

An **020** booklet on **Pride Month.**

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Introduction

June has arrived, and with it comes Pride Month, a month-long celebration that takes place each June every year. Amsterdam prides itself with being one of the most progressive and welcoming cities in the world for LGBT individuals, and it is also known worldwide for celebrating Pride on a big scale. So it only felt suitable to create a fun (yet educational!) booklet on the LGBT community both in Amsterdam and on a broader scale.

In reading this booklet learn more about the LGBT community, political information and history on how Pride actually began, and how it is going to be celebrated in Amsterdam this year. This booklet can also serve as a "map" for you with descriptions of various LGBT-themed or LGBT-frequented locations (bars, cafes, etc.) around Amsterdam. Lastly, we invite you to check out the LGBT media recommendations from some of your fellow students!

While this booklet is in no way all-encompassing, feel free to dive into all the information we gathered, and please do not hesitate to let us know if you still have any questions, comments, or recommendations.

You can contact us at our email address contact@020together.nl or visit our website www.0-2-0.nl.

Do not forget, every day is pride day!

Yours truly,

The 020 Team

What is meant by 'LGBT' community?

To start off, we find it important to provide a general definition of what it is meant by 'LGBT community', as it can help people that might need a better understanding on the topic. For a bit of background knowledge, there have been several forms of initialism throughout the years. It started in the mid-1980s with the original 'LGB' ('Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual'), which at first replaced the colloquial usage of "gay" or "homosexual", as these had hateful connotations at the time.

Later, it changed into the more well-known 'LGBT' (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) or 'GLBT' that has been used since the 1990s. The term ultimately refers to anyone that is non-heterosexual (is not attracted only to the opposite gender), and/or is non-cisgender (does not identify with their birth-assigned gender).

The letter "Q" ('Queer') was also eventually added, as the label "queer" had come to be known by the newer generations as an umbrella term. This addition resulted in the existence of 'LGBTQ' or 'LGBTQ+', yet many still use 'LGBT' for simplicity's sake.

Eventually, the more inclusive 'LGBTQIA+' started being used as well along with the previous ones, which included "intersex" and "asexual".

Thus, LGBTQIA+ stands for lesbian (woman attracted to women), gay (man attracted to men; sometimes used as an umbrella term for any homosexual person), bisexual (attracted to more than one gender), transgender (does not identify with birth-assigned gender; the term 'transsexual' has also been used, though has largely been discarded as an insulting label], queer or questioning (questioning one's sexuality; is not yet sure where one stands with their sexuality), intersex (has the biological attributes of more than one sex), and asexual (lacks attraction or desires).

The "+" at the end is meant to include all the other identities that are not mentioned which could expand the initialism, such as pansexual, genderfluid, non-binary, and so many more.

There exist several variations to the initialism (e.g., LGBTI, LGB&T, LGBTIQ), and the utilisation of these mostly depends on the area you live in. For example, LGB&T is a variant that is sometimes used in the United Kingdom. Essentially, all variants represent the same broader community. Within this community there are diverse individuals of varied gender identities or sexualities, each of them equally valid.

Pride History

Before going into detail about how Pride is celebrated today, let's take a look at how everything came together.

1969: The Stonewall Riots

In a time when 'homosexual acts' were still considered illegal in most of the United States, gay, lesbian, drag, and transgender people found a safe place in the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, Manhattan. During the 1960s, the bar had come to be a gathering place for people that were victims of discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Since homosexuality was illegal, hiring and serving gay people in a bar was also considered an illegal practice and could lead to the forced closing of one's establishment. For this reason, many gay bars were not even allowed a liquor license by the state, and the Stonewall Inn was no exception.

On June 28th 1969, nine policemen raided the bar for the second time in a single week, arresting the bartenders for selling alcohol without having a license, and committing violent acts against the customers, some of which were also arrested for not wearing gender-appropriate

clothing. Shortly after these events, a riot started. It is yet unsure how exactly it started, but many sources attribute the beginning of the riot to activist Marsha P. Johnson, regular customer at the Stonewall. Nevertheless, from the early morning on June 28th, 1969, people rioted for five long days in defence of their freedom, protesting the unending harassment they suffered at the hands of the authorities.

