

# Milestones of LGBTIAQ\* History in Austria



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## Imprint

**Media owner** EfeU Association, Untere Weißgerberstraße 41, 1030 Vienna, Austria

**Idea and realization** Renate Tanzberger + Rosemarie Ortner + Naomi Lobnig + Luisa Fuhr

**Artwork** Jess Gaspar

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**Onlineversion** [efeu.or.at/seiten/download/LGBTIAQ\\_Milestones\\_EfeU\\_2023.pdf](https://efeu.or.at/seiten/download/LGBTIAQ_Milestones_EfeU_2023.pdf)

**Sponsored by** the Vienna Anti-Discrimination Office for LGBTIQ Affairs (WAST)



## Content

Players read about historical events (Milestones) in the struggle for equality and visibility of LGBTIAQ\* people in Austria. Players will then date these Milestones and place them on a timeline.

The themes include legal achievements, cultural representation, queer activism in Austria, and interesting and empowering people. Additional information and explanations serve to contextualise and deepen the topics.<sup>1</sup>

The game can be played two ways, either as a cooperative learning game, in which the group creates a timeline together or as a game where one person or team wins. Both variations are described below.

## Targets

The Participants

- ▶ gain knowledge about historical and current struggles for equality and recognition of queer people.
- ▶ receive information about historical developments related to real LGBTIAQ\* persons' experiences, gender diversity, equality laws, measures against discrimination, cultural representation, and queer activism.
- ▶ recognize that the concepts gender and sexuality have a history, are subject to change, and are also currently changing.
- ▶ acknowledge that so-called "private" areas of life such as sexuality or family are determined by structural (legal) framework conditions and that these have an impact on their own biography.

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## Target groups

- ▶ Ages 15 and up
- ▶ Group size: at least 6 players or up to 6 teams of 2 to 4 players each

## Framework

- ▶ Duration: apx. 45 min. (depending on group size and reflection time)
- ▶ Material: cards with events, cards with year numbers; a list of these events and the corresponding year numbers; a box/cap, in which the cards are placed and from which they are drawn.
- ▶ Space: a larger room with an open space on the floor is needed, if the group size is smaller, it is also possible to play around a larger table.

1) The events represent a selection and do not claim to be complete. Neither are all historical developments depicted in full, nor are all groups of people affected made visible in the same way. The aim of the game is also to encourage participants to do own research if questions remain unanswered.



## How the game is played

Tell the participants that you have collected different (historical) events related to the current and past realities of LGBTIAQ\* people's lives. The players' task is to put these events in chronological order. **Note** that assigning a specific year is not easy, so players are allowed to guess.

### **The following describes the process when playing in small groups:**

Ask participants to form groups of two to four people each. Go around with the box; each group should draw at least as many cards as the group has people. (If participants are playing individually, they will draw two to four cards per person). It is not necessary to bring all of the event cards into play. You can thematically select a suitable number of cards in advance and let participants draw from them. However, the game also works if you draw from the total set.

First, all players in the group read their own event cards and then decide when each of these Milestones occurred (at least, in which decade). Then ask one group at a time (or one representative per group) to come to the open area, read their event aloud, and place the corresponding card on an imaginary timeline on the floor. For temporal orientation, some of the year cards can be placed on the floor. After all groups have arranged their events chronologically, ask if anyone would arrange any of the events differently. If the group that placed the card agrees to any suggested change, the card can be moved.

Now start placing the individual year cards next to the corresponding event cards. Use the chronological list of events and dates for this. Additional information can be added about the events – for example, mention the discussions that preceded a change in the law, draw comparisons with the situation in other (European) countries, show connections with previous events, etc. In the event list you will find relevant additional information as well as sources for further research. Allow enough time for the reactions and statements of the players.

After all the cards are placed everyone returns to the main group.

## Talking points for the reflection round

The following questions are intended for reflection and discussion in the larger group. They are meant to invite the collection of existing knowledge from individual players as well as to obtain new information and to contextualize it. These are some suggestions for talking points:

- ▶ What was particularly surprising for you?
- ▶ Which events did you agree on as a group in terms of historical classification, and which did you disagree on?
- ▶ Were there any events where you guessed? If so, which ones?



- ▶ Why do you think there are no Milestone cards in the years of National Socialism and in the 1950s/1960s? (Point out the repression and prosecution and the late or pending rehabilitation of the victims, see note below.)
- ▶ What other events, issues, or policies related to LGBTIAQ\* would you like more information on?
- ▶ What do you notice about the events and the people involved? Are there groups of people about whom and whose history you would like to learn more?
- ▶ To what extent do queer identities and lifestyles often remain invisible in historiography? (Point out here, for example, the possible positive role of school history classes, which can consciously make queer history visible and thematize it.)
- ▶ What difficulties may arise in applying categories such as "inter" and "trans" to past events or people even though there have always been people who have crossed binary gender boundaries? (See note below.)

## Tips for playing

- ▶ Some events or individual terms may not be familiar to everyone so it might be good to allow participants to already start asking questions during the small group work phase, or go from group to group in order to be able to react to ambiguities.
- ▶ At the end, when the events are put into the correct chronological order, you can ask one person from the group to help you place the cards.
- ▶ You can distribute the list of events and the corresponding year numbers to all players before the reflection round. In this case, it may happen that participants also receive information about events that were not part of the game or were not drawn as cards; this could be used as an occasion for further discussion.
- ▶ If there is not enough space on the floor to lay the cards, you can also stretch two long clotheslines - one for the event cards, one for the year numbers. Make sure there is an appropriate number of clothespins ;-).

## Variants

- ▶ The participants can also formulate events on their own in order to have them dated by their fellow players - the year is then researched on site. Use blank cards and pens to add new events.
- ▶ Based on the game "Anno Domini" ([abacusspiele.de/produkt-kategorie/anno-domini-serie](http://abacusspiele.de/produkt-kategorie/anno-domini-serie)), "Milestones" can also be played in a variant in which approx. five players sit around a table with a stack of event cards. To prepare, write the year on the back of each card (or attach a Post-It with the year). Each player receives four cards each and places them in front of them on the table even up. The back with the date remains hidden. Next, one card from the pile is placed in the middle and the youngest person starts. They arrange one of their cards on an imaginary timeline before or after this card.



Now it is the next player's turn. They can either put one of their cards to it (before, after or between the existing events) or contest the placement of a card if they think the chronology is not correct. If a player puts the order into question, that player calls out: "wrong order!" and all of the cards are turned over and the dates made visible. If the order was correct, the player who called it, must take a new card from the deck. If the order was wrong, the person whose turn it was before the caller must take two cards (regardless of whether they put a card in the wrong place). If the caller is right, they begin the next round. If they are wrong (i.e. the order was correct), the player after the caller starts. The first player to discard all their cards wins the game. Since this variant requires many event cards, it is recommended to write more cards (e.g., events from other countries).

## Notes on content

### 1. Missing words

The open statements "I am lesbian" or "I am trans" have not been possible for very long. The identity categories of LGBTIAQ\* were developed only gradually as self-designations. For long periods of history, no terms or only pejorative terms existed for these realities of life. Not having a language leads to invisibility. When we talk about history, it is important to see that today's terms do not necessarily fit earlier times. For example, in the 1940s, people who did not want to live in their assigned gender existed, but they did not call themselves trans as the term was not yet coined. People's labels and self-conceptions in earlier decades were heavily influenced by foreign definitions, particularly by law enforcement and medical and sex research, and were often pejorative. The terms "gay" and "lesbian" were not established as self-designations until the homosexual movement of the 1970s. So when we speak of "the lives of LGBTIAQ\* persons in the 1930s", it is not historically accurate. Point this out to participants.

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### 2. Missing years

In the game, it becomes apparent that no cards exist for the years of National Socialism and the first two decades of the Second Republic. In these periods, no "Milestones" in the sense of positive achievements or progress can be formulated. In Europe, these years were dominated by persecution and repression. Draw the participants' attention to this. Repression leads to invisibility, so that even historical knowledge can only be acquired gradually. Hiding parts of one's life or living them in secret or in private also means that it is difficult to learn about them later in history.

