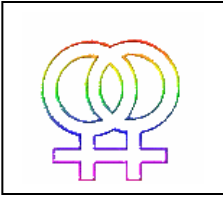

Symbols of Pride

Listed below are just a few symbols that have been adopted by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people and their allies along with the significance of each.



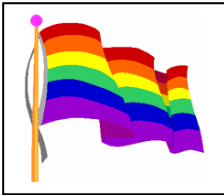
Double Woman's Symbol

Also known as "the mirror of Venus." This symbol represents the planet Venus, metal, copper and femininity. The double woman's symbol represents woman loving woman.



Double Man's Symbol

Derived from the astrological symbol of Mars. Mars was the Greek God of War and patron of warriors. The arrow is a phallic symbol. A double man's symbol represents man loving man.



The Rainbow Flag

The Rainbow Flag has been adopted by the LGBT community as its own design. It depicts not the shape of the rainbow but its colors in horizontal stripes. Created in 1978 for San Francisco's Gay Freedom Celebration by local artist, Gilbert Baker, it was inspired by the "Flag of the Races," which had five stripes—one each for the colors of humankind's skin-flown at the 1960's college demonstrations. Major gay and lesbian parades in New York, Houston, Vancouver and Toronto began to fly the six-stripe Rainbow Flag. It is prominently displayed at most gay and lesbian events. In New York, the flag drapes coffins of people who have died of AIDS, and is frequently displayed on hospital doors. In a few short years, the flag has spread world wide to represent a movement. Its success is not due to any official recognition but to the widespread spontaneous adoption by members of the community it represents.



Transgender Symbol

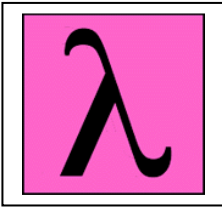
Transgender symbols frequently consist of modified gender symbols combining elements from both the male and female symbols. A popular version originated from a Holly Boswell drawing.

Symbols of Pride (con't)



The Labrys

The double-bladed ax comes from the myth as the scepter of the goddess Demeter (Artemis). It may have originally been used in battle by female Sythian warriors. The Labrys appears in ancient Cretan art and has become a symbol of lesbianism.



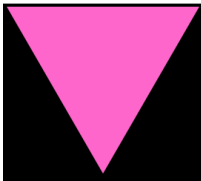
The Lambda

Chosen by the Gay Activist Alliance in 1970 as the symbol of the gay movement, the lambda is the Greek letter "L." A battle flag with the lambda was carried by a regiment of ancient Greek warriors who were accompanied in battle by their young male lovers and noted for their fierceness and willingness to fight to the death.



Freedom Rings

Designed by David Spada with the Rainbow Flag in mind, these six colored aluminum rings have come to symbolize independence and tolerance of others. They were quickly adopted by the gay community and the rings are frequently displayed or worn as jewelry and can be found as necklaces, bracelets, rings and key chains.



Pink Triangle

One of the oldest symbols used to denote homosexuality. They originated Nazi concentration camp badges that homosexuals were required to wear. Around 220,000 gay men and lesbians perished in Nazi death camps during World War II. Thus, Pink Triangle is used both as an identification symbol and as a memento to remind people of the atrocities that gays suffered. AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power adopted the inverted pink triangle to symbolize the "active fight back" against HIV/AIDS "rather than a passive resignation to fate."