1970: "Say it loud, gay is proud"

To commemorate what happened one year prior at the Stonewall Inn, people all over the United States took part in a march for their freedom. The most memorable events took place in Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, San Francisco, and of course in New York, where a protest was organised by bisexual activist Brenda Howard.

As reported by The New York Times, on June 28th, 1970, just a couple hundred people started gathering in front of the bar, but by the time they reached Central Park, the crowd counted in the thousands, all holding banners and repeating the phrase "say it loud, gay is proud".

Since LGBT people were for the most part not public with their identities, the sheer size of the march came as a surprise to the citizens of New York. This event went down in history as the first 'gay pride' march. But if we look back on what actually took place on that day in 1970, we would not see the cheerful celebrations that take place today, but rather a strong political statement.

1978: The Rainbow Flag

In 1978 during a march in San Francisco, the most recognisable symbol of pride made its first appearance: the rainbow flag. Designed by artist Gilbert Baker, the flag initially counted eight colors, each representing a message of positivity and acceptance.

One year later the flag was redesigned with only six colours: red (life), orange (healing), yellow (sunlight), green (nature), blue (serenity), and violet (spirit). The six-color flag is largely the one still in use today, but variations have also been made.

1980: Pride as Social and Political Activism, and the Establishment of 'LGBT'

The first years of pride were mainly a statement of personal freedom and of being proud. People were eager to live their lives free of judgment, and without the constant need to hide who they really were, but in the 1980s things took a difficult turn.

Due to the spread and fatality of AIDS, LGBT people had to face increasing discrimination, and the fight for their rights became an even more serious political and social issue. Luckily, these trying times created more social awareness outside of the community, and politicians started to take these issues more seriously, approaching them with empathy. In those years, the gay pride marches started to count the presence of straight people, gay-friendly corporations, and political parties.

In the year 1988, the initialism 'LGBT' was coined, but it only entered common use during the 1990s. Today (as explained in the previous section) the initialism has been altered by some to be more inclusive towards people of all sexual identities and orientations.

Pride Today

In 1999, during his second term in office, American president Bill Clinton was the first president to recognise June as 'Pride Month', to commemorate the years of fighting that have taken place since the Stonewall riots.

On June 1st, 2021, current president Joe Biden declared that he wishes to continue honouring Pride Month at the White House, the first such declaration in four years, as former president Donald Trump never made any statement regarding Pride Month during his years as president.

Today, the fight for gay rights has made great strides, but equality is far from being reached. The first country to grant same-sex marriage was the Netherlands in April 2001, and today the countries where it is a legal practice are up to 29. In 2021 June is globally celebrated as Pride Month, and marches for pride take place in numerous cities around the world, and in 2008 it was also proclaimed the "best gay pride of Europe".

The most famous and beautiful pride parades around the world include Amsterdam's, New York's, Sao Paolo's, Paris's, Berlin's, and Madrid's, which counted over 1.5 million people in 2009.

Laws & Regulations Within Amsterdam?

The Netherlands is considered to be one of the most progressive and accepting countries when it comes to the LGBT community, with Amsterdam in particular being one of the most LGBT-friendly cities in the world. Not only is the majority of the Dutch population accepting and supportive of same sex relationships, but the Netherlands was in fact the first country to legalise same sex marriage in 2001, as well as allowing adoption and IVF for lesbian couples. As early as 1994, the Equal Treatment Act was introduced, banning all types of discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, and public accommodations. In 2019, this act was extended to discrimination against gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

Amsterdam is also the home to the first 'Homomonument' in the world, built in 1987. This monument, located on Westermarkt, was built to pay tribute to all the homosexuals that were discriminated against and persecuted during the Second World War. The monument takes the shape of three pink triangles, with each corner of the triangle pointing in the direction of LGBT spots of relevance in Amsterdam: Anne Frank's house,

the COC, and the National War Memorial.

Near the Homomonument there is also the Pink Point, an official LGBT kiosk that provides members of the community with LGBT-friendly information and advice relevant to the city of Amsterdam, such as pamphlets on different LGBT/friendly organisations and initiatives.

