



PRIDE



Is a movement of the workers too!

Our trade union has a long history of fighting for what's right, for our members and our communities.

We're proud to be a diverse union - welcoming of all, and stronger together.

Last year we stood in solidarity with workers in our libraries as they stood up against hate speech and violent attacks in their workplaces.

Unions have long been instrumental in the fight against workplace discrimination and harassment and were early supporters of civil partnership and marriage equality.

At our national conference this year delegates passed a motion calling for a Fórsa LGBTQ+ network to be created. Our members spoke about their

personal experiences in a deeply moving session. So, this Pride month we're celebrating the diversity of our union, and the solidarity we have for all our members.

The fight for LGBTQ+ rights has long been part of the civil rights and trade union movement. An injury to one is an injury to all - our solidarity is not limited, it is welcoming, diverse and inclusive.

No matter who you are or who you love, everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. The trade union movement and LGBTQ movement are both rooted in the fight for an equitable society.

So, this Pride month, ask your colleagues: have you joined the union yet?





A story of solidarity: our shared history

Pride as we know it today began as a commemoration of the Stonewall riots which took place in New York City in 1969, when two sex workers Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera led a small but organised response to the police violence in their community which was targeting LGBTQ businesses and workers.

Johnson led a group of workers to come together in Stonewall and resist the oppression. While resisting the police forces, Johnson yelled out 'I got my civil rights.' That small group held its ground and resisted arrest to secure their freedom. The power of organising led to the first Pride march.

Over ten years later a small group of miners in South Wales decided to go on strike in 1984. Amid anti-union public opinion support for the miners came from an unexpected source.

A gay and lesbian group from London fundraised more money for their cause than anyone else and went down to the Dulais Valley to show their support, proudly displaying the banner 'LGSM: Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners.'

This was solidarity at its most clear: two groups with the same cause at heart - to demand dignity, respect and equality.

A year later the miners went down to London to march at the Pride parade in June 1985, and fought to have gay rights added to the agenda at the 1985 Labour party conference.

The Welsh miners' story should serve as a reminder that the trade union movement and LGBTQ+ Pride movement are not separate struggles.

In Ireland, the first official Pride march took place in Dublin in 1983, with groups coming from Belfast, Cork and across the country to have the first national march for gay rights and law reform, a year after the murder of Declan Flynn in Fairview Park.

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s in Ireland trade unionists worked with gay rights campaigners to create equality legislation that would transform Ireland.

Over 40 years ago, the LGPSU, one of Fórsa's predecessor unions, brought a motion to an ICTU conference supporting the "decriminalising of homosexual acts". At the time, this was a ground-breaking and brave motion to bring. Since then, we've been proud to stand with all our members for their rights.

Happy Pride!

