

Marching On: The Fight for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in American St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Introduction

St. Patrick's Day is a day of celebration for Irish people and their descendants around the world. It is a day to honor the patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick, and to celebrate Irish culture and heritage. For many years, however, LGBTQ+ people were excluded from participating in St. Patrick's Day celebrations, due to discrimination and prejudice.

In the 1990s, a group of Irish LGBTQ+ activists in New York City decided to challenge this exclusion. They formed the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO) and began to organize for the right to march in the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. The ILGO's

campaign was met with fierce opposition from the Catholic Church and other conservative groups, but the activists refused to give up. They marched in the parade every year, despite the threats and harassment they faced.

The ILGO's campaign for inclusion was a long and difficult one, but it was ultimately successful. In 2015, the parade organizers finally agreed to allow LGBTQ+ groups to march openly. This was a major victory for the LGBTQ+ community, and it sent a message that everyone is welcome to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The ILGO's story is an inspiring example of the power of activism. It shows that even a small group of people can make a difference when they are organized and determined. The ILGO's campaign for inclusion has helped to make St. Patrick's Day a more welcoming and inclusive holiday for everyone.

In this book, we will tell the story of the ILGO's campaign for inclusion. We will discuss the challenges that the activists faced, the strategies they used, and the impact of their work. We will also explore the history of LGBTQ+ exclusion from St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and we will discuss the progress that has been made in recent years.

We hope that this book will inspire you to get involved in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights. We believe that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We hope that you will join us in working to create a more just and equitable world for all.

Book Description

Marching On: The Fight for LGBTQ+ Inclusion in American St. Patrick's Day Celebrations tells the story of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization's (ILGO) campaign for inclusion in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. For years, LGBTQ+ people were excluded from the parade, due to discrimination and prejudice. The ILGO's campaign for inclusion was a long and difficult one, but it was ultimately successful. In 2015, the parade organizers finally agreed to allow LGBTQ+ groups to march openly.

This book tells the story of the ILGO's campaign for inclusion, from its early beginnings to its ultimate victory. It discusses the challenges that the activists faced, the strategies they used, and the impact of their work. It also explores the history of LGBTQ+ exclusion from St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and it discusses the progress that has been made in recent years.

This book is an inspiring example of the power of activism. It shows that even a small group of people can make a difference when they are organized and determined. The ILGO's campaign for inclusion has helped to make St. Patrick's Day a more welcoming and inclusive holiday for everyone.

This book is also a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in the history of LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. It provides a detailed account of the ILGO's campaign, and it offers insights into the challenges that LGBTQ+ people have faced throughout history.

Whether you are an activist, a historian, or simply someone who is interested in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, this book is a must-read. It is a powerful and inspiring story that will leave you feeling hopeful for the future.

Chapter 1: Roots of Resistance

The history of Irish LGBTQ+ activism

The history of Irish LGBTQ+ activism is long and complex, but it can be traced back to the early 20th century. In 1923, the Irish Free State was founded as a predominantly Catholic country, and homosexuality was illegal. Despite this, there were a number of LGBTQ+ people who were active in the Irish independence movement, and they began to organize in the years after the war.

In 1974, the Irish Gay Rights Movement (IGRM) was founded, and it quickly became the leading voice for LGBTQ+ rights in Ireland. The IGRM campaigned for the decriminalization of homosexuality, and it also provided support and services to LGBTQ+ people. In 1981, the Irish government finally decriminalized homosexuality, but it was not until 1993 that the age of consent was lowered to 17.

The IGRM continued to campaign for LGBTQ+ rights throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and it played a major role in the passage of the Civil Partnership Act in 2010. This act gave same-sex couples the same legal rights as married couples, except for the right to adopt children.

In recent years, LGBTQ+ activism in Ireland has focused on achieving marriage equality and transgender rights. In 2015, Ireland became the first country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage by popular vote. In 2019, the Irish government passed the Gender Recognition Act, which made it easier for transgender people to change their legal gender.

Today, LGBTQ+ activism in Ireland is more vibrant than ever before. There are a number of LGBTQ+ organizations that are working to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ people, and there is a growing movement for transgender rights. LGBTQ+ people are also increasingly visible in Irish society, and they are

playing a more active role in shaping the country's future.

The history of Irish LGBTQ+ activism is a story of progress and change. It is a story of people who have fought for their rights and who have made Ireland a more inclusive and just society.

Chapter 1: Roots of Resistance

The emergence of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO)

In the early 1990s, a group of Irish LGBTQ+ activists in New York City came together to form the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO). The ILGO was founded in response to the exclusion of LGBTQ+ people from St. Patrick's Day celebrations, and its mission was to fight for the right of LGBTQ+ people to march in the city's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The ILGO's founders were a diverse group of activists, including immigrants, Irish Americans, and people from all walks of life. They were united by a shared commitment to fighting for LGBTQ+ rights and a belief that everyone should be able to celebrate their heritage with pride.

The ILGO quickly became a leading voice for LGBTQ+ rights in New York City. The organization organized

protests, marches, and other events to raise awareness of the discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ people. The ILGO also worked to build relationships with other Irish organizations and to educate the public about LGBTQ+ issues.

The ILGO's work was instrumental in changing attitudes towards LGBTQ+ people in New York City. The organization's protests and other events helped to raise awareness of the discrimination faced by LGBTQ+ people, and the ILGO's work helped to build support for LGBTQ+ rights.

In 1993, the ILGO organized its first march in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. The march was a major success, and it helped to pave the way for the eventual inclusion of LGBTQ+ groups in the parade.

The ILGO's work continues today. The organization remains a leading voice for LGBTQ+ rights in New York City, and it continues to fight for the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people in all aspects of society.

Chapter 1: Roots of Resistance

The challenges faced by early Irish LGBTQ+ activists

The early Irish LGBTQ+ activists faced a number of challenges, including:

- **Discrimination and prejudice:** LGBTQ+ people were often discriminated against and prejudiced against in Irish society. They were often excluded from social and economic opportunities, and they were often subjected to violence and harassment.
- **Legal barriers:** There were a number of laws in Ireland that discriminated against LGBTQ+ people. For example, it was illegal to engage in same-sex sexual activity, and it was illegal for transgender people to change their legal gender.
- **Social stigma:** There was a great deal of social stigma associated with being LGBTQ+ in Ireland.

LGBTQ+ people were often seen as being immoral or deviant, and they were often ostracized from their communities.

Despite these challenges, early Irish LGBTQ+ activists fought for their rights. They organized protests and demonstrations, they lobbied the government, and they worked to change public opinion. Their work helped to pave the way for the progress that has been made in recent years.

Here are some specific examples of the challenges faced by early Irish LGBTQ+ activists:

- In 1977, the Irish government banned the sale of the newspaper *Gay News*, which was one of the few publications that covered LGBTQ+ issues at the time.
- In 1982, the Irish government passed a law that made it illegal for LGBTQ+ people to work in the civil service.

- In 1983, the Irish government passed a law that made it illegal for LGBTQ+ people to adopt children.

These are just a few examples of the many challenges that early Irish LGBTQ+ activists faced. Despite these challenges, they continued to fight for their rights, and their work helped to pave the way for the progress that has been made in recent years.

This extract presents the opening three sections of the first chapter.

Discover the complete 10 chapters and 50 sections by purchasing the book, now available in various formats.

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