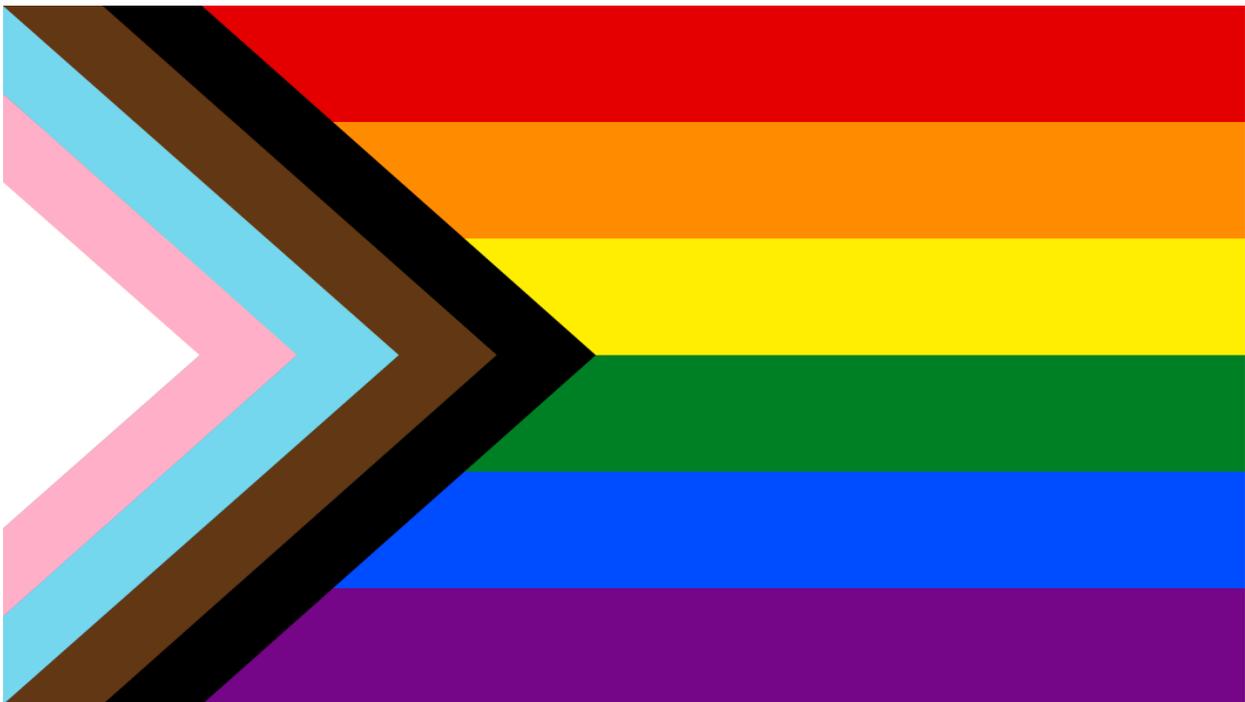


# The Pride Flag

By: Rache Cufferi

From the beginnings of queer culture at the Stonewall Inn riots in 1969, rainbows have always been symbolic of the LGBTQ+ community. The first rainbow "pride" flag was designed in 1978 by Gilbert Baker, a drag queen and openly gay man. Baker took inspiration from the sky for his rainbow flag, envisioning a natural sign to help queer people live their truth. Originally imagined as an eight-color flag, production issues ensued, with a final product of only six colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple). For years this simple rainbow flag was a symbol of equality and pride for the LGBTQ+ community. As time progressed, the need for an updated flag to represent a diverse queer community became more apparent. In 2018, a designer named Daniel Quasar created a more inclusive flag known as the progress pride flag. This is the most common flag we see currently that has the triangle on the end with the added colors. To appreciate the thoughtfulness behind the pride flag we need to explore what each color represents.



**Red** represents life on the flag, it reflects blood as a life force and can be seen as passion in many cultures. **Orange** represents healing, as a vibrant color it is seen as a celebration of healing. **Yellow** represents bright new ideas and thoughts. **Green** is often seen in nature and is symbolic of prosperity and growth. Known as a color that calms and relaxes, **blue** represents serenity. Often thought of as a royal color, **purple** on the flag is thought to symbolize spirit. For our newly added colors, **black** and **brown** represent people of color

who have been notoriously left out despite queer people of color being the driving force behind many LGTBQ+ movements. The pink, baby blue, and white colors represent trans pride. Pink and baby blue are seen as traditional gender reveal colors, with white representing those who are currently transitioning, are intersex, or identify outside of the gender binary. Speaking to the shape of the progress flag it has the original 6 colors still horizontal but the black, brown, pink, baby blue, and white colors as a triangle. This placement is thoughtfully done to communicate a shift in focus to people of color and transgender related issues. The progress pride flag is being adopted as the primary pride flag, given its homage to the queer, trans, and people of color who started the movement many years ago.