In 2015 the Dutch government introduced a Security Programme for the LGBT community, aiming to address homophobia through non-profit organisations such as the COC Netherlands. The COC has been advocating for LGBT rights since 1946 in the Netherlands and all over the world, even working in consultation with the United Nations.

Amsterdam Pride Week

Every year, countless diverse and cheerful events fill the streets, parks, and pleinen of Amsterdam, as crowds of people gather in the city to celebrate the equality of the LGBT community. One of the leading celebrations of gay pride around the globe, 'Amsterdam Pride Week' attracts members and supporters of the community from all around the world. It is definitely something to check out if you are in Amsterdam!

This year, the nine-day celebration will take place from July 31st to August 8th under the key theme of "TAKE PRIDE in us". The theme reflects the goal of the event to work towards a more inclusive Dutch society. Everyone who finds themselves outside the 'hetero norm' is invited to be visible during the event, and to carry their identity with pride. While there is still uncertainty regarding the scope and scale of events that can take place in August with the prevailing pandemic, one thing is quaranteed: the 25th anniversary of Pride Amsterdam will not be left uncelebrated!

The canal parade, where 80 colourful boats cruise along the Prinsengracht canal, is traditionally known as the culmination of the whole week. Unfortunately, event organisers were forced to postpone the iconic parade to next year, but it is definitely something to check out if you are still in Amsterdam. Luckily, there will be numerous other events and activities to attend even this August, ranging from cheerful parties to performative arts and open-air cinemas.

To give you an idea of what to expect this year, 020 has gathered some interesting prospects to check out during the week. Furthermore, we hope that anyone looking for a way to celebrate the devotion towards equality can find a preferred activity from the pool of events that are planned to take place.

Pride Walk

To kick off the eventful week of celebrations on June 31st, a crowd of members and allies of the LGBT community will gather for the Pride Walk. The walk is scheduled to leave at 12:00 from the Homomonument in Westermarkt.

Gathering at the Homomonument and walking together through the city is a powerful showcase of the Amsterdam LGBT community. The walk is used as a platform for driving attention towards inclusivity, whilst embracing diversity and strength. The walking route finishes in Vondelpark, where the program continues with the Pride Park party.

Photo exhibition at Museumplein

As a part of its 25-year anniversary, Pride Amsterdam is organising an open-air photo exhibition "celebrating diversity, [and] 25 years of Pride Amsterdam" on Museumplein." The organisers have asked photographers—both amateur and professional—to dig through their archives for pictures of the struggles as well as celebrations along the 25-year journey of Pride in Amsterdam. Out of all photographs submitted, a board will choose 50 images to be displayed on 25 large billboards on Museumplein, one picture on each side.

Make sure to check the exhibition from July 21st to August 10th and let yourself be moved by the powerful Pride history of Amsterdam. The pictures will also be assembled into a photo book in honour of the 25 years of Pride.

Open-air cinema

During Pride Week you may also attend open-air screenings of LGBT-related films at Polderheuvel and Mercatorplein in Amsterdam West. The entry to the screenings is free, but the available 400 seats are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. So, make sure to go early, and bring some snacks and drinks to enjoy during the program. More information will be published shortly, and the newest updates can be found here. The screenings will take place between August 2nd to 5th.

Street Parties

Throughout Pride Week some of the central streets and plazas of Amsterdam will be transformed into colourful festivals for one or two evenings. At these locations, you may enjoy various games and activities, good music, street art, and delicious food together with other celebrators. A comprehensive list of the times and places of the various street parties—set to take place between 4th and 8th August—can be found here. Some interesting events to mention are the Drag Olympics at the Homomonument in Westermarkt on August 6th, or the Crash open-air fetish party at Beursplein on August 6th and 7th.

Finally, following a long tradition, the week of celebrations will end with a closing party held at Dam square. The official closing party has no entrance fee, and it takes place between 14:00 and 22:00 on August 8th at the heart of Amsterdam city centre, Dam.

Pride Amsterdam also has a mobile application called PrideTV, available for iOS and Android, that you may download to stay up-to-date on the events. Furthermore, you can check out the official website of Pride Amsterdam to read the comprehensive list of events, as well as to receive the most current information about the scope and scale of activities that will take place in August.