#### **National Socialism**

After the so-called "Anschluss" in 1938, the persecution of people as homosexuals intensified (trans people were also included). The Gestapo and the Kriminalpolizei used and developed various methods of repression and persecution. People that were perceived to be sexually "deviant" were often imprisoned and after serving prison sentences, officials could order "preventive measures" without a trial. Often this led to incarceration



in a concentration camp, indefinitely. Men had to wear the "pink triangle" there, women were often assigned to the prisoner category "asocial" and interned (ostensibly) for other reasons. Many were murdered in prisons or in concentration camps. Even after the end of National Socialism, legislation on homosexuality remained unchanged, so that survivors faced social ostracism. It was not until 1995, that they were gradually recognized as Nazi victims and allowed to rehabilitate. (see Milestones 1984, 1988, 1995)

- ▶ [Erinnern.at](https://erinnern.at) has chosen the persecution of homosexuals under National Socialism as its theme for 2023:

[erinnern.at/themen/jahresthema-2023-ns-verfolgung-homosexueller](https://erinnern.at/themen/jahresthema-2023-ns-verfolgung-homosexueller)

- ▶ In the book "Als homosexuell verfolgt. Wiener Biographien aus der NS-Zeit." (Persecuted as homosexual. Viennese biographies from the Nazi Period.) Andreas Brunner (2023) reconstructs the life stories of 50 persecuted persons from Vienna:

[mandelbaum.at/buecher/andreas-brunner/als-homosexuell-verfolgt](https://mandelbaum.at/buecher/andreas-brunner/als-homosexuell-verfolgt)

### 1950s and 1960s

Due to the continuity of criminal legislation and repression, LGBTIAQ\* persons could only live openly in private and/or in well-hidden circles. The prevailing conservative image of women and families also ensured invisibility. Shelter marriages were a possible practice to escape the annoying questions of acquaintances and family or employers. Until the 1970s, aliases were used in order for people to meet in subcultural venues, so that in the event of a raid, no one could betray another person. It was not until 1971, that the total ban on homosexuality was lifted as part of the small criminal law reform. It was not until 2021, that the Minister of Justice apologized for the persecution of homosexuals and full compensation is still pending.

- ▶ In a project by QWien, contemporary witnesses talk about their experiences during the time of the total ban:

[qwien.at/stonewall-in-wien](https://qwien.at/stonewall-in-wien)

- ▶ The film "verliebt, verzopft, verwegen – Geschichten lesbischer (Un-)Sichtbarkeit im Wien der 50er und 60er" (In love, conservative, daring. Stories of lesbian (in)visibility in Vienna in the 50s and 60s.) by Katharina Lampert and Cordula Thym (Ö 2009, english subtitles) lets contemporary witnesses have their say:

[verliebtverzopft.at](https://verliebtverzopft.at)

- ▶ In the film "Große Freiheit" (Great Freedom) (D/Ö 2021), Sebastian Meise addresses the continuity of repression in the West German context:

[kinomachtschule.at/filme/grosse\\_freiheit.html](https://kinomachtschule.at/filme/grosse_freiheit.html)



## Milestones and background information

### 1852 §1291b of the Criminal Code punishes "fornication against nature with the same sex" with up to five years of severe imprisonment.

The Theresian penal code listed same-sex sexuality under the term "sodomy" and punished this with death. In the 18th century, the death penalty was replaced by labor penalties, but these also resulted in death. At the beginning of the 19th century, gaol (jail) sentences were introduced instead. The 1852 reform of the penal code then codified the wording that would remain valid through every political upheaval until 1971. Unlike in many European countries, including Germany, same-sex sexual contact between women was also punishable in Austria.

- Kreiner 2016
- [vice.com/de/article/8x9v74/homosexualitat-war-in-osterreich-bis-1971-straftbar](https://www.vice.com/de/article/8x9v74/homosexualitat-war-in-osterreich-bis-1971-straftbar)

### 1897 The Berlin physician and sex researcher Magnus Hirschfeld gives lectures in Austria in which he talks about sexual and gender diversity beyond a heteronormative binary gender order.

In his theses, Magnus Hirschfeld broke with the binary gender order and classified men and women on a "biological scale" of male and female characteristics. He spoke of a third gender and understood homosexuality as part of normality. In 1897, Hirschfeld founded the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee (wissenschaftlich humanitäres Komitee - WhK) in Berlin, the first homosexual organization in history.

- [derstandard.at/story/2000039656712/die-erste-homosexuellen-bewegung-der-geschichte](https://derstandard.at/story/2000039656712/die-erste-homosexuellen-bewegung-der-geschichte)

### 1919 Margarete Csonka leaves Sigmund Freud's practice of psychoanalysis without the "cure" her father desired.

Her father had brought Margarete Csonka to Prof. Freud to "cure" her of her passion for the elegant and flamboyant Leonie von Puttkamer. Freud determined that the young woman did not want any interference with her erotic preferences and dismissed her after three months of analysis. In 1920, he wrote about it in an essay, anonymizing her. ("On the Psychogenesis of a Case of Female Homosexuality"). Margarete Csonka's biography was published by Ines Rieder and Diana Voigt in "Die Geschichte der Sidonie C". (first in 2000, new edition 2012). In an interview on which the publication is based, Csonka tells how she resisted patriarchal scientific paternalism and calls Freud a fool. Freud later expressed openness to homosexuality; he stated that at least it was "not a disease". Since the mid-19th century, a scientific discourse arose around the definition of homosexuality, in which psychoanalysis played an important role.

- Brunner et al. 2005
- Rieder/Voigt 2012





**1920 The Austrian Federal Constitution comes into force, containing the explicit prohibition of discrimination on the basis of gender (principle of equality).**

Article 7 of the Austrian Federal Constitution stipulates the equality of all citizens before the law. Thus, the federal government, the provinces and the municipalities are committed to the actual equality of men and women.

- [oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente\\_und\\_recht/gleichbehandlung/Seite.1860100.html](https://oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente_und_recht/gleichbehandlung/Seite.1860100.html)

**1927 The magazine "Frauenliebe" founds the ladies' club Violetta in Vienna.**

The punishability of homosexual acts made public appearances difficult in Austria, leading to lesbian women living here to become involved in initiatives of German associations. In the 1920s, German scene media (e.g. "Die Freundin" or "Frauenliebe") were popular in Austria. Austrian women also wrote letters to the editor, poems, personals, and short stories.

- [hdgoe.at/frauenliebe\\_womens-clubs\\_lesbian-networks](https://hdgoe.at/frauenliebe_womens-clubs_lesbian-networks)

**1930 Sigmund Freud, Franz Werfel, Arthur Schnitzler, Rosa Mayreder and other prominent figures sign a petition to the Minister of Justice demanding the abolition of §129 Ib.**

The Viennese lawyer Dr. Eckstein wrote this petition and found prominent co-signers. There have been many such initiatives to change criminal legislation throughout history, e.g. by the Austrian League for Human Rights, which was founded in 1926. This was also discussed in 1930, at the 4th Scientific Congress of the World League for Sexual Reform in Vienna, with over 2,000 participants. The debates continued after National Socialism in the Second Republic. However, it would be many years before political majorities would reform the criminal law (see Milestone 1971).

- [derstandard.at/story/2000039656712/die-erste-homosexuellen-bewegung-der-geschichte](https://derstandard.at/story/2000039656712/die-erste-homosexuellen-bewegung-der-geschichte)
- [hdgoe.at/sexual\\_reform\\_congress](https://hdgoe.at/sexual_reform_congress)

**1971 Punishment of same-sex sexuality is removed from the penal code However, homosexuality is discriminated against by four new paragraphs.**

The total ban was replaced by four criminal law paragraphs: gay prostitution (unlike heterosexual and lesbian prostitution) was made punishable (§210), as was the public endorsement of homosexuality ("advertising for fornication with persons of the same sex", §220) and the founding of or membership in lesbian and gay clubs ("associations favoring same-sex fornication", §221); a special age limit for gay relationships of 18 years was also introduced (§200) as opposed to 14 years for heterosexuals and lesbians. These special laws were contrary to human rights.

In 1989, the ban on prostitution was dropped, in 1997, the ban on approval and associations, and in 2002 the special age limit. However, those who had been convicted under these special penal laws remained in the criminal register. It was not until 2006 that President Fischer mercifully deleted some of these entries from the criminal register. In 2021, Justice Minister Alma Zadić officially apologized for the persecution during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Republic.



However, real compensation is still pending. Convictions: 1945 to 1971 around 15,000 (total ban); 1971 to 2002 around 1,500 under the special paragraphs.

- [kontrast.at/paragraph-209-oesterreich](https://kontrast.at/paragraph-209-oesterreich)
- [qwien.at/2021/07/05/justiz-entschuldigung-fuer-die-strafrechtliche-verfolgung-von-homosexuellen-menschen-in-oesterreich-in-der-zweiten-republik](https://qwien.at/2021/07/05/justiz-entschuldigung-fuer-die-strafrechtliche-verfolgung-von-homosexuellen-menschen-in-oesterreich-in-der-zweiten-republik)

**1977 The "Frauenzimmer" is opened in Vienna.**

The Frauenzimmer was a bookstore with an adjoining café, the "Frauencafé". In the 1970s, activists of the 2<sup>nd</sup> women's movement founded women only spaces in order to organize movements and activism against patriarchal oppression (e.g. also the FZ in the cultural center WUK). Within the women's movement, lesbian groups soon emerged that drew attention to the double discrimination as women and as lesbians and demanded visibility and space for their concerns within the feminist movement. From the beginning, the Frauenzimmer also carried lesbian literature and was a place of communication for lesbians. Later it moved to the 7<sup>th</sup> district, but it had to shut its doors in 2007 – its successors then opened the bookstore Chicklit in the 1<sup>st</sup> district. The café in Langegasse was an important meeting place and offered space for political debates, vernissages and readings. Today, the FLINTE is located there.

