

Significance of pride month

June or now, also known as The Pride Month in the pop culture with steady growth being popularized as same in the mainstream media. LGBTQIA+ community holds this celebration of identity both gender and sexual annually in the month of June to commemorate the Stonewall Riots of 1969 in Manhattan, New York. To understand the importance of pride it is important understand its origin as a riot. In 1969, it was illegal for LGBT people to congregate at a bar, or for bars to serve LGBT people.¹ The Mafia-owned Stonewall Inn, located in New York's Greenwich Village, was one of the few places people from the LGBT community could go to.² Even then police raids, fining and arresting patrons were a frequent happening. In the early morning of June 28th, 1969, a black trans woman named Marsha P. Johnson struck back by throwing a shot glass at police officers. The act later came to be known as the "shot glass heard around the world", this marked the commencement of days of protest and violent demonstration against the systemic police brutality and bigotry.

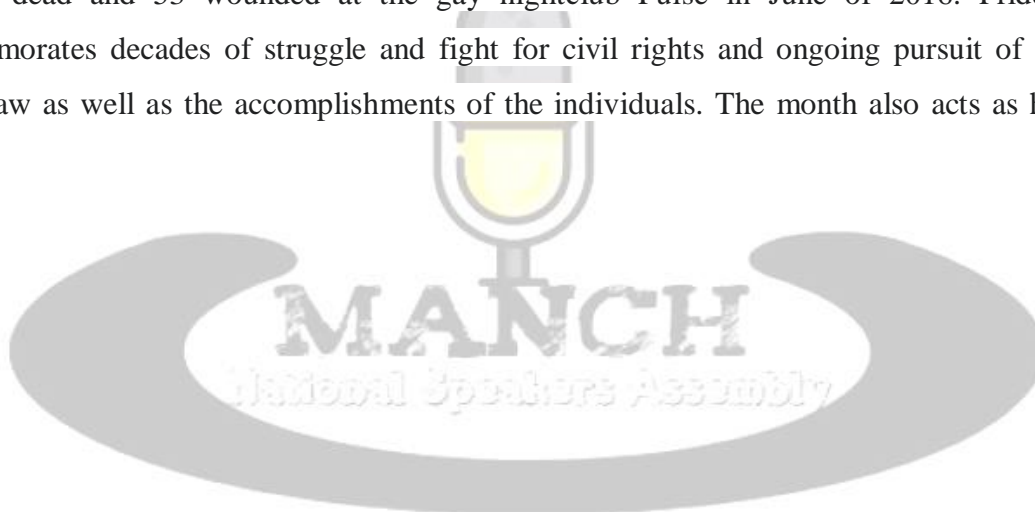
Pride embodies inclusivity and is a safe space for the people of the community and its allies. Majority of LGBT individuals face harassment from their families or receive no support from their biological families. For this reason a public celebration at such a scale becomes a necessity, broadcasting to the world the existence of queer people and that they have the equal right to project themselves in way they deem fit all while being accepted. Thus, instilling confidence in LGBT youth. It provides a chance of visibility to sections of the society that has been overlooked, ignored and whose identity has been erased for centuries. Pride lauds the progress and achievements so far also honours the people who fought for it and continue to do it to this day. While the community is grateful for the accomplishments pride further reminds the people of the long way they still must go. There are 74 countries around the world where homosexuality is illegal and in 13 of them is an offence punishable by death. India despite being the world's largest democracy and inarguably one of the most culturally diverse country took 70 years after its independence to get rid of the archaic British Law of section 377 of India Penal Code, 1861

¹ Cruz, E. *4 Reasons Why LGBT Pride Month Matters More Than Ever*. Rolling Stone. (JUNE 23, 2015) Available at: <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-news/4-reasons-why-lgbt-pride-month-matters-more-than-ever-62013> [Accessed 30 June 2020].

² Id.

which criminalized homosexuality. The purpose of the commemorative month is also to recognize the impact that the community has had on historically³ and continues to have testaments of which can be seen in the pop media and fashion which are heavily influenced by the community's theatrics. Pride sparks the debate surrounding homosexuality and other identities that do not fit the heteronormative narrative. It helps in sensitization, lessen the stigma surrounding the community and helps to raise awareness in both the spheres societal and self as there are several nuances within the community that a queer identifying person must learn as it is a process.

The community has a history of being persecuted for something personal and still continues to suffer from the atrocities for instance the Orlando Nightclub shooting aka Pulse shooting which left 49 dead and 53 wounded at the gay nightclub Pulse in June of 2016. Pride Month commemorates decades of struggle and fight for civil rights and ongoing pursuit of equality⁴ under law as well as the accomplishments of the individuals. The month also acts as home for many.



³ Casey Given, *Why pride month matters*. Washington Examiner. (2019). <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/why-pride-month-matters>. [Accessed 30 June 2020].

⁴ Jeff Wallenfeldt. *Why is pride month celebrated in June*. <https://www.britannica.com/story/why-is-pride-month-celebrated-in-june>. [Accessed 30 June 2020].

