

Social Justice Watch 0205

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What Is Black History Month?

Black History Month is a month-long celebration of accomplishments by African Americans and a time to recognize their central role in the history of the United States. This celebration occurs every year throughout February. It was originally known as a way of teaching students about the contributions of Black people in school as they had (and still have) frequently been left out of the narrative of the growth of America. It is now seen as a celebration for Black people's **activism, achievements, and impact** to the country.

The Origins

In 1915, Harvard historian **Carter G. Woodson** and minister **Jesse E. Moorland** founded an organization dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black people, called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

In 1926, they sponsored Negro History Week and chose the second week of February to clash with **Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass'** birthdays. It officially became a national holiday when **President Gerald Ford** recognized Black History Month and many others began to expand the recognition of African American history.

Where Is It Celebrated?

Although celebrating Black History Month originated in the **United States**, other countries have since begun to celebrate it as well, including **Canada**, the **United Kingdom**, the **Netherlands**, **Ireland**, **Germany**, and countries in **Africa** and the **Caribbean**.



The Importance

Negro History Week was originally about reaching Black children in public schools where students were relying on textbooks that either overlooked or distorted Black history with ugly, racial stereotypes. This left Black and White kids unaware of the incredible contributions of African Americans to America and the world. Through offering educational opportunities for teachers and supporting collections, exhibitions, and resources that tell the amazing stories of African Americans that have changed the world, Black History Month has expanded the awareness of African American history and culture.

We must continue to highlight Black history to understand how Black narratives are closely integrated into America's narrative as a whole.

Why Do We Celebrate?

Black History Month celebrates Black people's enduring contributions to society. Woodson thought it was necessary to note this and that such an education would inspire others to achieve their highest potential. We now dedicate a whole month to highlighting the tremendous impact that Black people have had on enriching American culture, expanding democracy, strengthening communities, and building a better society for all.

Swipe for a list of ways YOU can celebrate
Black History this month!



Ways To Celebrate

1. Support Black-owned businesses
2. Educate yourself on the Black Lives Matter Movement
3. Attend or host a Black culture event in your community
4. Read a biography of an influential Black figure
5. Explore Black music



Ways To Celebrate



6. Study the African Diaspora
7. Explore Black history through books, films, etc.
8. Call out racism and prejudice in your community
9. Support Black creatives (artists, poets, musicians, etc.)
10. Donate to a Black organization





Ways To Celebrate

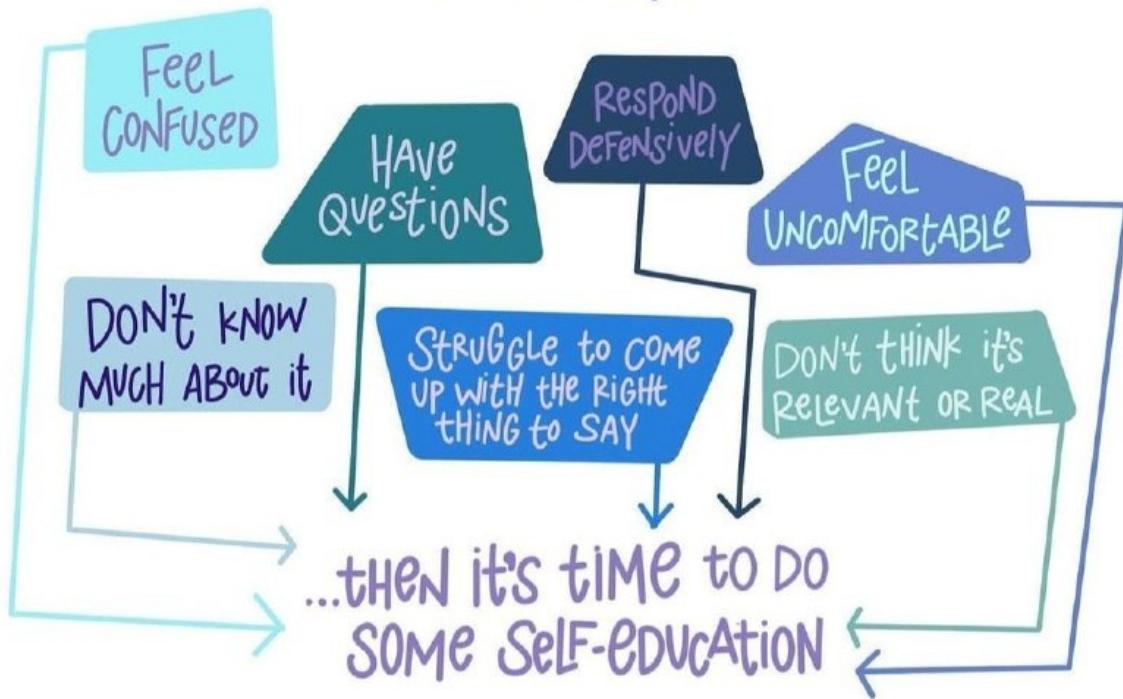
11. Engage in healthy conversations about Black history on social media
12. Host a Black film marathon
13. Decorate your home with Black art
14. Remember Dr. Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech
15. Discuss implicit bias, systemic racism, and social injustice

Sources

1. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-month>
2. <https://people.com/human-interest/black-history-month-facts-and-history-what-to-know/>
3. <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/why-we-celebrate-black-history-month/>
4. <https://www.naacp.org/latest/28-ways-celebrate-black-history-month/>
5. <https://www.weareteachers.com/7-fresh-ideas-for-black-history-month/>

[source](#)

IF A topic related to
SOCIAL JUSTICE OR IDENTITIES
ARISES & YOU...