- [chicklit.at](https://chicklit.at)
- [flinteverein.business.site](https://flinteverein.business.site)

**1979 The HOSI Vienna (Homosexual Initiative) is founded as a political interest group for lesbians and gays.**

In 1971, homosexual acts were decriminalized, but the founding of organizations was still prohibited (§221, which forbade associations to "favor same-sex fornication"). In response to the public announcement of the founding of a homosexual association, ÖVP and FPÖ submitted a parliamentary question to Justice Minister Christian Broda (SPÖ) about the legality. However, the founding of the organization was not stopped and gay activists founded the HOSI Vienna. From 1981, lesbian women also organized themselves within HOSI. Other cities followed suit and organizations were also founded throughout Austria (currently active HOSI Linz, HOSI Salzburg, HOSI Tirol, Rosa Lila Panther\_innen in Graz, Go West in Vbg.). HOSI Vienna, in cooperation with the associations in the other federal states, became an important mouthpiece and initiated many of the other Milestones.

- [hosiwien.at/ueber-uns](https://hosiwien.at/ueber-uns)
- [hdgoe.at/founding\\_hosi](https://hdgoe.at/founding_hosi)

**1982 Activists occupy the Rosa Lila Villa (today Türkis Rosa Lila Villa) in Vienna.**

In 1982, gay and lesbian activists occupied the house on Linke Wienzeile and named it "Rosa Lila Villa - Vienna's first lesbian and gay house". The city of Vienna, the owner of the building, allowed the house to be officially occupied by the Rosa Lila Tip association for 30 years and added an official building lease agreement that expires 2045 allowing for self-administration.



With the extension of the name to Türkis Rosa Lila Villa, it is made visible that although the house was founded by lesbians and gays, trans activism also has a place there (Verein TransX) and trans people are part of the community. Since 2015, the association Queer Base also uses the rooms in the house and supports LGBTIAQ\* refugees.

- [dievilla.at/geschichte](http://dievilla.at/geschichte)

**1984 The world's first memorial stone for homosexual victims of National Socialism is installed at the Mauthausen concentration camp memorial.**

The memorial stone made of pink granite in the shape of a triangle, bears the inscription: "Totgeschlagen. Totgeschwiegen – Den homosexuellen Opfern des Nationalsozialismus – Die homosexuellen Initiativen Österreichs 1984" (Beaten to death, silenced to death. To the homosexual victims of National Socialism. The homosexual Initiatives 1984.). It was initiated and financed by the HOSI Vienna. This memorial stone was the first in a former concentration camp. After the so-called "Anschluss" of Austria to Nazi Germany in 1938, the prosecution of gay men and lesbian women continued to be based on the paragraph of the penal code that had been in existence since 1852. Repression and persecution, however, increased drastically. The Gestapo and criminal police took particular action against homosexual men (and trans persons subsumed under this designation) and brought them to court, to prisons, to concentration camps or to psychiatric wards. In concentration camps, a separate category of imprisonment – the Rosa Winkel (the pink triangle) – was created. Lesbian women were also persecuted and often assigned to the "anti-social" prison group.

After 1945, people persecuted on the charge of homosexuality were not recognized as Nazi victims (see Milestone 1995) and were also not taken into account in the culture of remembrance of the Second Republic. For many years after the second world war, prisoners released from prison and survivors from the concentration camps, so-called "Rosa Winkel prisoners", were confronted with the same social ostracism as before. The penal code also remained in force and unchanged for the time being in the Second Republic.

- [hdgoe.at/persecution\\_homosexual](http://hdgoe.at/persecution_homosexual)
- Brunner et al. 2018

**1985 The Austrian Aids-Hilfe is founded.**

In 1983, there was the first recorded AIDS case in Austria. In 1985, with the help of the Ministry of Health, the first AIDS help center was founded in Vienna; a year later, the first provincial offices were established. Therapies against the HI-Virus did not exist at that time. However, these were not to be presented until 1996, at the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver, Canada.

- [derstandard.at/story/2259376/die-aids-hilfe-in-oesterreich](http://derstandard.at/story/2259376/die-aids-hilfe-in-oesterreich)
- [welt-aids-tag.de/media/presse/mediathek/Hintergrundinformationen/21\\_WAT\\_Informationen\\_zur\\_HIV-Therapie.pdf](http://welt-aids-tag.de/media/presse/mediathek/Hintergrundinformationen/21_WAT_Informationen_zur_HIV-Therapie.pdf)



**1988 Activists demonstrate against the non-recognition of homosexuals as Nazi victims by the Austrian state.**

On November 24, 1988, a memorial against war and fascism was unveiled in Vienna. Activists of HOSI and Rosa Lila Villa demonstrated against the event with the banner "Thousands of homosexual concentration camp victims waiting for rehabilitation". Three years earlier, on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camp Mauthausen, the banner pointed out the non-recognition of homosexual victims by the Austrian state.

- [hdgoe.at/protest\\_monument\\_against\\_war\\_fascism](http://hdgoe.at/protest_monument_against_war_fascism)

**1991 The disease diagnosis "homosexuality" is deleted from the Austrian diagnosis code.**

On May 17, 1990, the WHO adopted a revised version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the ICD-10, in which the disease diagnosis "homosexuality" was no longer to be found. Therefore, on May 17, IDAHOBIT is celebrated, the International Day against Homophobia, Bisexuality, Inter\* and Transphobia. The ICD-10 only came into force in 1993, but in the Austrian diagnosis code this change was already implemented in 1991.

- [homopoliticus.at/1991/10/22/homosexualitaet-ist-in-oesterreich-keine-krankheit-mehr](http://homopoliticus.at/1991/10/22/homosexualitaet-ist-in-oesterreich-keine-krankheit-mehr)

**1993 The first Life Ball, the largest European charity event for people infected with HIV and suffering from AIDS, takes place.**

The first Life Ball took place on 29.5.1993. Until 2019 (with the exception of 2016), the ball was celebrated annually at the Rathausplatz in Vienna. The proceeds from the Life Ball were used to support NGOs working for HIV+ people and people suffering from AIDS; it was also intended to raise public awareness about HIV/AIDS.

- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life\\_Ball](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life_Ball)

**1993 The first gay-lesbian bookstore in Vienna opens its doors.**

The Löwenherz bookstore is located in Vienna's 9th district; it started with 3,500 titles and today boasts an assortment of over 12,000, much of it (but not exclusively) from the gay-lesbian segment. Originally, "Berg und Löwenherz" was founded as a day café and bookstore and was considered a "project to promote and expand the lesbian-gay community". The café, which closed in 2017, had large glass windows that could also be opened in summer - the operators deliberately did not want to hide queer life.

- [de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berg\\_und\\_Löwenherz](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berg_und_Löwenherz)

**1995 Austria compensates homosexuals as Nazi victims.**

For decades, Austria refused to recognize homosexuals as Nazi victims. With the National Fund Act, victims received financial compensation for the first time in 1995 (approx. 5,000 euros); they were not included in the Victims' Welfare Act until 2005. In 2009, the unjust Nazi convictions have been overturned by the Abolition and Rehabilitation Act.

- [hdgoe.at/persecution\\_homosexual](http://hdgoe.at/persecution_homosexual)
- [hosiwien.at/homosexuelle-ns-opfer-erhalten-endlich-rechtsanspruch-auf-entschadigung](http://hosiwien.at/homosexuelle-ns-opfer-erhalten-endlich-rechtsanspruch-auf-entschadigung)



**1995 The association TransX is founded and becomes a central contact point for trans persons.**

Located in the Türkis Rosa Lila Villa, TransX offers counseling and empowerment for all who cross gender boundaries.

- [transx.at](http://transx.at)

**1996 The first rainbow parade on the Ringstraße in Vienna.**

On June 29, 1996, the first rainbow parade marched along the Ringstraße in Vienna (at that time still in the direction of travel); in the subtitle it was called "First LesBiGay and Transgender Procession". At that time, there were still three criminal law paragraphs that threatened the lives of queer people. As early as 1982, the HOSI organized a half-day festival and an unofficial march; in 1984, a parade took place on Kärntner Straße in Vienna, organized by various activist groups. Today, the Rainbow Parade is considered the largest annual demonstration in Austria; half a million participants showed up for EuroPride 2019.

- [derstandard.at/story/2000081431940/wozu-braucht-es-die-regenbogenparade](http://derstandard.at/story/2000081431940/wozu-braucht-es-die-regenbogenparade)
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HOSI\\_Wien](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HOSI_Wien)

**2002 §209 is abolished. The previously higher minimum age limit for homosexual acts between men (18 years instead of 14 years) is aligned with that for heterosexual and lesbian relationships.**

§209 had set the minimum age for same-sex relations among men at 18. The abolition of this paragraph was preceded by a decision of the Austrian Constitutional Court, on the basis of which the National Council voted unanimously in favor of the abolition of the paragraph on July 10, 2002, and the Federal Council also did not object on July 25, 2002. According to a statement by the HOSI, however, the Austrian Constitutional Court had previously rejected four constitutional complaints against §209 from the years 1986, 1988, 1989 and 2001, before it was abolished in 2002.

