



THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Your courage, our care.

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

PRIDE MONTH

LGBT Pride Month, often shortened to Pride Month, is held in June and dedicated to the celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) pride.

The concept of Pride Month began with the Stonewall riots, a series of riots for gay liberation that took place over several days beginning on June 28, 1969. The riots began after a police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar located within Lower Manhattan in New York City. Activists Marsha P. Johnson, Sylvia Rivera, and Stormé DeLarverie are credited for inciting the riots. The year after the riots, the first pride marches were held in several US cities.



INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Since each individual is unique, one of the best ways to use inclusive language is to ask the person how they identify, when and if it becomes relevant (Note: It is ill-advised to ask someone “what” they are, or to ask someone their race or ethnicity if it isn’t relevant to your relationship). More than just learning how to use proper terms, it’s crucial for us to acknowledge how individuals would like their racial and ethnic identities to be recognized. This way, we avoid unwittingly offending, or misidentifying a person.

JUNETEENTH

On January 1, 1863 the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect and all enslaved people in Confederate States were declared legally free. Union soldiers marched onto plantations across cities in the south spreading the news of freedom.

Not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was made effective in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later. Freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived in Galveston Bay, Texas. The army announced that the more than 250,000 enslaved black people in the state were free by executive decree. This day came to be known as "Juneteenth," by the newly freed people in Texas.



MICRO-AFFIRMATIONS

Small actions that can clear the way for opportunity, gestures of inclusion and caring, and graceful acts of listening. Mary Rowe, who coined the term, defined them as small acts that foster inclusion, listening, comfort, and support for people who may feel isolated or invisible in an environment.