

# The Flags of Pride

**“Flags are about proclaiming power.”**  
*- Gilbert Baker*

## THE ORIGINAL RAINBOW FLAG:

Designed by Gilbert Baker and first flown in San Francisco, CA in 1978. The original rainbow flag design was a response to the pink triangle used by the Nazis in World War II to identify “homosexuals.” Gilbert Baker thought that the eight colours representing pride and support counteracted the colour codes that the Nazis used to oppress. The pink was not an easy colour dye to find for production of the flags so it was eventually dropped. And later on the turquoise and indigo were removed and replaced with a royal blue.

Each colour was also associated with a specific meaning:



Learn more about Gilbert Baker’s influence on the original flag design at [bit.ly/gilbertbaker](http://bit.ly/gilbertbaker)

## PHILADELPHIA PRIDE FLAG



In 2017, Philadelphia City Hall unfurled a new version of the rainbow flag in an effort to include greater racial diversity into Pride recognition and celebration. A black and brown stripe were added to represent people of colour within LGBTQ2+ communities.

Often when we talk about sexuality and gender, we talk about it from a white lens. Often people of colour are invisibilized in that process. Philadelphia’s decision was to deliberately include persons who are often left out of the conversation.

Read more about Philadelphia’s flag design at [bit.ly/phillyflag](http://bit.ly/phillyflag)

## TRANS PRIDE FLAG



*“I say the rainbow flag is like the American flag: everybody’s underneath that, but each group, like each state, has their own individual flag.”* – Monica Helms

Designed by Monica Helms, a trans woman, retired from US Navy and first flown at Phoenix, AR, Pride Parade in 2000.

The stripes at the top and bottom are light blue, the traditional color for baby boys. The stripes next to them are pink, the traditional color for baby girls. The stripe in the middle is white, for those who are intersex, transitioning, or consider themselves having a neutral or undefined gender.

The pattern is such that no matter which way you fly it, it is always correct, signifying us finding correctness in our lives.

Hungry for more history on the Trans Pride Flag? Jeffrey J. Iovannone walks you through at [bit.ly/transflag](http://bit.ly/transflag)