- [hosiwien.at/archiv/die-fehlentscheidung-des-verfassungsgerichtshofs](http://hosiwien.at/archiv/die-fehlentscheidung-des-verfassungsgerichtshofs)
- [derstandard.at/story/1039773/paragraf-209-ausser-kraft](http://derstandard.at/story/1039773/paragraf-209-ausser-kraft)
- [ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Vfgh/JFR\\_09979379\\_02G00006\\_01/JFR\\_09979379\\_02G00006\\_01.html](http://ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Vfgh/JFR_09979379_02G00006_01/JFR_09979379_02G00006_01.html)

**2004 The Austrian Equal Treatment Act is adapted to EU law: thus, no one may be discriminated against in employment on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion or belief, age or sexual orientation.**

The "Federal Act on Equal Treatment" replaced the 25-year-old "Federal Act on Equal Treatment of Men and Women in Working Life" in 2004.

- [gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft.gv.at/Themen/rechtliches/gleichbehandlungsrecht-in-oesterreich.html](http://gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft.gv.at/Themen/rechtliches/gleichbehandlungsrecht-in-oesterreich.html)
- [klagsverband.at/gesetze/bund](http://klagsverband.at/gesetze/bund)



**2004 Ladyfest is held in Austria for the first time.**

The concept originated in the US within the riot grrrl movement, punk and DiY culture and was taken up in Europe. A Ladyfest is a multi-day queer feminist event that counters the underrepresentation of FLINTA\* people within the music and art scene. Ladyfests groups use participatory democracy to plan and organize their events. The program includes workshops, readings, exhibitions, concerts, parties, films, and discussions. In Vienna, Ladyfests (2004, 2005, 2007) bundled queer-feminist activism in pop culture (quote Kollektiv since 2001, magazine fiber.werkstoff für feminismus und popkultur) and music scene (Frauenbandenfeste) and inspired further initiatives, such as the Girls Rock Camp or the music label Unrecords.

- pinknoise.or.at
- unrecords.me
- Graf und Mayer in Frauenabteilung der Stadt Wien/WAST 2015

**2005 The Gay Cops Austria – gays and lesbians in the police – are founded.**

They also had permission to wear their police uniforms at LesBiGay (police) events. The association dissolved in 2021 – too few persons wanted to be involved in the association.

- <https://www.ggg.at/2021/10/18/gaycopsaustria-haben-sich-aufgeloest>

**2006 Federal President Heinz Fischer has criminal records of convictions under the homosexuality paragraphs deleted.**

Even after the abolition of all paragraphs of the Criminal Code discriminating against homosexuality, the convictions remained valid and entered in the criminal record. In 2006, at the suggestion of the Minister of Justice, the Federal President pardoned a large number of those convicted under §209 of the Criminal Code. This means the merciful deletion of the conviction as a sex offender from the criminal record; the conviction itself remains upheld.

- [rklambda.at/index.php/de/groesste-erfolge](http://rklambda.at/index.php/de/groesste-erfolge)

**2006 In Austria, the first degree program in Gender Studies is offered at the University of Vienna.**

Gender studies deal with the category of gender and its interactions with other structural categories such as sexual orientation, class, origin or age. This scientific debate was started in the 1970s. In the German-speaking world, four phases of the institutionalization of gender studies are often spoken of: The awakening phase (1976–1982), the enforcement phase (1983–1988), the professionalization phase (1989–1996), and the normalization phase (from the mid-1990s). During the normalization phase, independent gender studies programs were created at many universities. In Austria, the first interdisciplinary Master's program in Gender Studies was introduced at the University of Vienna in the winter semester of 2006.

- Brand/Sabisch 2019
- [gender.univie.ac.at/ueber-uns/geschichte-und-entwicklung](http://gender.univie.ac.at/ueber-uns/geschichte-und-entwicklung)



**2010 Trans persons are no longer required to have surgical removal of primary sex characteristics for legal recognition of lived gender (change of civil status).**

Thus, gender reassignment surgery is no longer a necessity for changing gender in Austria. However, an "irreversible sense of belonging" and a "clear approximation to the external appearance" of the other sex must be proven. An expert diagnosis is required. This expert diagnosis must be carried out via examination and approved by specialists in psychiatry, psychotherapists and clinical psychologists.

- [oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente\\_und\\_recht/Änderung-der-Geschlechtszugehörigkeit.html](https://oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente_und_recht/Änderung-der-Geschlechtszugehörigkeit.html)

**2010 The Registered Partnership Act comes into force: It enables same-sex couples to enter into a civil partnership.**

Through a registered partnership, two persons can enter into a life partnership with mutual rights and obligations on a permanent basis. The prerequisite for this is that both persons have reached legal age, that they are capable of being a partner, that they are currently not married or partnered, and that they are not direct relatives through either blood or adoption. Since 1.1.2019, opposite-sex couples can also enter into a registered partnership in Austria; previously, only two persons of the same sex could do so.

- [oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie\\_und\\_partnerschaft/eingetragene\\_partnerschaft/Seite.1890100.html](https://oesterreich.gv.at/themen/familie_und_partnerschaft/eingetragene_partnerschaft/Seite.1890100.html)

**2010 Vienna's parliament explicitly recognizes same-sex couples as families.**

On 24.6.2010, the European Court of Human Rights explicitly stated that same-sex couples are also a family. Only a few hours after this proclamation, the Viennese parliament implemented this announcement. It passed the resolution to implement registered partnerships for same-sex couples in Vienna that very evening, emphasizing that, thanks to the state laws passed, same-sex couples in Vienna are now explicitly recognized as families.

- [rklambda.at/archiv/dokumente/news\\_2010/News\\_de\\_PA\\_100624\\_Wiener\\_Landtagsbeschluss.pdf](https://rklambda.at/archiv/dokumente/news_2010/News_de_PA_100624_Wiener_Landtagsbeschluss.pdf)

**2011 Alfons Haider competes with a male partner on the TV show "Dancing Stars".**

In the 6<sup>th</sup> season of the dance show, publicly outed homosexual entertainer Alfons Haider competed with a man as his dance partner. It is the first time that a same-sex couple participated in Dancing Stars or a similar show. This premiere was also commented by the German press; reports were not always favorable.

- [derstandard.at/story/1293370423206/dancing-star-premiere-fuer-maenner-tanzpaar-bei-orf-show](https://derstandard.at/story/1293370423206/dancing-star-premiere-fuer-maenner-tanzpaar-bei-orf-show)



**2014 Conchita Wurst wins the Eurovision Song Contest.**

In 2013, ORF decided to send Conchita Wurst to the 2014 Eurovision Song Contest in Copenhagen as Austria's entry without a preliminary round. In March 2014, the song "Rise Like a Phoenix" was presented on Ö3. No Austrian record company was found for the release of the song, so ORF released the track itself. The final round and victory, on the night of May 11, 2014, was watched by about 180 million viewers. It was Austria's second victory at the ESC. At the award ceremony Wurst said: "This evening is dedicated to all who believe in a future of peace and freedom. You know who we are: We are a community, and we are unstoppable."

- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conchita\\_Wurst](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conchita_Wurst)

**2014 The foundation of VIMÖ marks the beginning of the organized self-representation of inter\* persons in Austria.**

The Association of Intersex People in Austria (VIMÖ) is part of a worldwide inter\* movement. The main work areas of VIMÖ are political advocacy, awareness raising and organizing self-help groups and other activities within the Inter\* Community. In addition, the association runs a counseling center called VARGES. The Platform Intersex Austria (PIÖ) connects associations, NGOs and scientists who support the concerns of intersex activists. Already in the course of filming the documentary "Tintenfischalarm" (Ö 2006) Alex Jürgen had started a first initiative with contact possibilities for intersex people and self-help meetings. An important impulse for the development of self-organization and DIY in Austria.

- [vimoe.at/ueber-uns](http://vimoe.at/ueber-uns)
- [hdgoe.at/beginn\\_inter-aktivismus](http://hdgoe.at/beginn_inter-aktivismus)
- [hdgoe.at/tintenfischalarm](http://hdgoe.at/tintenfischalarm)

**2015 A kiss-in is demonstrated outside the traditional Café Prückl in Vienna after two women were expelled from the establishment for kissing.**

The management of the traditional coffee house refused to serve the two women and then issued a local reprimand. In Austria, discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in employment is prohibited, but access to goods and services is still to date, not protected by law.

- [derstandard.at/story/2000010319661/tausende-demo-zusagen-nach-rauswurf-eines-lesbischen-paares](http://derstandard.at/story/2000010319661/tausende-demo-zusagen-nach-rauswurf-eines-lesbischen-paares)

**2015 Queer refugees can now find a contact point at the Queer Base association.**

Queer Base – Welcome and Support for LGBTIQ Refugees advocates for refugees who have been forced to flee because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. LGBTIQ people are criminalized in over 70 countries around the world and are at risk of physical, psychological and sexual violence. In Austria, it is possible to apply for asylum based on homo- or transphobic persecution. The association organizes competent legal advice, queer-friendly accommodation, interpretation services and social counseling as well as community offers. Queer Base emerged from a network of people with and without a refugee background from various LGBTIQ initiatives in Vienna and is located in the Türkis Rosa Lila Villa.

