+ Pride Month: The Arc Is Long

“Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.” –Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recognition and celebration of the LGBTQ+ community happens in many countries around the globe at different times. In the United States, June is recognized as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, and in the wake of a tumultuous year where the safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ people around the world has been threatened, DeviantArt’s focus for this month is on the long-standing tradition of art as a political statement to benefit the equal rights movement.

Art as Political Statement

Art has always served to speak to social messages and current events, especially within the equal rights movement. In the 1980s in particular, art became an important, functional means for activists to protest the US government’s deliberate ignorance of the AIDS crisis, leading to the creation of groups and organizations like ACT UP and the Gran Fury art collective.

Take Part and Create

In the spirit of this history, we encourage you to create art either about showing your pride or current issues related to the equal rights movement where you are, to show your support for LGBTQ+ people and to draw attention to some of the struggles and conflicts they face. Some examples of recent topics can be found below.

“Don’t Say Gay”

[Florida House Bill 1557](#) was signed into law in March despite widespread protests, and will prohibit teachers from discussing anything about sexuality or gender identity in schools. This has in turn sparked a number of similar bills across the United States.

In Europe, a law prohibiting “gay propaganda” was passed in Hungary [last year](#), and a bill like it was [recently approved](#) by the senate in Romania.

Conversion Therapy Bans

In the United Kingdom, conversion therapy — a practice that involves attempting to change an individual’s sexual or gender identity — was [to be banned](#) for people under 18 years old. The ban was initially scrapped before being partially reinstated. Notably absent from the partial reinstatement is the protection for gender identity, leaving transgender children at risk.

Blocking of Gender-Affirming Healthcare

In February, Texas governor Greg Abbott announced that providing gender-affirming medical treatment to transgender youth “[constitutes child abuse](#)” under Texas state law. In the wake of this action, a number of other states in the US have begun to take legal steps to prevent transgender youth from receiving treatment or care.

How to Participate

You can create art relating to any of these current events, or others that are not present in this article but are related to equal rights. You are also welcome to create art to show your pride or support for the LGBTQ+ community as an ally.

Submit your art with the tag #TheArclsLong by June 30th at 11:59 PM Pacific to receive a brand-new badge for your profile for Pride.

Please note: DeviantArt staff may remove a badge if a deviant's contribution or commentary doesn't demonstrate the spirit of LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

Donations

In support of LGBTQ+ Pride Month and aiding people in need, DeviantArt is donating to the following non-profit organizations for LGBTQ+ Pride Month.

- [Global Action for Transgender Equality](#), whose mission is to work toward justice and equality for trans, gender diverse, and intersex communities around the world.
- [Lambda Warszawa](#), a Polish organization providing assistance and support to people suffering hardships due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- [Mermaids UK](#), a United Kingdom-based organization focused on aiding gender-diverse children and their families, pushing for equality for trans people.
- [Transgender Law Center](#), a trans-led organization advocating self-determination for all people in the United States.