



*Dragged Into History:*

## **The Rainbow Pride Flag**

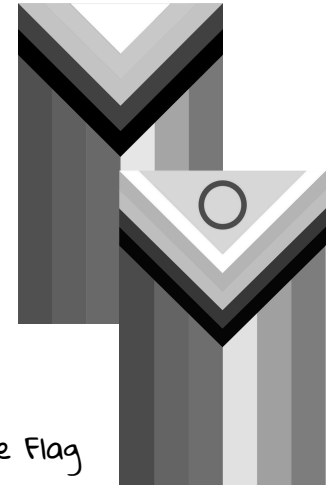
Rainbows have been regarded as beloved, and sometimes even sacred, symbols in countless cultures and religions around the world since time immemorial. So, it should come as no surprise that the rainbow became a symbol for Gay liberation, and over time, unity among gender and sex diverse folks as a whole.

Gilbert Baker (1951-2017,) then a member of The Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence drag performance protest group, became a self-described "Gay Betsy Ross" and designed the original eight-color Gay Pride Flag. The Brotherhood Flag, which represented unity between all cultures and races, inspired this flag.

Unfortunately, two of the original 1978 colors, hot pink and turquoise, were dropped by 1979, because of expense and production issues. The six-color variant is known as "the commercial flag" or, more commonly, the Rainbow Pride Flag. Over time, there have been many more flavors of the Pride Flag.



The most common variant is the 2018 Progress Pride Flag by Ru Paul's Drag Race graphic designer, Daniel Quasar. In spite of what some folks may claim, this combination of multiple Pride Flag variations is not meant to replace the original or erase its history. Rather, it helps center groups that have been historically marginalized, even within the gender and sex diversity community. These include: BIPOC folks, Trans/Non-binary folks, and victims of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



In 2021, Valentino Vecchietti, founder of Intersex Equality Rights UK, redesigned the Progress Pride Flag to make it intersex inclusive. Her flag addresses the fact that many Intersex folks would rather celebrate their bodily autonomy and differences, than be forced to conform to societal ideas about what human bodies should look like and how they should function.

These days, there are numerous Pride Flags for many of the ever-evolving gender and sex diverse cohorts and identities. Whether you just want to fly the old school rainbow flag, or fly as many as humanly possible, your choice is perfectly valid! Celebrate the amazingness of the magical alphabet of gender and sex diversity in whatever way you see fit!



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- Additional images by TGH Design, GW Creative, Eugene B-sov, and Olena Mats

Sources: Gilbert Baker Foundation, Progress Initiative, Designs By Daniel Quasar, Intersex Equality Rights UK, Human Campaign and Wikipedia.

Dragged Into History is a drag-performer led community outreach dedicated to preserving the contributions of drag culture in the gender and sex diversity liberation movement, and building a society that makes clothing and apparel autonomy accessible to all.