Gay bars, clubs, and more

Before we start with this section, we want to make sure that everyone understands that 020 believes that the LGBT community should feel welcome everywhere they go, whether it be bars, clubs, or somewhere else. However, LGBT cultural spaces remain important, for they represent places of belonging. Furthermore, they also allow people to explore their identity and really find themselves within a community. Therefore, we find it important to provide places in Amsterdam where they fully allow you to discover yourself. This section elaborates on those bars and clubs that encourage you to explore your identity!

Vereniging De Trut (Bilderdijkstraat 165-E, 1053 KP)

Located in the Old West neighbourhood of Amsterdam, De Trut is for those who feel like enjoying a great party on Sunday evenings. This club, founded in 1985, is fully run by volunteers who are passionate about supporting the LGBT community. All the profit that this organisation makes goes to LGBT projects around the world. For example, the current profits are going to an Albanian organization called "Open Mind Spectrum Albania", which aims to provide workshops for parents and relatives of the Albanian LGBT community.

De Trut has five principal rules everyone should comply with when visiting: [1] do not use your cellphone, [2] do not make videos or pictures, [3] do not use any hard drugs, [4] make sure to respect the neighbors by lowering your volume when outside, and [5] have respect for all volunteers and attendants in the club. With these rules, the owners want to assure a safe and pleasant environment for everybody who is attending the club.

Reguliersdwarsstraat

Club NYX & Exit Cafe: Reguliersdwarsstraat 42, 1017 BM, Amsterdam

Soho: Reguliersdwarsstraat 36, 1017 BM, Amsterdam

Bar BLEND: Reguliersdwarsstraat 41, 1017 BK, Amsterdam

The Otherside Coffeeshop: Reguliersdwarsstraat 6, 1017 BM, Amsterdam

For many people, the Reguliersdwars-straat remains one of the greatest LGBT monuments in the city of Amsterdam. Just a stone's throw away from places like Rembrandtplein or de Singel Univresity library, this street is filled with many different gay bars and clubs. One of the greatest benefits of this street is that it is the only street in Amsterdam where one can be loud during the night. Because we can't cover all bars and

clubs in this street, we highly recommend you to visit reguliers.net, where you will find all the cafes you can visit.

Club NYX is a place that welcomes every sexual identity and therefore attracts a great number of people from different backgrounds, although there are some recurring themes, such as "Dirty", "Sugardaddy", or "Tipi Tipi". However, every Saturday the LGBT community gets the spotlight on "Saturgays", where you can dance to 90s songs, RnB, house, and pop!

Just a couple of steps from Club NYX you will find **Soho**. Besides being a club dedicated to safety and fun for the LGBT community, Soho organises many other events that might interest you. For example, Soho frequently organises RuPaul Drag Race nights, where everyone watches the newest episodes in the bar. However, the club is most known for its "Tasty Thursday" event, where good music is accompanied by drag queens who perform the night away!

Another bar that receives a special shoutout in this street is called "Exit Cafe". This cafe describes itself as a gay bar in an apres-ski setting with an interior that looks like a log cabin. Here, you will mostly use the dancefloor to show

your skills on house and international pop music.

The final cafe has a more relaxed atmosphere compared to the previous clubs and cafes. **Bar BLEND** hosts various different nights, ranging from drag shows to fun bingo evenings! The owners of BLEND also recently opened **Club YOLO**, which you can find at the Amstel.

Those who prefer to go to LGBT-friendly coffee shops can also do so in the Reguliersdwarsstraat! The Otherside **Coffeeshop** used to originally be a gay coffeeshop but today people of all sexualities and identities are more than welcome to enter. The atmosphere is classy, filled with jazz and soul music. Another great element to this coffeeshop is that there is little to no service nor Wi-Fi, keeping the people off their phones when they're inside. While 020 does not want to explicitly promote the usage of (recreational) drugs, we do want to provide safe and secure places in case you want to experiment. Therefore, we encourage you to also take a look at the "Recreational Drugs" booklet by 020, which can be found at our website [0-2-0.nl].