- [friends.queerbase.at](http://friends.queerbase.at)





**2015 The Reproductive Medicine Act is passed. Among other things, this enables lesbian couples to receive sperm donations.**

This legislative decision was preceded by a decision of the Austrian Constitutional Court. It stated that the provisions in the Reproductive Medicine Act of 1992, by excluding lesbian couples from reproductive medicine, violated the prohibition of discrimination enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights.

- Bernat 2016

**2015 Vienna receives the first homosexual and heterosexual traffic light couples.**

The traffic light pairs were introduced on the occasion of the Eurovision Song Contest and Life Ball 2015. Even the international press, from the British BBC and the New York Times to media reports from Japan and Russia, picked up on this event. One study showed: The new traffic light pairs (man-man, woman-woman, woman-man) also contribute to traffic safety!

In 2019, Vienna received its first rainbow crosswalk; there are now over 40 throughout the city. That same year, the first crosswalk in the colors of the trans flag (blue, pink, white) was also inaugurated to draw attention to the protection of trans and inter\* people.

- [wien.gv.at/verkehr/ampeln/neue-ampelsymbole.html](http://wien.gv.at/verkehr/ampeln/neue-ampelsymbole.html)
- [wien.orf.at/v2/news/stories/2711435](http://wien.orf.at/v2/news/stories/2711435)
- [derstandard.de/story/2000140971609/transzebrastreifen-zeichen-gegen-diskriminierung](http://derstandard.de/story/2000140971609/transzebrastreifen-zeichen-gegen-diskriminierung)

**2015 The basic decree on sexual education in schools is reformulated and made more inclusive. It now takes into account the diversity of different sexual orientations and gender identities.**

The new wording replaces the last valid version from 1994. The new basic decree stipulates that sex education should teach the diversity of life forms, such as sexual orientations and gender identities. In doing so, it refers to the international standards of the WHO. According to these, sex education should be "guided by the principle [...] of diversity of life forms (e.g. sexual orientation, gender identities), [...] teach competencies (e.g. critical thinking, communication skills) and be oriented towards international human rights". In addition, sex education should be a stimulus for reflection on one's own sexuality and promote the formation of a critical attitude. Furthermore, according to the decree, sex education requires interdisciplinary coordination. However, the current needs analysis of the WAST on the topic of queer youth work in Vienna from 2022, shows that a majority of external queer associations come to schools for sex education and anti-discriminatory education work and that there is a large supply gap here.

- [rundschriften.bmbwf.gv.at/rundschriften/?id=699](http://rundschriften.bmbwf.gv.at/rundschriften/?id=699)
- [studie-queere-jugendarbeit.pdf](#)



**2016 Homosexual couples can adopt children.**

Since 2013, it has been possible in Austria for same-sex couples to adopt the biological children of their partners (stepchild adoption). This law was a reaction to Austria's condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights, as the adoption ban violated the prohibition of discrimination and the right to private and family life, which is enshrined in the European Convention on Human Rights. However, same-sex couples were still prohibited from adopting children together. On Dec. 11, 2014, the Constitutional Court in Austria ruled that the fact that same-sex couples were not allowed to adopt a "child of choice" was also unconstitutional. As a result, on Jan. 1, 2016, it was introduced that homosexual couples may also jointly adopt children.

- [vienna.at/adoptionsverbot-fuer-homosexuelle-partner-aufgehoben/4202709](https://vienna.at/adoptionsverbot-fuer-homosexuelle-partner-aufgehoben/4202709)
- [wien.gv.at/menschen/queer/sexuelle-orientierung/recht/elternschaft/fremdkind.html](https://wien.gv.at/menschen/queer/sexuelle-orientierung/recht/elternschaft/fremdkind.html)

**2017 The PCCC\* – Politically Correct Comedy Club invites queer laughter for the first time and mixes up the comedy scene.**

The PCCC\*, "Vienna's First Queer Comedy Club", shows that cabaret can also work without discrimination: There is a lot of laughter, but not at the expense of marginalized groups or by resorting to derogatory clichés. One of the founders and Hostess is queer feminist singer, performer, columnist, and comedian Denice Bourbon. The PCCC\* stage has already hosted a wide variety of newcomers to the Austrian humor scene, such as Toxische Pommes, Josef Jöchel, Towander Flag and Malarina.

- [facebook.com/PCCC.Queer.Comedy.Club](https://facebook.com/PCCC.Queer.Comedy.Club)

**2017 ARA – Afro Rainbow Austria brings more visibility for queer people with African background.**

ARA builds a community of African LGBTQI+ migrants and supporters and represents their concerns. In this way, everyday and structural racism and homophobia in the Austrian majority society, but also on the part of the African communities, are made visible. ARA participates every year in the Rainbow Parade and organizes community events and art projects.

- [afrorainbow.at](https://afrorainbow.at)

**2018 The Austrian Constitutional Court confirms the right to a third gender.**

However, this decision only referred to inter\* persons; this civil status entry is not open to non-binary persons. For the change, inter\* persons must submit an application to the registry office. As "proof" of the existence of a variant of gender development, either a determination at the time of birth by medical personnel or a specialist's diagnosis conducted at a later point in life must be submitted. Since January 2019, in addition to "female" and "male", the gender entry "diverse" is also possible, and in September 2020, the categories "inter", "open" and "deletion of the entry" were also added. Currently, there are six possible entries in the category "gender". However, there is still the obligation to prove a variant of sex development via a medical certificate.



As a result, people without such a diagnosis and those who do not want to be medically examined and pathologized are denied an alternative gender entry. This does not only affect inter\* persons, but also e.g. trans or non-binary people.

- [wien.gv.at/menschen/queer/intersexualitaet/anererkennung-oesterreich.html](https://wien.gv.at/menschen/queer/intersexualitaet/anererkennung-oesterreich.html)
- [vimoe.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-QA\\_Dritte\\_Option.pdf](https://vimoe.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-QA_Dritte_Option.pdf)
- [vimoe.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Stellungnahme\\_VIMOe\\_Umsetzung\\_Geschlechtseintraege.pdf](https://vimoe.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Stellungnahme_VIMOe_Umsetzung_Geschlechtseintraege.pdf)

**2019 According to a ruling by the Austrian Constitutional Court, marriage is open to all.**

On Dec. 4, 2017, the Constitutional Court in Austria ruled that the distinction between marriage and registered partnership violates the prohibition of discrimination. Accordingly, these regulations were repealed as of 1.1.2019, opening up the possibility of marriage to same-sex couples. However, when the law came into force, this right was only available to partners who both held Austrian citizenship. The law did not apply if a person came from a country where marriage was not open to all. Only since Aug. 1, 2019, has marriage also been legal for those couples whose home country does not allow same-sex marriages and who cannot prove permanent residency in Austria.

- [derstandard.at/story/2000096933204/trotz-ehe-fuer-alle-neue-heiratsverbote-fuer-homosexuelle-paare](https://derstandard.at/story/2000096933204/trotz-ehe-fuer-alle-neue-heiratsverbote-fuer-homosexuelle-paare)
- [rsw.beck.de/aktuell/daily/meldung/detail/vfgh-oesterreich-oeffnet-ehe-fuer-gleichgeschlechtliche-paare](https://rsw.beck.de/aktuell/daily/meldung/detail/vfgh-oesterreich-oeffnet-ehe-fuer-gleichgeschlechtliche-paare)

**2019 Pop musician and rapper Mavi Phoenix addresses trans identity in the song "Bullet in my Heart"; he also officially lives as a man from then on.**

Mavi Phoenix makes his coming out public and lets his fans participate in the transition. On his Facebook page he writes: "I don't wanna waste another minute on this earth not being my true self."

- [de-de.facebook.com/pg/maviphoenix/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://de-de.facebook.com/pg/maviphoenix/posts/?ref=page_internal)
- [youtube.com/watch?v=jXKg7SzH2Io&list=PLZjdnCb9n7eNvcUOOzUpDs3g-GDhRGEQcv](https://youtube.com/watch?v=jXKg7SzH2Io&list=PLZjdnCb9n7eNvcUOOzUpDs3g-GDhRGEQcv)
- [derstandard.at/story/2000111580304/mavi-phoenix-benutzt-von-nun-an-das-pronomen-er](https://derstandard.at/story/2000111580304/mavi-phoenix-benutzt-von-nun-an-das-pronomen-er)

**2019 The EU Parliament adopts a resolution on the protection of intersex people.**

This resolution represents an important step towards a comprehensive protection of the fundamental rights of inter\* persons. However, a statement of the association VIMÖ dated 11.4.2023 shows that in Austria there is still no draft for a law for the protection of inter\* children and adolescents. Until today, children with a variation of gender characteristics experience non-necessary medical interventions.



