



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New York State's greatest asset is its diversity of people and, as the birthplace of the modern LGBTQ+ movement, we are honored to be a beacon of equality and hold this distinction every day of the year – especially during the celebration of Pride Month observed throughout June; and

Whereas, we continue to support LGBTQ+ and Transgender, Gender Non-Conforming, and Non-Binary (TGNCNB) communities through our commitment to advocating for a fair and equitable society, free from institutional injustice, prejudice, bigotry, and bias, and to foster a society that allows individuals to freely display their personal expression and identity; and

Whereas, during this month, we remember events that took place at the Stonewall Inn during the early morning hours of June 28, 1969, when a small but determined group of LGBTQ+ New Yorkers stood united in their outcry against violence toward them and in defense of their civil and human rights; the urgency of the Stonewall Rebellion inspired the formation of activist organizations like the Gay Liberation Front in New York City and the Gay Liberation Front at the University of Rochester and countless others throughout the state; these groups and many more fought against oppression and for self-determination; we commemorate this watershed moment and the progress achieved in the 54 years since Stonewall, as our state continues its leadership in the pursuit of individual rights and freedoms with intentionality towards equity for the LGBTQ+ community, especially at the intersections of marginalization; and

Whereas, we are inspired by legendary pioneers of the LGBTQ+ movement, including Marsha P. Johnson – a proud transgender woman of color, who, alongside Sylvia Rivera and other brave activists, led the protests at Stonewall in 1969 and many more that followed; as an outspoken champion of LGBTQ+ rights and one of the first activists to call for the urgent development of medical treatments for people with HIV/AIDS in its early years, Marsha P. Johnson turned her hardships and struggles into action, and her legacy as a hero and example of courage continues to inspire us today; and

Whereas, New York State respects and supports the rights of TGNCNB people to live their lives authentically, free from discrimination, harassment, and violence; measures such as expanding the Gender Recognition Act to create an "X" marker on important state documents, protecting the rights of TGNCNB individuals by requiring utility companies, municipalities, water-works corporations and telephone service providers to allow customers to use their preferred name and pronouns, enacting the START Act to provide support and resources for those impacted by human trafficking, and establishing the Lorena Borjas Transgender and Non-Binary Wellness and Equity Fund to support organizations that provide critical services for the transgender, gender non-conforming, non-binary and intersex (TGNCNBI) community, reaffirm our commitment to upholding the freedom of New Yorkers of all gender identities or expressions; and

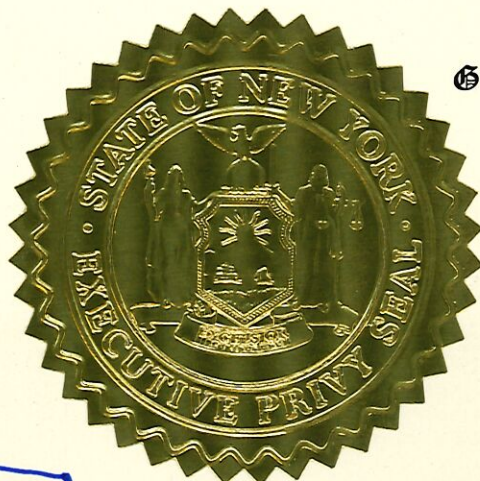
Whereas, New Yorkers observe Pride Month with events marking major advancements in equal rights, freedom, and justice for the LGBTQ+ community, such as doubling critical funding for services that support LGBTQ+ New Yorkers, addressing health care disparities in the LGBTQ+ community, and improving outcomes and expanding protections in health care settings – particularly for the disproportionately represented population of runaway and homeless LGBTQ+ youth under 18, enacting legislation to strengthen needed services for LGBTQ+ older adults and to support each individual's capacity to live independently as they age, ensuring our state has data on this community to inform about areas of inequity, and creating the Hate and Bias Prevention Unit within the New York State Division of Human Rights to help prevent and respond to incidents of hate, bias, and violence around the state – including acts committed against those with multiple identities who are marginalized, such as trans women of color; and

Whereas, as a champion of LGBTQ+ rights, New York is a staunch defender of the community and we are horrified by the rise in acts of violence against LGBTQ+ individuals and the increasing attacks on their rights and freedoms across our country, born out of hatred, prejudice, and ignorance; our state will always be a haven for the ensured safety, respect, and dignity of the LGBTQ+ community and a leader in the fight for equality and freedom of identity for every person, and New Yorkers proudly celebrate with LGBTQ+ and TGNCNB people, committed to a world of peace and justice for all;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim June 2023 as

LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this seventeenth day of May in the year two thousand twenty-three.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

Karen Persichilli Keogh
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh