

# Your Story, Our History

## Secondary resource pack

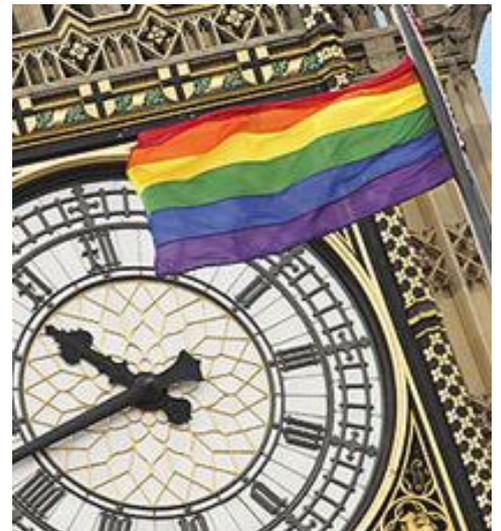
This pack accompanies two videos in the **Your Story, Our History** series focussing on LGBT legislation.

### What's in the pack?

This pack contains background information and questions to develop students' thinking around equality and legislation.

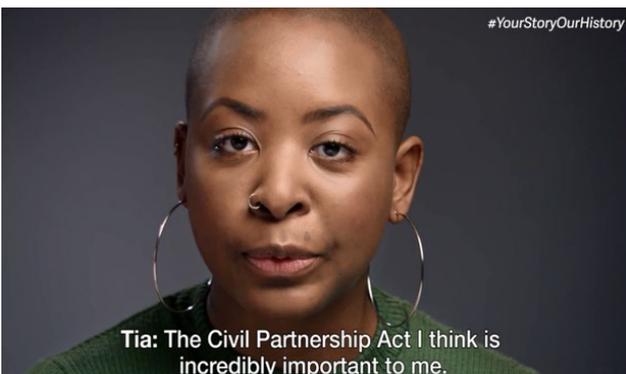
#### Includes:

- Background information about the videos
- Questions to consider
- Glossary of legislation



### Watch Geoff and Peter's story

In this video students will find out about one couple's experiences of discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Their story explores legislative changes that have taken place during their 37-year long relationship, including the 1967 Sexual Offences Act and how this Act has helped to change the lives of many LGBT+ people for the better.



### Watch Nadine and Tia's story

In this video students will find out about Nadine and Tia's experiences growing up and their hopes for the future of their relationship. They share their experience of the repeal of Section 28 as a result of the 2003 Local Government Act, and the role this played in shaping their identity as queer women of colour.

## Questions

Having watched the videos now discuss and consider the following questions.

1. Both stories explore the journey of LGBT+ rights and its impact on people's lives. What legislation is mentioned in the two videos?
2. Compare the experiences of the two couples. What was it like growing up in a society that criminalised homosexuality (prior to 1967 Sexual Offences Act being passed) compared to the experiences of people today?
3. What forms of discrimination did Peter and Jeff experience? How did it affect them? Could this happen today under current legislation?
4. Nadine and Tia reflect on being 'Queer women of colour', Nadine describes herself as feeling like an 'anomaly'. Why does she say this?
5. Geoff, Peter, Nadine and Tia are part of the LGBT+ community, the law applies to their protected characteristics, but are their lived experiences of affirmation, discrimination or oppression the same?
6. The sexual Offences Act 1967 was mentioned as a 'stepping stone' for LGBT+ rights by Peter and Jeff, in what way did this law begin to change things for gay men, the LGBT community and society?
7. Nadine shared that "learning about homosexuality in school during sex education was really affirming for me as a teenager". What change in law enabled this to happen?
8. Peter and Jeff said changes in the law 'didn't overnight change prejudice's, overtime as the law changed, society changes.' Explore the regression and advancement in LGBT+ rights mentioned in the video and its power to influence attitudes in society.
9. Both videos mention changes in the law for the progression of LGBT rights and equality, who led this change? Investigate the role of protest, lobby groups, grass roots activism and community advocacy in creating legislative change.
10. Nadine and Tia, Peter and Geoff talk about their love for each other and how they met at differing times of acceptance and openness. What legislation legally recognises their love and how does this impact their lives and their hopes for the future?

# Glossary of legislation

<p><b>Sexual Offences Act 1967</b></p>	<p>This Act decriminalised consensual sexual relationships between two men over 21 and 'in private'. Prior to this Act being passed, men could be charged with 'gross indecency' and sent to prison.</p> <p>In the years prior to this Act, the legitimacy of the law was called into question as a number of high-profile men were charged with indecency. For example Alan Turing, the World War Two code breaker, went on trial in 1952. He was charged with 'gross indecency' and offered hormone therapy or prison. The Wolfenden report published in 1957 investigated the law in relation to homosexuality. In his report, Lord Wolfenden made the argument that 'homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private be no longer a criminal offence', however it took a further 10 years until the law was changed.</p> <p><small>*The 1967 Act did not extend to all nations in the UK nor to the armed forces. Legislation came into place as follows: Scotland (1980), Northern Ireland (1982), Guernsey (1983), Jersey (1990), Isle of Man (1994) and the Armed Forces (2000)</small></p>
<p><b>Local Government Act 1988 (Section 28)</b></p>	<p>Section 28 of the Local Government Act stated that a local authority "shall not intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality" or "promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship".</p>
<p><b>Sexual Offences Act 1994 and 2000</b></p>	<p>The UK House of Commons moved to reduce the age of consent for same-sex relations between men to 16. The vote was defeated, and the age of consent was instead lowered to 18. An age of consent for same-sex relations between women was not set. The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 reduced the age of consent for same-sex relations between men to 16.</p>
<p><b>Local Government Act 2003</b></p>	<p>In 2003 Section 28 of the Local Government Act was repealed, which removed the restrictions for schools to talk about homosexuality in the context of sex and partnership education.</p>
<p><b>The Civil Partnership Act 2004</b></p>	<p>This Act gave same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as married straight couples in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.</p>
<p><b>Equality Act 2010</b></p>	<p>The Equality Act 2010 legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. The Equality Act protects people against discrimination because of the 'protected characteristics' that we all have. The nine protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.</p>
<p><b>Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013</b></p>	<p>This Act passed in England and Wales in 2013 and came into force in 2014, with the first same-sex marriages in England and Wales taking place on 29 March 2014. The Scottish Government passed legislation allowing same-sex couples to marry in Scotland in 2014.</p>