Drag Show Bar Lellebel

Utrechtsestraat 4H, 1017 VN, Amsterdam

The drag queen scene in Amsterdam has become ever more popular, and De Lellebel has established itself as a drag bar since its opening in 1997. Located in the Utrechtsestraat, near the famous Rembrandtplein, this dragshowbar hosts frequent shows and performances. Lellebel took the COVID-19 pandemic to its advantage by renovating the establishment. Therefore, once the lockdown measures allow, people can enjoy the shows in a brand new setting!

Cafe the Queen's Head

Zeedijk 20, 1012 AZ Amsterdam

Those who are aware of De Lellebel undoubtedly know Cafe the Queen's Head as well. Both bars have a similar concept, where drag queen shows are central. For this cafe, Thursday is a fixed day where usually (but not always) one drag queen gets the spotlight to steal the show. Before the pandemic, these shows always started at 22:00. But make sure to frequently check their agenda so you won't miss out on any times and events!

Club Kerk

Kerkstraat 52, 1017 GM Amsterdam

Out of all clubs and cafes in Amsterdam, Club Kerk might be one of the most open-minded ones. In this place, kinks and fetishes are central to the clubbing experience. Events that include "shoes only" night, underwear party, or oil parties are just the tip of the iceberg that people can attend at this club. Because this place stimulates people to explore potential kinks, sexualities, and fetishes, there are very strict house rules. For example, photography and videography is strictly forbidden unless given the permission, but there are also strict dress codes depending on the night and event you're attending. Make sure to check out their websites and events before you attend, so the type of party does not come as a surprise!

Social Groups, Clubs, and Communities that Empower LGBT Communities

To start the section, A.S.V. Gay is a student association for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and gueer students in Amsterdam that organises weekly borrels ("drinks"), and have several events throughout the year [email: info@asvqay.nl, or check the website asvgay.nl]. To receive some extra support, the COC Amsterdam—the largest gay rights advocate-also organises events (cocamsterdam.nl or email at info@cocamsterdam.nl). Additionally, the IHLIA, which is an international gay library archive, provides info and documentation on homosexuality and sexual diversity, in case of need or curisosity you can find them on their website (ihlia.nl).

If you are into sports, the Gay Swim Amsterdam at Sloterparkbed organises water polo, diving, and competitive swimming, as well as parties. A small fee has to be paid, and a reservation must be made in advance (gayswimamsterdam.nl or email gayswimadam@hotmail.com). A free alternative is at the Pride and Sports Amsterdam (visit at prideand-sports.amsterdam), which includes

which includes all of Amsterdam's LGBT sports clubs, (Rainbow Squash Amsterdam, Gay Volleyball Amsterdam, and Dutch Gay and Lesbian Athletics). Finally, the Gay Male Journal is a journal where international networks help men gain information on HIV/AIDS prevention, access to healthcare, and discrimination issues.

Furthermore, an outdoorsy learning adventure can be taken at the 'LGB-Tour', which offers a walk through the cannals of Amsterdam while showing the hidden queer gems, and sharing stories from a historic and queer perspective.

Even in mostly accepting places such as Amsterdam, discrimination still occurs on a frequent basis. Because of this, there is a police department that helps the community in case of unfortunate events such as harassment or discrimination, you can call at +31 [0]88 169 1234. The police force is called "Roze en Blauw" ["Pink and Blue"]. These forces are known to be extremely helpful and friendly, so we do encourage you to speak up and reach out to them when necessary.

When it comes to LGBT representation, the film industry has a long way to go. In the past five years, queer cinema has portrayed LGBT life around the world as dangerous, droll, sinful, and sexy. There have been drag performers, drug dealers, filthy rich high schoolers, and dirt-poor adults. Some movies sparked protests in their hometowns; others won Academy Awards. Nevertheless, there are a great number of international films that portray an array of characters and stories from various backgrounds with celebrations of life within the LGBT community.

Movies

While most American movies might fail to portray appropriate LGBT representation, Moonlight (2016) brings a story from the perspective of a gay black man and his coming-of-age story. Unlike the ostentatious wealth of South Beach, the movie explores black lives in inner-city America—lives plagued by crime, addiction, and incarceration—offering an empathetic glimpse into the universality of a world many would otherwise label as "opposing the norm". The Academy Award winning movie plays with the light and darkness of intersectional stories and identities.