This is also proven by a study from Germany. According to this study, the frequency of gender reassignment medical interventions on inter\* children under the age of ten has not decreased in relation to the diagnoses made over the years 2005 to 2016.

- [omp.ub.rub.de/index.php/RUB/catalog/view/113/99/604](http://omp.ub.rub.de/index.php/RUB/catalog/view/113/99/604)
- [hosi.or.at/2019/02/14/eu-resolution-zu-inter](http://hosi.or.at/2019/02/14/eu-resolution-zu-inter)
- [vimoe.at/2023/04/11/april-2023-vimoe-zu-lgbtqi-intergroup-im-parlament-intergeschlechtliche-kinder-muessen-geschuetzt-werden-verbot-seit-zwei-jahren-ausstaendig](http://vimoe.at/2023/04/11/april-2023-vimoe-zu-lgbtqi-intergroup-im-parlament-intergeschlechtliche-kinder-muessen-geschuetzt-werden-verbot-seit-zwei-jahren-ausstaendig)

**2020 For the first time, a birth certificate with "inter" is issued.**

For the first time, the Steyr registry office issued a birth certificate with the gender entry "inter" for Alex Jürgen. Actually, the registration should have taken place already in 2018, but the Ministry of the Interior had referred to a software problem (only documents with the entry "x" or "diverse" could be issued). As a result, official charges of abuse of office were announced against the then acting Minister of the Interior and his predecessor – three weeks later, the software problem was fixed.

- [ooe.orf.at/stories/3058267](http://ooe.orf.at/stories/3058267)

**2021 The Minister of Justice Alma Zadić apologizes on behalf of the judiciary for the criminal prosecution of homosexual people in Austria during the Second Republic.**

The criminal prosecution of same-sex acts continued after National Socialism in the now democratic Austria of the Second Republic. Measured by the number of inhabitants, Austria was the country with the highest intensity of persecution in Europe in the 1950s until the beginning of the 1970s. Nowhere else were more men and women convicted for same-sex acts.

- [qwien.at/2021/07/05/justiz-entschuldigung-fuer-die-strafrechtliche-verfolgung-von-homosexuellen-menschen-in-oesterreich-in-der-zweiten-republik](http://qwien.at/2021/07/05/justiz-entschuldigung-fuer-die-strafrechtliche-verfolgung-von-homosexuellen-menschen-in-oesterreich-in-der-zweiten-republik)

**2022 The diagnosis "gender identity disorder" is deleted from the ICD-11 disease catalog.**

The "International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems" (English abbreviation: ICD), published by the WHO, has contributed to the pathologization and discrimination of trans people. The ICD-10, revised in 1990 and in effect until early 2022, labeled "transsexualism" as "gender identity disorders" and generally classified it under "personality and behavior disorders." In the revised version of ICD-11, which came into effect in 2022, trans individuals are assigned to the diagnosis of "gender incongruence" under the newly created chapter "conditions related to sexual health".

- [bpb.de/themen/gender-diversitaet/geschlechtliche-vielfalt-trans/245353/medizinische-einordnung-von-trans-identitaet](http://bpb.de/themen/gender-diversitaet/geschlechtliche-vielfalt-trans/245353/medizinische-einordnung-von-trans-identitaet)
- [transx.at/Pub/Patho\\_ICD\\_DSM.php](http://transx.at/Pub/Patho_ICD_DSM.php)



**2022 Homosexual persons may donate blood.**

For decades, activists have called for an end to discrimination against gay people when donating blood. The new rule aims to ensure equal access, regardless of gender or sexuality. The "3x3 rule" applies to everyone: anyone who has had sex with three different partners in the last three months is not allowed to donate blood for three months.

- [orf.at/stories/3266979](https://www.orf.at/stories/3266979)

**2022 The Rainbow Family Center Vienna is commissioned to create the first Queer Youth Center.**

Concepts for the establishment of a queer youth center in Vienna could be submitted until the fall of 2022; the Rainbow Family Center was awarded the contract. The youth center is scheduled to open in 2024.

- [wien.gv.at/freizeit/bildungjugend/jugend/queeres-jugendzentrum.html](https://www.wien.gv.at/freizeit/bildungjugend/jugend/queeres-jugendzentrum.html)

**2023 A memorial for homosexual Nazi victims is installed in Vienna's Ressel-park.**

After several failed attempts, a withdrawal and a new tender, a memorial to the homosexual victims of the Nazi dictatorship finally was finally erected in 2023. The gray rainbow sculpture, under which pedestrians can linger, was designed by Sarah Ortmeyer and Karl Kolbitz.

- [derstandard.de/story/2000136048552/grauer-regenbogen-wird-in-wien-an-homosexuelle-ns-opfer-erinnern](https://www.derstandard.de/story/2000136048552/grauer-regenbogen-wird-in-wien-an-homosexuelle-ns-opfer-erinnern)

**???? Conversion therapies are banned.**

Conversion therapies refer to "therapies" whose goal is to "re-polarize" queer persons. Although the motion for a legal ban on conversion therapies was unanimously introduced in parliament in 2019, the draft has been with the ÖVP since October 2022. Only five countries worldwide legally ban conversion therapy: Germany, Malta, Brazil, Ecuador, and Taiwan. In other countries, such as Canada or Spain, there are regional bans.

- [orf.at/stories/3306334](https://www.orf.at/stories/3306334)
- [katapult-magazin.de/de/artikel/nur-deutschland-und-malta-verbieten-homosexuellen-heilung-bald-auch-oesterreich](https://www.katapult-magazin.de/de/artikel/nur-deutschland-und-malta-verbieten-homosexuellen-heilung-bald-auch-oesterreich)

**???? Discrimination protections for LGBTIAQ\* individuals is expanded, including to within the service industry.**

In the workplace, discrimination based on gender and sexuality is prohibited in Austria, but outside the workplace there is only protection against discrimination based on gender. So, for example, it is allowed to throw people out of a restaurant or a cab or to refuse other services because of their sexual orientation. So in terms of discrimination protection of LGBTIAQ\* people, there is still a lot to do in Austria.

- [orf.at/stories/3270374](https://www.orf.at/stories/3270374)



**???? All people can self-determine to have their legal gender status changed.**

Since 2010, trans persons no longer have to have the primary sex characteristics surgically removed for the legal recognition of the lived gender (change of personal status). But until today there is the obligation to prove that there is an irreversible sense of belonging to the other gender and a clear approximation to the external appearance. To prove this, a person needs to go through a long process: First three expert reports are needed, each of which must be carried out by specialists in psychiatry, by psychotherapists and clinical psychologists. In a next step, based on these diagnoses, one of those experts, who takes the lead in the process, has to summarize a consensus decision in a statement. Therefore, self-advocacy organizations demand that the change of gender registration be open to all people, regardless of medical opinions and diagnoses, and that bureaucratic hurdles be removed.

- [ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Vwgh/JWR\\_2008060032\\_20090915X01/JWR\\_2008060032\\_20090915X01.pdf](https://ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Vwgh/JWR_2008060032_20090915X01/JWR_2008060032_20090915X01.pdf)
- [oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente\\_und\\_recht/Änderung-der-Geschlechtszugehörigkeit.html](https://oesterreich.gv.at/themen/dokumente_und_recht/Änderung-der-Geschlechtszugehörigkeit.html)
- [vimoe.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Stellungnahme\\_VIMOe\\_Umsetzung\\_Geschlechtseintraege.pdf](https://vimoe.at/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Stellungnahme_VIMOe_Umsetzung_Geschlechtseintraege.pdf)
- [hosi.or.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Offener-Brief-zum-dritten-Geschlechtseintrag\\_2020-06-02-1.pdf](https://hosi.or.at/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Offener-Brief-zum-dritten-Geschlechtseintrag_2020-06-02-1.pdf)
- [transx.at/Lib/Law/BMG\\_BehaEmpfehl\\_Graf\\_TS\\_2014.pdf](https://transx.at/Lib/Law/BMG_BehaEmpfehl_Graf_TS_2014.pdf)

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**???? Medically unnecessary operations on inter\* persons are prohibited.**

In May 2023, more than 70 organizations, including VIMÖ, Plattform Intersex Österreich, HOSI Linz, Salzburg and Vienna, demanded the protection of inter\* children and adolescents in an open letter to the Austrian government. A ban on medically unnecessary operations is demanded. There was already a motion for resolution on the part of the National Council in 2021; a corresponding draft law has been sitting on the table of the ÖVP since fall of 2022. "To date, intersex children and adolescents experience medical interventions that are neither self-determined nor necessary. This often leads to great suffering, traumatization and physical discomfort", said Luan Pertl, board member of VIMÖ.

- [orf.at/stories/3317021](https://orf.at/stories/3317021)



## Sources and further resources

Listed are academic publications and websites that are good sources for further research. Sources for the individual Milestones can be found in the background information on the events. If short references are given in the background information, they are also refer here.