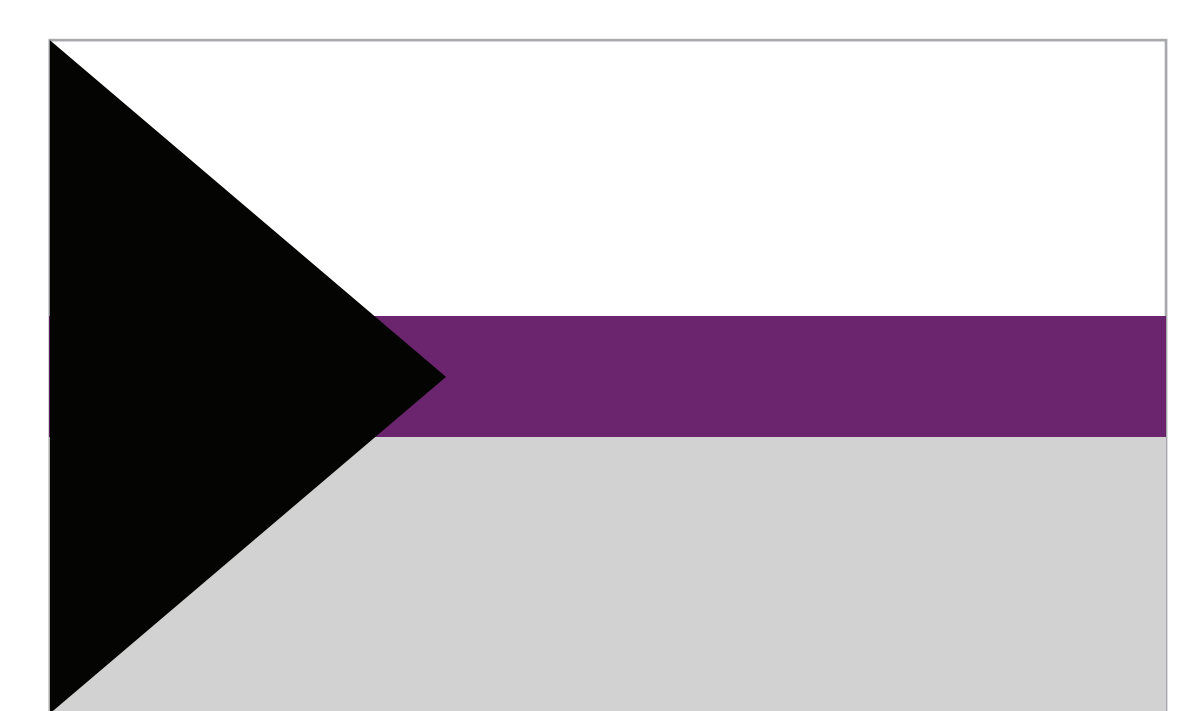
Aromantic Pride



Agender Pride



Asexual Pride



Demisexual Pride



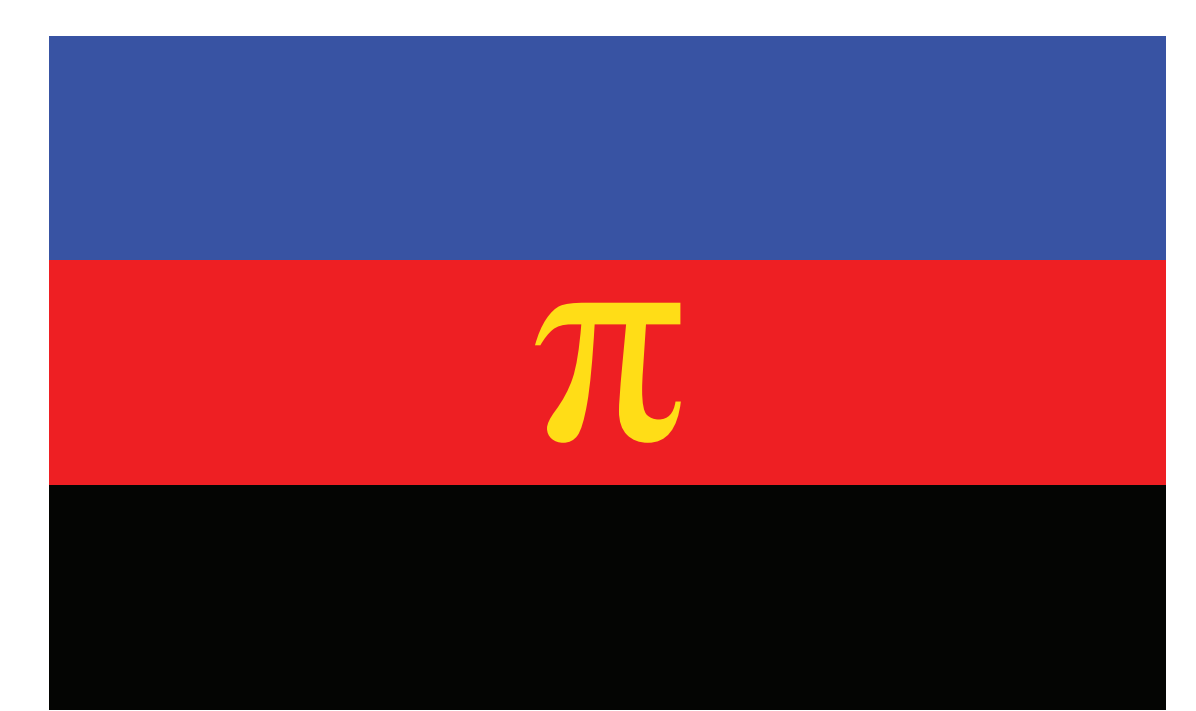
Genderfluid Pride



Gender Queer Pride



Intersex Pride



Polyamory Pride



Polysexual Pride



Non-binary Pride



Bear Pride



Bi Pride



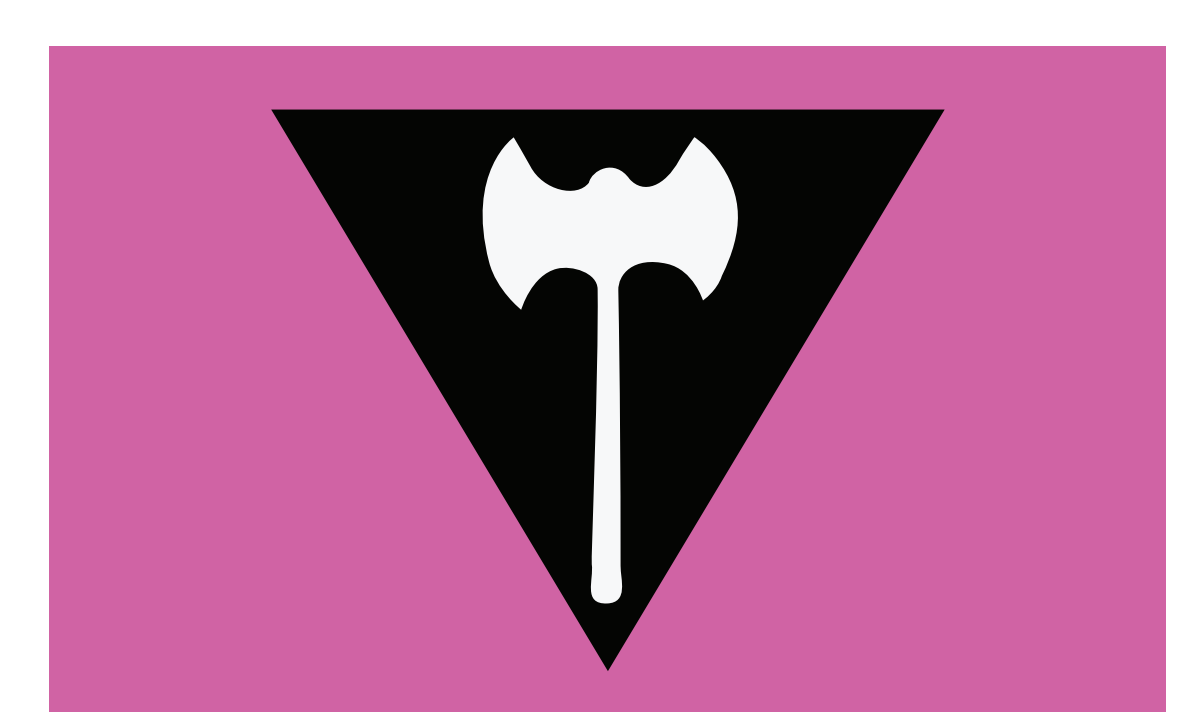
Leather Pride



Pansexual Pride



Lesbian Pride



Lesbian Pride

# Quilt & Triangles

**“We honor the stories of resistance and of loss and pain; then and now.”**

- Toronto Pride  
(related to the 2018 Toronto Pride theme: 35 Years of AIDS Activism)

## AIDS AND GSD COMMUNITIES

- ▲ AIDS has had a profound impact on LGBTQ2+ communities.
- ▲ During the height of the epidemic in the 1980s and 1990s, little was known about AIDS and little was available to treat individuals who contracted the virus.
- ▲ The stigma, homophobia and transphobia galvanized communities and led to community support and services for those living with HIV and AIDS.

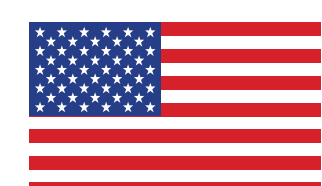


## AIDS MEMORIAL QUILT

- ▲ Cleve Jones in San Francisco, CA organized a memorial project whereby loved ones could create a cloth panel in memory of a family member or friend who died of AIDS.
- ▲ Each panel is 3' x 6', and decorated to symbolize aspects of the lost loved one that people treasured and remembered.
- ▲ The first quilt was displayed in 1987 in Washington, DC, and consisted of 1920 panels.
- ▲ The quilt traveled the United States and cities in Canada began creating their own quilt projects.



[bit.ly/canadaquilt](http://bit.ly/canadaquilt)

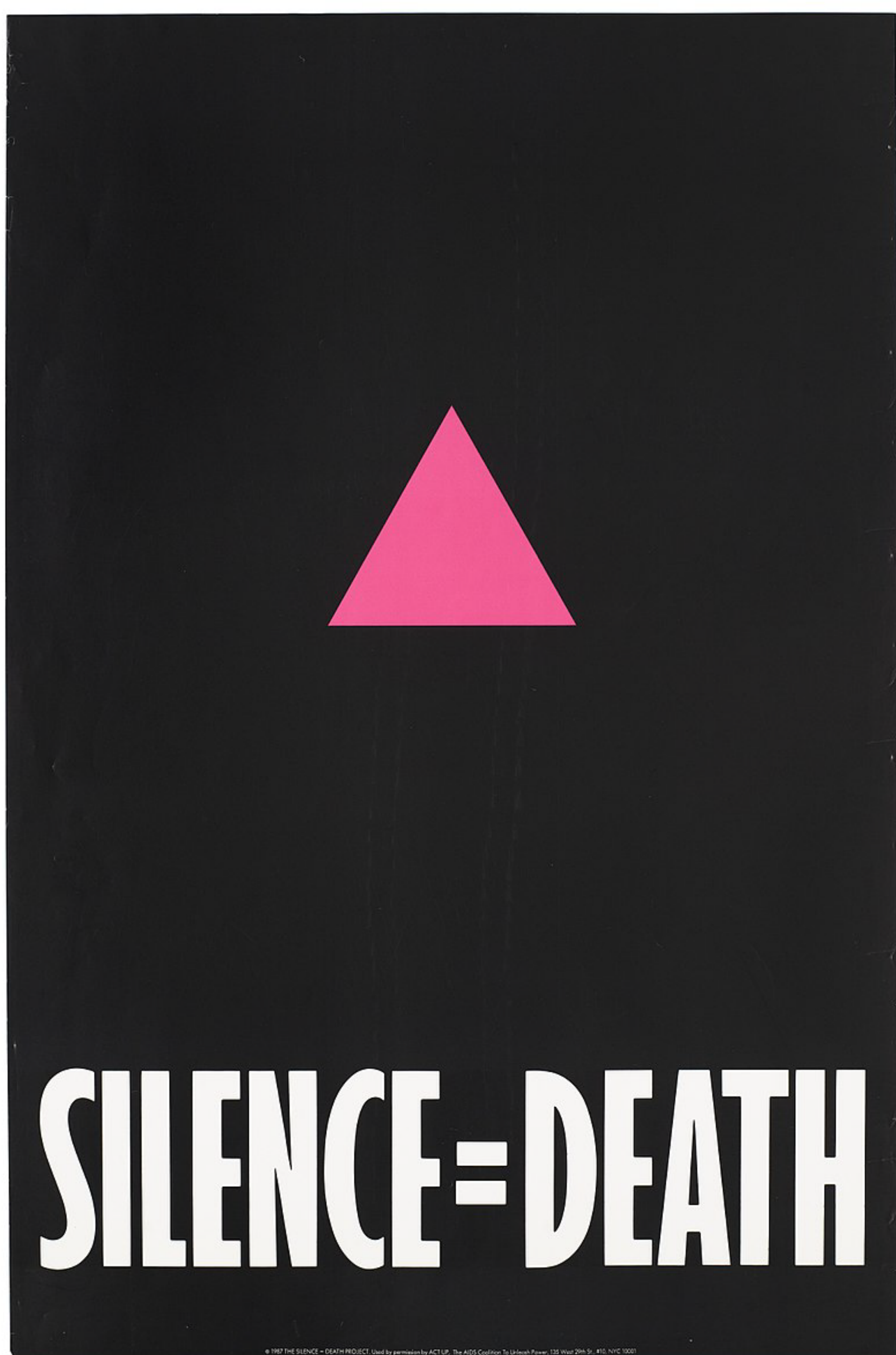


[www.aidsquilt.org](http://www.aidsquilt.org)

- ▲ The project became the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and is the largest community art project in the world. It was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.
- ▲ The quilt was last displayed in full in 1997, in Washington, DC, and consisted of 40,000 panels, covering the entire National Mall.



