

Legal and Social Changes Affecting LGBTQ+ People

1. In the **1950s**, being gay was illegal in the UK, and men could be arrested, imprisoned, or forced to undergo harmful medical treatments just because of their sexuality.
2. The **Wolfenden Report** argued that private relationships between consenting adults should not be criminal, laying the groundwork for change.
3. In **1967**, the UK passed the **Sexual Offences Act**, making same-sex relationships legal, but only in private and only for men over **21 years old**.
4. LGBTQ+ activists continued fighting for rights, protesting against discrimination and laws like **Section 28**, which banned schools from discussing homosexuality.

5. Music, fashion, and sport helped change attitudes—artists like **David Bowie**, footballers like **Justin Fashanu**, and movements like **Pride marches** made LGBTQ+ identities more visible.
6. The **Rainbow Laces Campaign (2013)** encouraged acceptance in football and other sports, challenging homophobia on and off the pitch.
7. In **2013**, **same-sex marriage** was legalised in England and Wales, showing society's shift toward greater equality and inclusion.
8. **Turing's Law** pardoned thousands of men convicted under old anti-gay laws, recognising the injustice they suffered.