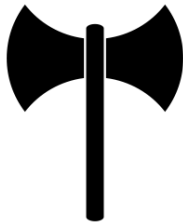


Symbols

HRC Symbol






The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) represents a grassroots force of over 750,000 members and supporters nationwide. As the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, HRC envisions an America where LGBT people are ensured their basic equal rights and can be open, honest, and safe at home, at work, and in the community.



Labrys

The labrys, or double-bladed battle axe, was a symbol used in the ancient civilization of Minoan Crete (sometimes portrayed as having certain matriarchal tendencies), and in ancient Greek legends. It was supposedly used by Scythian Amazon women warriors (sometimes said to be ruled by two queens at a time). It is associated with the Greek goddess Demeter (Ceres in Roman mythology) and occasionally the Greek goddess Artemis (Diana in Roman mythology). The labrys represents lesbian and feminist strength and self-sufficiency.

Triangles		
 <p>The pink triangle was originally used to denote homosexual men at Nazi concentration camps. It has been argued it included lesbians. Today the badge is a lesbian symbol.</p>	 <p>The black triangle marked asocial and work-shy individuals, including prostitutes, Roma, and others in Nazi concentration camps</p>	 <p>The pink triangle overlapping a yellow triangle was used to tag Jewish homosexuals in Nazi concentration camps</p>

Lambda



Greek letter lambda was originally chosen by the Gay Activists Alliance of New York in 1970. In December 1974, the lambda was officially declared the international symbol for gay and lesbian rights by the International Gay Rights Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland. Also, the lambda is said to signify unity under oppression. The gay rights organization Lambda Legal and the American Lambda Literary Award derive their names from this symbol.

Purple hand



On Halloween night (31 October), 1969, sixty members of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and the Society for Individual Rights (SIR) staged a protest at

San Francisco's *Examiner* in response to a series of news articles disparaging LGBT people in San Francisco's gay bars and clubs. The peaceful protest against homophobic editorial policies of the *Examiner* turned tumultuous and was later called Friday of the Purple Hand and Bloody Friday of the Purple Hand. Examiner employees dumped a bag of printers' ink from the third story window of the newspaper building onto the crowd. Some reports were that it was a barrel of ink poured from the roof of the building. The protestors used the ink to scrawl Gay Power and other slogans on the building walls and stamp purple hand prints throughout downtown San Francisco resulting in one of the most visible demonstrations of gay power.

Rainbow flag



Gilbert Baker designed the rainbow flag for the 1978 San Francisco's Gay Freedom Celebration. The flag does not depict or show an actual rainbow. Rather, the colors of the rainbow are displayed as horizontal stripes, with red at the top and purple at the bottom. It represents the diversity of gays and lesbians around the world.

Gender symbols

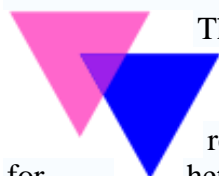


Pairs of male gender symbols and female gender symbols are used to form symbols for gay and lesbian, respectively. Variations on this theme can be used to represent bisexuals and transgender persons.

Bisexuality symbols



First unveiled on 5 December 1998, the bisexual pride flag was designed by Michael Page to represent the Bisexual community. This rectangular flag consists of a broad magenta stripe at the top, representing same-gender attraction; a broad stripe in blue at the bottom, representing opposite-gender attraction; and a narrower deep lavender band occupying the central fifth, which represents attraction towards both genders.



The blue and pink overlapping triangle symbol represents bisexuality and bi pride. The exact origin of this symbol, sometimes facetiously referred to as the biangles, remains ambiguous. It is popularly thought that the pink triangle may represent homosexuality, as it does when it stands alone, while the blue stands for heterosexuality. The two together form the color lavender, a blend of both sexual orientations and a color that has been associated with homosexuality for almost a century. It's also possible that the pink may represent attraction to females, the blue attraction to males and lavender attraction to both.



The bisexual moon symbol was created to avoid the use of the Nazi-originated pink triangle.

Transgender symbols



Popular transgender symbol, used to identify transvestites, transsexuals, and other transgender people, frequently consist of a modified biological symbol, originating from a drawing by Holly Boswell. In addition to the arrow projecting from the top right of the circle that comprises the biological symbol for the male (from the astrological symbol for Mars), and in addition to the cross projecting from the bottom of the circle that comprises the biological symbol for the female (from the astrological symbol for Venus), the symbol incorporates both these devices as well as a cross topped by an arrowhead (combining the male and the female motifs) which projects from the top left of the circle.



Another transgender symbol is the Transgender Pride flag designed by Monica Helms, and first shown at a pride parade in Phoenix, Arizona, USA in 2000. The flag represents the transgender community and consists of five horizontal stripes, two light blue, two pink, with a white stripe in the center. Other transgender symbols include the butterfly (symbolizing transformation or metamorphosis), and a pink/light blue yin and yang symbol.