

GLASGOW'S PRIDE

From Uprising to
Community:

The Evolution of Pride in
Scotland

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The Global Spark (1969–1970s)

The Stonewall Uprising (NYC, June 1969)

- Trans women of color, drag queens, and queer youth fought back against routine police raids at the Stonewall Inn.
- Shifted the movement from silent homophile organisations to direct, visible resistance.

The First Pride Marches (1970–1972)

- June 1970 marked the first "Gay Liberation" marches in New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago.
- 1972 saw London host the UK's first Pride rally.

The Scottish Context – Resistance Under Law (1970s–1980s)

Delayed Decriminalisation

- While England and Wales partially decriminalised homosexuality in 1967,
- Scotland did not follow until 1980 via the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act.

Early Grassroots Hubs

- Scottish Minorities Group (SMG) formed in 1969, establishing Gay Centres in Edinburgh (1975) and Glasgow (1977).
- Community hubs provided support hotlines, political organising, and safe spaces amidst heavy social stigma.

The Section 28 Era (1988)

- Thatcher-era law banned local authorities from "promoting" homosexuality, sparking widespread



Taking to the Streets – Pride on Scottish Soil (1990s)

June 17, 1995 – The First Official Scottish Pride

- Organised in Edinburgh by community groups, student activists, and academics.
- Over 3,000 people marched from Barony Street to the Meadows.

The "Pride Scotia" Model (1996–2000s)

- Early Scottish Pride alternated yearly between Edinburgh and Glasgow to er national reach.
- Blended political rally, remembranc (minutes of silence for lives lost



Pride in Glasgow Developing

Glas!GAY (1993)

- A celebration of the community as a festival

Pride Scotia (1996)

- Alternative between Edinburgh and Glasgow

Pride Scotia (Glasgow) (2004)

- Giving a sensation of Pride across Scotland

Pride in Glasgow Developing

Pride Glasgow (2008)

- A regeneration of Pride to represent the community

MardiGLA and Free Pride (2019)

- Returning to the community focus of Pride

Glasgow's Pride (2024 to Current)

- The Largest (and best) pride in Scotland, and one of the top Pride events in



Contemporary Values – Pride

Today in Scotland

Global Solidarity & Universal Rights

- Pride remains a platform to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with LGBTQIA+ individuals worldwide who still face persecution, criminalisation, and a lack of fundamental rights.
- While celebrating the rights secured in Scotland, the movement continues to amplify marginalized voices internationally.

Representation Across the Entire LGBTQIA+ Spectrum

- Dedicated to ensuring full visibility, safety, and inclusion for every identity within the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Intersectionality is at the core, creating spaces that actively welcome and reflect



Contemporary Values – Pride

Today in Scotland

Grassroots, Community-Led Spirit

- Driven from the ground up by local volunteers and activists who understand the specific needs of their towns, cities, and regions.
- Keeps the heart of Pride centered on community connection, social change, and mutual support rather than corporate over-commercialisation.

Partnering with Inclusive Local Ecosystems

- Collaborating with local businesses, independent trade, and regional organisations that actively demonstrate inclusive practices for their workforce





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Thank you

Any Questions?

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