@HALFCircleASH

SELF-EDUCATION

iS:

GOOGLE · YouTube · Netflix ·
BOOKS · WORKSHOPS · ASKING
SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT HOLD
THAT IDENTITY · COMPENSATING
THOSE WHO EDUCATE YOU (YES, WITH REAL \$\$)

iS
Not:

↳ AND THEN CHANGED BEHAVIOR
ASKING SOMEONE WITH THAT IDENTITY TO EDUCATE YOU ·
NOT DOING ANYTHING · THINKING ANY AMOUNT IS GOOD ENOUGH

@HALFCIRCLEASH

[source](#)



girl_incognito24

@GirlIncognito24

It's so hilarious to me when men say feminism is too 'extreme'. You know what's really extreme? Disproportionate violence against women, unpaid labor, rape culture and what not. THAT'S WHAT'S EXTREME!!

[source](#)



Megan Lane
@meganroselane

You can be a badass, boundary setting, strong, confident, independent woman... who is soft, nurturing, kind and graceful. You can have self discipline AND self compassion. You can be emotional AND tough. You can be everything and anything you want. That is your power.

[source](#)



Ruchika T ✅
@rtulshyan

▼

I say this in my classes:
The problem isn't men, it's patriarchy.
The problem isn't white people, it's
white supremacy.
The problem isn't straight people, it's
homophobia.
Recognize systems of oppression
before letting individual defensiveness
paralyze you from dismantling them.

[source](#)



As a result of COVID-19,
39% more women
are expected to die in pregnancy

NOTE: Projection shown refers to high case scenario.

SOURCE | UN Women/UNSD, Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2020.

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



[source](#)



the-radical-buzzard-of-discourse

I used to cringe so hard at my "I'm not like other girls" phase until I realized that most girls have this phase and what we *actually* mean is, "I'm not a thoughtless one-dimensional caricature of makeup and boobs, which is all I've been taught to believe girls are." How can women be viewed so poorly that little girls everywhere all think they're unique just for having independent thoughts and interests?

I definitely had a "I'm not like other girls" phase, until I realized that all girls are like me, in that we are all different, all unique and beautiful in our own ways. The patriarchy, played out through societal norms and even through the media, will have us believe that most women are those one dimensional caricatures. Let's fight to break that down! [source](#)



[source](#)



The Difference Between Bisexuality and Pansexuality

@thistletopics



What is Bisexuality?

Bisexuality is a broad and inclusive term describing attraction which is not limited to one gender. This could mean being attracted to two, multiple, or all genders. Bisexuals can be attracted to different genders in different ways and could have a preference for a certain gender.

Bisexual activist Robyn Och's definition of bisexuality is: "I call myself bisexual because I acknowledge that I have in myself the potential to be attracted - romantically and/or sexually - to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree."



What is Pansexuality?

Pansexuality describes someone who feels an attraction towards people, regardless of their gender identities. Pansexuals may refer to themselves as being 'gender-blind' as gender and sex are not determining factors in their attraction to others.



So... They're Basically The Same?



Not quite. There is quite a bit of overlap due to both terms referring to attraction to more than one gender, but bisexuals and pansexuals experience attraction in different ways. While pansexuals do not consider gender or sex a factor in their attraction to others, bisexuals may have a preference for a certain gender, or love different genders in different ways.

But what it means to be bisexual or pansexual is also largely up to the person who identifies that way. As with any sexuality, whatever word feels best is best.





Is Pansexuality More Inclusive to Trans and Non-Binary People?

As the prefix 'bi' means two, bisexuality is seen by some as perpetuating a gender binary. Although some bisexuals are not attracted to non-binary people, many are, and bisexuality is not as black and white as being attracted to just cis-men and cis-women.

Furthermore, trans-men are men, and trans-women are women, so bisexuality involving attraction to just men and women is trans-inclusive. The main difference between the two sexualities is how attraction is experienced by a person rather than who a person is attracted to.



Here's the TLDR:

Bisexual:

- Attracted to more than one gender (could be two, multiple or all).
- Experiences attraction to different genders in different ways.
- May have a preference for a certain gender.



Pansexual:

- Attracted to all gender identities.
- Gender is not a factor in attraction. (They do not 'see' gender.)
- Do not have a preference for any gender.



What Should I Do If I'm Unsure of Someone's Sexuality?

Many people, especially if they are not out or are still unsure of their sexuality, will find it uncomfortable to be asked explicitly about their sexuality. If someone is comfortable talking about their sexuality, they might bring it up in conversation, but if they don't, do not force them into telling you.

However, at the same time don't assume that someone is straight just because they haven't told you otherwise. The most important thing to remember is to let people come out on their own terms.



Sources

- 1.<https://bi.org/en/101/bisexuality>
- 2.<https://robynuchs.com/bisexual/>
- 3.<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/what-is-pansexuality>
- 4.<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/bi-sexual-vs-pansexual#how-to-identify>
- 5.<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/whats-the-real-difference-between-bi-and-pansexual-667087/>
- 6.<https://stylecaster.com/asking-about-sexuality/>

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<https://www.coursera.org/learn/queeringidentities>

Coursera

Queering Identities: LGBTQ+ Sexuality and Gender Identity

Offered by University of Colorado System. In this course, you will explore the history of LGBTQ identities, experiences, and activism. We'll study major events in global LGBTQ history, investigate local histories of queer and transgender people and communities...

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