### Publications

(Last download for all entries 05/2023)

- ▶ Bernat, Erwin (2016): **Das österreichische Fortpflanzungsmedizingesetz wurde liberalisiert. Eckpunkte des Fortpflanzungsmedizinrechts-Änderungsgesetzes 2015.** In: Gynäkologische Endokrinologie 14, 270–275.  
Download: [doi.org/10.1007/s10304-016-0072-4](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10304-016-0072-4)
- ▶ BMFSFJ (Hg.) (2017): Gutachten: **Geschlechtervielfalt im Recht. Status quo und Entwicklung von Regelungsmodellen zur Anerkennung und zum Schutz von Geschlechtervielfalt. Begleitmaterial zur Interministeriellen Arbeitsgruppe Inter- und Transsexualität.** Band 8. Berlin. (Compares the legal situation regarding recognition and protection of gender diversity in Malta, Argentina, Denmark, Ireland, and Australia.)  
Download: [bmf.sj.de/blob/jump/114066/imag-band-8-geschlechtervielfalt-im-recht-data.pdf](https://bmf.sj.de/blob/jump/114066/imag-band-8-geschlechtervielfalt-im-recht-data.pdf)
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## Websites

- ▶ Aether 8: The project by QWien presents objects from the movement archive and tells their stories: [qwien.at/2023/04/12/aether-8-queer-vienna-einblicke-in-ein-bewegungsarchiv](https://qwien.at/2023/04/12/aether-8-queer-vienna-einblicke-in-ein-bewegungsarchiv); [aether.ethz.ch/ausgabe/queer-vienna](https://aether.ethz.ch/ausgabe/queer-vienna)
- ▶ Erinnern.at: The ÖAD's program for teaching and learning about National Socialism and the Holocaust has chosen persecution of homosexuals as its annual theme for 2023: [erinnern.at/themen/jahresthema-2023-ns-verfolgung-homosexueller](https://erinnern.at/themen/jahresthema-2023-ns-verfolgung-homosexueller)
- ▶ Haus der Geschichte Österreich: At [hdgoe.at/queer\\_history\\_en](https://hdgoe.at/queer_history_en) you will find interesting contributions ranging from encyclopedia entries to podcasts and teaching materials.
- ▶ Magnus Hirschfeld Foundation: At [mh-stiftung.de/biografien](https://mh-stiftung.de/biografien) you can find interesting biographies of queer people. Named after the physician, sex researcher and co-founder of the first German homosexual movement Magnus Hirschfeld (1868-1935), the foundation aims to counteract social discrimination against LGBTIAQ\* people in Germany.
- ▶ OII – Organization Intersex International: The website [oiieurope.org](https://oiieurope.org) informs about the situation and demands of intersex people worldwide.
- ▶ Queer History Month: [queerhistory.de](https://queerhistory.de) seeks to promote the treatment of historical queer issues in education.
- ▶ QWien – Center for Queer History: [qwien.at](https://qwien.at) offers many resources and info about queer city tours.
- ▶ Rechts Komitee Lambda: At [rklambda.at/index.php/de/rechtsvergleich](https://rklambda.at/index.php/de/rechtsvergleich) you can find information about anti-discrimination laws in European countries, minimum age limits for homosexual contacts, as well as partnership laws.
- ▶ VIMÖ – the Austrian association of intersex people: [vimoe.at](https://vimoe.at) informs about demands regarding the end of structural discrimination and about the (current) legal situation in Austria.
- ▶ WE ARE PART OF CULTURE: [wearepartofculture.de/en](https://wearepartofculture.de/en) shows queer personalities from antiquity to today, who have had a lasting impact on European society and culture.
- ▶ WAST – The Vienna Anti-Discrimination Agency for Same-Sex and Transgender Lifestyles: [wien.gv.at/kontakte/wast/index.html](https://wien.gv.at/kontakte/wast/index.html) provides information about gender and sexual diversity, discrimination and the law.





\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**§129Ib of the Criminal Code punishes  
"fornication against nature with the same sex"  
with up to five years of severe imprisonment.**

efeu.or.at



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Berlin physician and sex researcher  
Magnus Hirschfeld gives lectures in Austria  
in which he talks about sexual and gender diversity  
beyond a heteronormative binary gender order.**

efeu.or.at

026



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Margarete Csonka leaves Sigmund Freud's  
practice of psychoanalysis without  
the "cure" her father desired.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Austrian Federal Constitution comes into force,  
containing the explicit prohibition of discrimination  
on the basis of gender (principle of equality).**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The magazine "Frauenliebe"  
founds the ladies' club Violetta in Vienna.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Sigmund Freud, Franz Werfel, Arthur Schnitzler,  
Rosa Mayreder and other prominent figures  
sign a petition to the Minister of Justice  
demanding the abolition of §129 Ib.**

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027



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Punishment of same-sex sexuality is removed  
from the penal code. However, homosexuality is  
discriminated against by four new paragraphs.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The "Frauenzimmer" is opened in Vienna.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The HOSI Vienna (Homosexual Initiative) is founded  
as a political interest group for lesbians and gays.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Activists occupy the Rosa Lila Villa  
(today Türkis Rosa Lila Villa) in Vienna.**

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028



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The world's first memorial stone  
for homosexual victims of National Socialism  
is installed at the  
Mauthausen concentration camp memorial.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Austrian Aids-Hilfe is founded.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Activists demonstrate against the non-recognition of homosexuals as Nazi victims by the Austrian state.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The disease diagnosis „homosexuality“ is deleted from the Austrian diagnosis code.**

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029



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The first Life Ball, the largest European charity event for people infected with HIV and suffering from AIDS, takes place.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The first gay-lesbian bookstore in Vienna opens its doors.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Austria compensates homosexuals as Nazi victims.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The association TransX is founded and becomes  
a central contact point for trans persons.**

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030



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The first rainbow parade  
on the Ringstrasse in Vienna.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**§209 falls away.  
The previously higher minimum age limit for  
homosexual acts between men  
(18 years instead of 14 years) is aligned with that for  
heterosexual and lesbian relationships.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Austrian Equal Treatment Act is adapted to EU law: thus, no one may be discriminated against in employment on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion or belief, age or sexual orientation.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Ladyfest is held in Austria for the first time.**

031

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Gay Cops Austria  
– gays and lesbians in the police –  
are founded.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Federal President Heinz Fischer  
has criminal records of convictions  
under the homosexuality paragraphs deleted.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**In Austria, the first degree program in Gender Studies is offered at the University of Vienna.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Trans persons are no longer required to have surgical removal of primary sex characteristics for legal recognition of lived gender (change of civil status).**

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032



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Registered Partnership Act comes into force: It enables same-sex couples to enter into a civil partnership.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Vienna's parliament explicitly recognizes same-sex couples as families.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Alfons Haider competes with a male partner on the TV show "Dancing Stars".**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Conchita Wurst wins the Eurovision Song Contest.**

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033



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The foundation of VIMÖ marks the beginning of the organized self-representation of inter\* persons in Austria.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**A kiss-in is demonstrated outside the traditional Café Prückl in Vienna after two women were expelled from the establishment for kissing.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Queer refugees can now find a contact point at the Queer Base association.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Reproductive Medicine Act is passed. Among other things, this enables lesbian couples to receive sperm donations.**

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034



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Vienna receives the first homosexual and heterosexual traffic light couples.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The basic decree on sexual education in schools is reformulated and made more inclusive. It now takes into account the diversity of different sexual orientations and gender identities.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Homosexual couples can adopt children.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The PCCC\* – Political Correct Comedy Club invites  
queer laughter for the first time and  
mixes up the comedy scene.**

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035



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**ARA – Afro Rainbow Austria brings  
more visibility for queer people with  
African background.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Austrian Constitutional Court confirms  
the right to a third gender.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**According to a ruling by the  
Austrian Constitutional Court,  
marriage is open to all.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Pop musician and rapper Mavi Phoenix addresses  
trans identity in the song "Bullet in my Heart";  
he also officially lives as a man from then on.**

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036



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The EU Parliament adopts a resolution on  
the protection of intersex people.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**For the first time,  
a birth certificate with "inter" is issued.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Minister of Justice Alma Zadić apologizes on behalf of the judiciary for the criminal prosecution of homosexual people in Austria during the Second Republic.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The diagnosis "gender identity disorder" is deleted from the ICD-11 disease catalog.**

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037



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Homosexual persons may donate blood.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**The Rainbow Family Center Vienna is commissioned to create the first Queer Youth Center.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**A memorial for homosexual Nazi victims is installed in Vienna's Resselpark.**

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**Conversion therapies are banned.**

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038



\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**Discrimination protections for LGBTIAQ\* individuals is expanded, including to within the service industry.**

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\_LGBTIAQ\*\_Milestones\_Austria

**All people can self-determine to have their legal gender status changed.**

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**Medically unnecessary operations on  
inter\* persons are prohibited.**