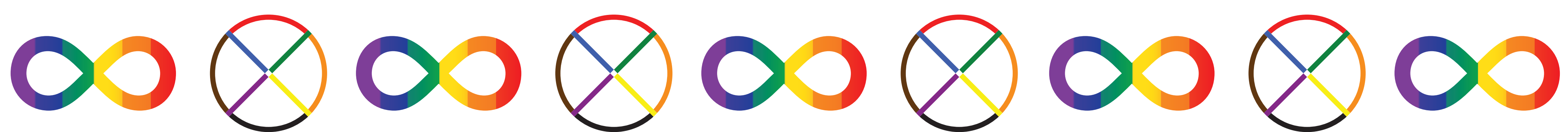
## PINK TRIANGLE



- ▲ The pink triangle was a symbol used to identify homosexual men by the Nazis during World War II. Like the yellow star imposed on Jews, the pink triangle marked those who were “undesirables.”
- ▲ Women who were believed to have been Lesbian were made to wear a black triangle, which was to identify “asocials.”
- ▲ The idea to use this symbol as a point of pride, was originally met with resistance given it’s original history. But when the AIDS crisis hit and the lack of social service support for members of GSD communities who were dying, the symbol took on renewed meaning and resonance.
- ▲ In 1987, ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) used the pink triangle as their logo, along with the slogan “Silence=Death,” in response to the idea that people living with HIV and AIDS should be tattooed or marked in some way, to protect society. ACT-UP inverted the original pink triangle from the version used by the Nazis, in order to reclaim it and give it new meaning.
- ▲ For some, the pink triangle has more resonance with gay men, and so not everyone feels that the symbol is broad enough to use for the broader communities.
- ▲ Sometimes the symbol of the rainbow is shaped into an inverted triangle, which is a reference to the pink (and black) triangles, and the history of and continued persecution many members of LGBTQ2+ communities face.

Learn the broader history of the Pink Triangle at [bit.ly/pinktri](http://bit.ly/pinktri)

# TWO SPIRIT



“Two Spirit identity is about circling back to where we belong, reclaiming, reinventing and redefining our beginnings, our roots, our communities, our support systems and our collective and individual selves”