If you are looking for a WLW ("women who love women") movie, Rafiki (2019) is the one! Where being gay is punishble for 14 years by law, Rafiki takes place in Kenya where two young women fall in love with each other. The budding romance between the two women blooms amidst the family and political pressures surrounding LGBT rights in Kenya. The movie brings a raw portrayal of a lesbian relationship in a cultural and political context. Even after the struggles and celebrations, the couple's love for each other is unchanged.

Girl (2018) tells the story about Lara, a young trans girl attempting her first year at a top-tier ballet school while awaiting gender confirmation surgery in Antwerp, Belgium. Although Lara has a loving father, an understanding therapist, and a doctor helping her through the transition, she struggles to manage the mental distress caused by her gender dysphoria. Girl delicately shows the ways in which even the most informed members in a socially liberal country can undermine the existence of trans identities by ignorantly reinforcing gender binaries.

Books

In celebration of Pride Month, we have picked books that delve deeper into interpersonal relationships as well as bring more intersectionality to their stories. Today's queer literature, by comparison, is unapologetic, truthful, inclusive, and even stereotype-bashingly exuberant. These next four books have been highly recommended by the community.

The first book most people might know from the popular movie "Love, Simon": Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli is a beautiful story of a closeted gay teenage boy who is forced into coming out after a blackmailer discovers emails he exchanged anonymously between him and another classmate. This novel is more than just a YA (Young Adult) novel. The story delicately portrays Simon's struggle of coming out while creating a soft love story between two teenagers.

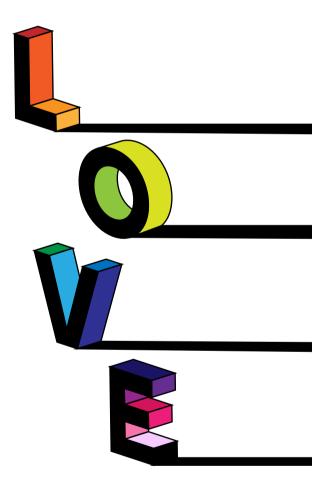
If a soft love story between teenagers is not your speed, Marriage of a Thousand Lies by SJ Sindu might just be your cup of tea—a novel that promises LGBT and South Asian representation. Krishna, an Indian gay man, and Lucky, a Sri-Lankan American lesbian woman, get married

as a means to appease their families while secretly dating on the side. When Lucky visits her injured grandmother, she comes in touch with her old childhood friend, Nisha. Sindu does not shy away from exploring friendship, culture, and love in this novel, which makes it very engaging.

Those who are looking for a story of exploration, escape, and realisation, we recommend Zaina Arafat's You Exist Too Much. Arafat explores religion, culture, and sexuality colliding together through the protagonist's eyes. Having grown up in a conservative environment and caught in the middle of the US Middle Eastern conflict, the teenageer moves to Brooklyn to find themself while dealing with their other identities.

Finally, for those who speak Dutch, Hou van je Blauwe Ogen describes the romance between Rachid, a 16-year old Moroccan guy, and Pieter, a Belgian boy. The book clearly juxtaposes the contrasting effects on one's sexuality, depending on the environment where one grows up. Rachid, raised by a traditional Islamic family, wants to keep his affection towards Pieter a secret..

whereas Pieter wants to tell everyone about their relationship. Their different views lead to clashes between them, putting their relationship at risk.



Concluding Remarks

020 believes that everyone should be part of the celebration of the LGBT community. Nevertheless, discrimination and oppression remain ever-present, even in open-minded places like Amsterdam. Therefore, we aimed to create this booklet to not only provide you the cultural aspects of the community, but also the informative side to give everybody a glimpse of the history surrounding the community.

Furthermore, we want to stress that this booklet is not all-encompassing. Therefore, we appreciate any feedback that we receive, so we can include it in future booklets.

Additionally, 020 is constantly looking for new members to strengthen its fight to better the lives of our fellow students. You can provide this feedback to us or your interest in joining us through our website (0-2-0.nl) or through our Instagram page (@020.nl).

With that being said, we hope that, even though the COVID-19 pandemic might limit some of the pride possibilities, you will enjoy this beautiful month to the fullest!

All the best,

The 020 team

credits

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