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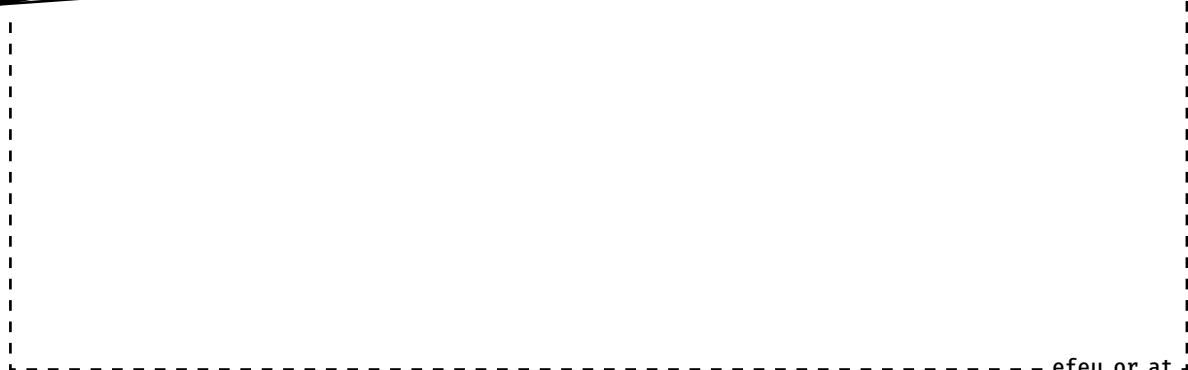


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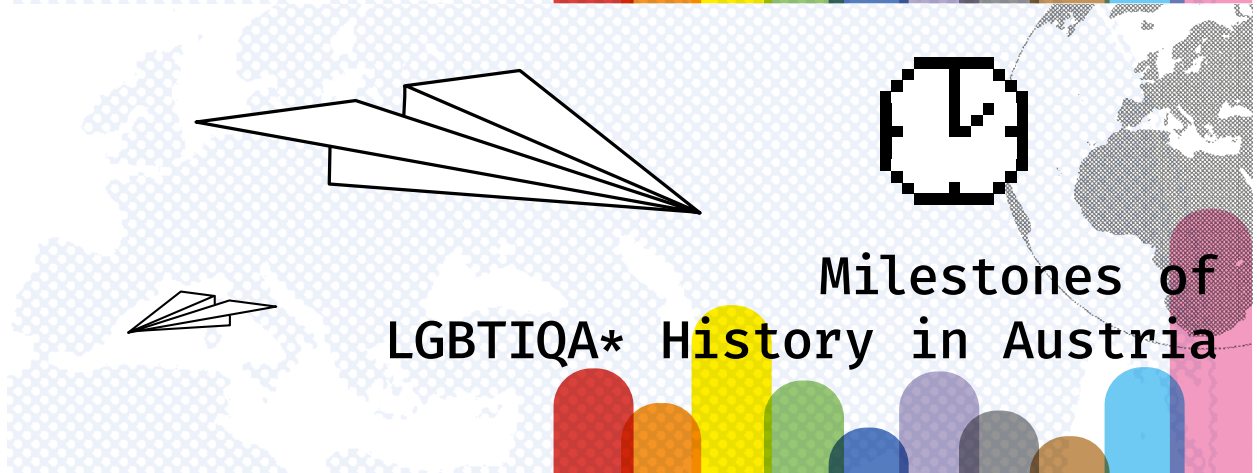
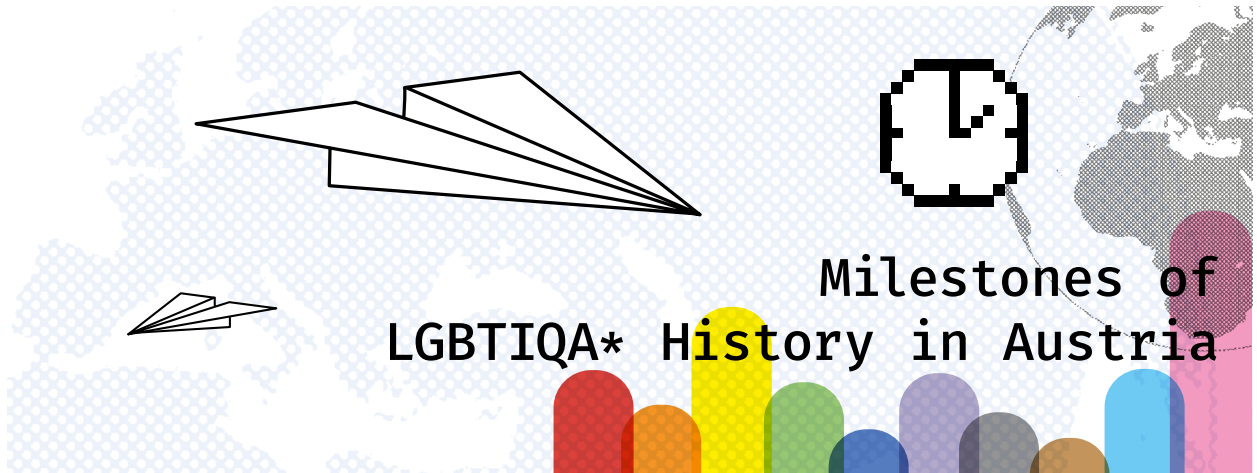
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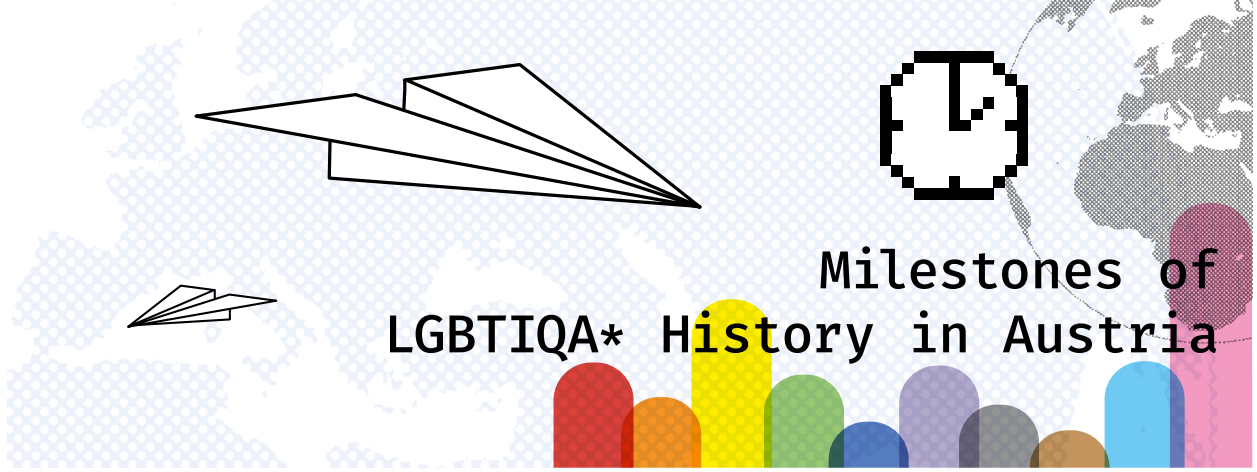
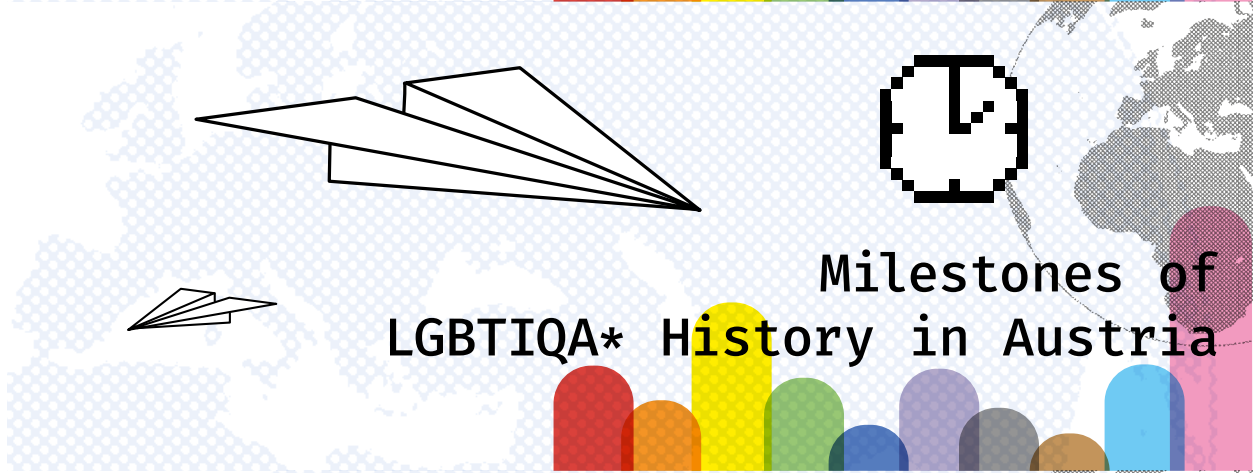
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041





Milestones of  
LGBTIQ\* History  
in Austria



Milestones of  
LGBTIQ\* History  
in Austria



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Milestones of  
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**1852**

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**1920**

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**1927**

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**1930**

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**2017**

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**2018**

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**2019**

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**2020**

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**2021**

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**2022**

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**2023**

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