

EDUCATION 4 LESBIAN GAY & BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER LIBERATION

Activity 1: Stonewall Riots!

A turned based group game that involves role-play which illustrates the struggle that spawned the modern LGBT movement.

This is a themed adaption of a group game often used in Woodcraft Folk, which involves two teams taking turns to guess the opposition's number and

then chasing them upon a correct guess. This game, when themed with narration about the Stonewall Riots, provides an interactive way of understanding what happened at Stonewall in 1969 and why. You can find a description of the Stonewall Riots in Hannah Dee's *Red in the Rainbow*. As an extra you can provide props for the teams or even make some as an activity beforehand. These can include LGBT liberation placards, rainbow flags or arm bands for the police.



IMAGE SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/JESUSINLOVE/4755441139](http://www.flickr.com/photos/jesusinlove/4755441139)

You will need a facilitator to run the game. It is an important organisational role, which can involve the narrations of key moments in the Stonewall Riots, reading them out as the teams face off in the centre of the room.

How to play!

1. Divide the group into two teams and send them to opposing sides of a room
2. Explain the backdrop to the game and that one side of the room is the Stonewall Inn and the team there are the LGBT community, and that the other team is the New York Police Department based at NYPD HQ. In between are streets of New York.
3. Explain how one side are role-playing the New York Police Department of 1969 and the others are the protesters (the LGBT community and supporters) around the Stonewall Inn.
4. The LGBT community team huddle together and select one person to be their Announcer for the round, who chooses a number between 1 and 10, and informs the rest of the team what it will be. At the same time the NYPD team stay on their side of the room and choose their chief constable, who will attempt to guess the other number.
5. Give the go ahead for both teams to come into the centre of the room, in opposing lines, with a gap of about 1 metre between them which they must strictly adhere to. The teams face-off and stare each other out, chanting and posing.
6. The next stage is for the NYPD's chief constable to begin guessing which number between 1 and 10 the protesters have chosen. This must be done clearly with at least a five second gap between each guess to maintain the tension of the game.
7. When the guess is correct, the protesters must flee immediately as the NYPD chase them back to the Stonewall Inn. Any protesters touched with both hands of an NYPD player must become part of the NYPD for the next round.
8. The next round the roles are reversed, with the protesters gaining the upper hand, choosing their announcer before facing off with the NYPD in streets of New York.
9. Continue the game for an even amount of rounds for as long as you wish, or if you are reading using narrations from *Red in the Rainbow*, you can finish on a positive note such as at the point where Gay Liberation Fronts launched all over the world.

LGBT - What's That?

LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (sometimes referred to as Transgender). It's a term that came about in the 1980s and replaced the

label "the gay community" which didn't reflect all those people it was meant to represent. It is sometimes extended to LGBTQ, the Q for those who identify as queer and/or are questioning their sexual identity.

Of course there continues to be debate about what should and shouldn't be included, but what is recognised is that the term LGBT has been a positive symbol of inclusion and its use has helped in bringing otherwise marginalised people into the general community.



Becca Dye

Woodcraft Folk



"The Woodcraft Folk must unite to fight against homophobic language and behaviour at every level within our

own organisation and within the groups and people we affiliate with. It is vital that we educate all Elfins, Pioneers, Venturers, DFs and Kinsfolk about LGBT history and that leaders actively educate their groups about the dangers of cemented gender and sexuality roles and the resistance we must lead to gain liberation and rights for those who do not conform to the heteronormative standards set by our capitalist society. Resources like this one are absolutely indispensable if we are to achieve the Folk's aim of "fashioning a new world". We cannot rely on the state to fight for LGBT rights, because, as we see time and time again, what the rulers give with one hand, they take away with the other. Outside of the Folk, the governments' billions of pounds of unnecessary cuts is paving the way to the closure of LGBT support groups, the selling-off of LGBT charities to the private sector and the closure of LGBT sexual health centres. We can already see this taking effect, even though only a mere 6-7% of the cuts have actually hit us. The cuts will disproportionately affect LGBT people, women, ethnic minorities and the disabled. It is vital that we, as Woodcraft Folk members, link the struggles between all oppressed groups. We need members pushing for the liberation of all groups through direct action,

protests, discussions, debates, meetings, petitions and ensuring that all members of the Folk are educated in what the governments' austerity and denial of rights mean to the working class and how we must resist."



empowering young people

DID YOU KNOW?

72% of young LGBT people have played truant or feigned illness to avoid homophobic bullying at school yet only 6% of UK schools have any policy dealing with homophobic bullying