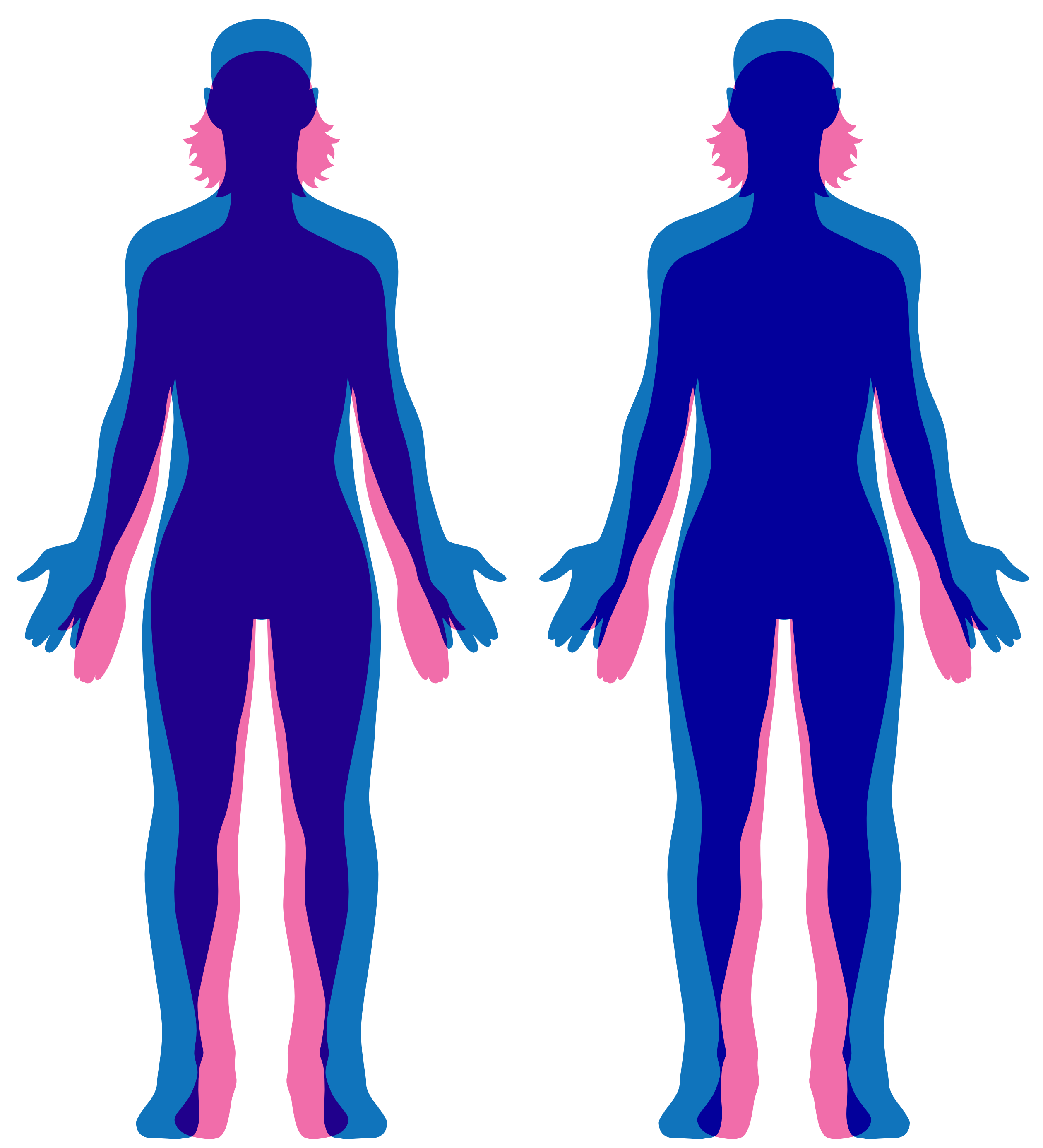
- Alex Wilson

“Warriors are men & women who can cry, who can admit their mistakes and admit their fears, and walk forward to help others”

- Two Spirit Elder Ma-nee Chacaby

**TWO SPIRIT**, a translation of the Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) term niizh manidoowag, refers to a person who embodies both a masculine and feminine spirit. Activist Albert McLeod proposed the term in 1990 at a gathering of queer and trans First Nation, Metis and Inuit to broadly reference Indigenous peoples in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities, and the term caught on (Michelle Filice, Canadian Encyclopedia).

Two Spirit affirms the interrelatedness of all aspects of identity - including gender, sexuality, community, culture, and spirituality (EGALE Canada).



Learn more about two-spirit identity at [bit.ly/twospiritidentity](http://bit.ly/twospiritidentity) OR [bit.ly/2spiritidentity](http://bit.ly/2spiritidentity)

## COMING IN

“When we call ourselves two-spirit people, we are proclaiming sovereignty over our bodies, gender expressions and sexualities. “Coming in” does not centre on the declaration of independence ... coming in is an act of returning, fully present in our selves, to resume our place as a valued part of our families, cultures, communities, and lands, in connection with all our relations.”

*TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE, BODY SOVEREIGNTY AND GENDER SELF-DETERMINATION  
JANUARY 28, 2016  
BY ALEX WILSON*

Without trying to understand the way that native peoples viewed Two-Spirit individuals, all we have are ‘equivalent’ English words. Decolonisation involves consciously trying to reclaim what existed before. It is no easy task (adapted from âpihtawikosisân). Colonization, Christian missions and instruments of cultural assimilation, including the residential school system, had served to silence two-spirit traditions in some Indigenous communities.

Within many traditional Native communities, although there was division of labor along gender lines, there was no hierarchy based on gender - a community could not survive without both of the equal halves of a whole. This commitment to gender equality opened the door for multiple genders (Harlan Pruden).

Some Cree words that relate to sexuality and gender:

*Indigiqueer – the braiding of two worlds  
Joshua Whitehead - [bit.ly/indigiqueer](http://bit.ly/indigiqueer)*

### ayahkwêw (U-yuh-gwayo)

*a man dressed/living/accepted as a woman. Some have suggested this word can actually be used as a ‘third’ gender of sorts, applied to women and men.*

### înahpîkasoht (ee-nuh-PEE-gu-soot)

*a woman dressed/living/accepted as a man (also translated as someone who fights everyone to prove they are the toughest).*

**Napêw iskwêwisêhot** (Cree)  
**Iskwêw ka napêwayat** (Cree)  
**Aakíí’skassi** (Siksika)

**Titqattek** (Ktunaxa)  
**Lhaman** (Zuni)  
**Geenumu Gessalagee** (Mi’kmaq)

Hungry for more sweet, sweet KNOWLEDGE?:  
Indigenous worldview versus Western worldview (video): [bit.ly/indigiworldview](http://bit.ly/indigiworldview)  
A Hidden Crisis: HIV in the Two-Spirit Community: [bit.ly/spiritcrisis](http://bit.ly/spiritcrisis)