

Barbara Smith

she/her



Barbara Smith (b. November 16, 1946) is a lesbian feminist, socialist, scholar, activist, critic, lecturer, author, and publisher of Black feminist thought. Smith helped found the Combahee River Collective, a class-conscious, sexuality-affirming Black feminist organization focused on the intersections of racial, gender, heterosexist and class oppression for Black women and other women of color.

“Feminism is the political theory and practice that struggles to free all women: women of color, working-class women, poor women, disabled women, lesbians, old women — as well as white, economically privileged, heterosexual women. Anything less than this vision of total freedom is not feminism, but merely female self-aggrandizement.” – Barbara Smith

In 1980, Smith founded *Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press*, which published works that became classics and foundational texts to the new literary canon of women of color. Smith was the first scholar to coin the term “identity politics” and she also helped to create and define the concept “intersectionality.”

The Trevor Project



The Trevor Project, most well-known for its focus on suicide prevention for LGBTQ youth, has been a life saving resource for over 25 years. After HBO was set to screen the Academy Award winning short-film *Trevor*, a film depicting the suicide attempt of a young gay teenager, filmmakers recognized the need for a helpline for those confronted with this reality. The Trevor Lifeline was developed to address this immediate need.

The Trevor Project has expanded its services to include research exploring mental health and LGBTQ youth, development of school curriculum addressing topics as gender and sexuality, as well as text and chat counseling services. With nearly 100 employees and 1000 volunteers, the Trevor Project continues to provide a life saving resources for so many young LGBTQ individuals.

In addition to these resources, the Trevor Project also conducts a national survey on the mental health of LGBTQ young people, which surveys those age 13-24 in the U.S. This survey, which can be found [here](#), "gives a voice to LGBTQ young people at a time when their existence is unfairly at the center of national political debates and state legislatures have introduced and implemented a record number of anti-LGBTQ policies."

Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld

he/him



Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld led The Institute for Sexual Research in Berlin, Germany from 1919 – 1933. It was a private research institution with a prolific library centering on topics like gender, sexuality, and relationships, including gay, transgender, and intersex topics.

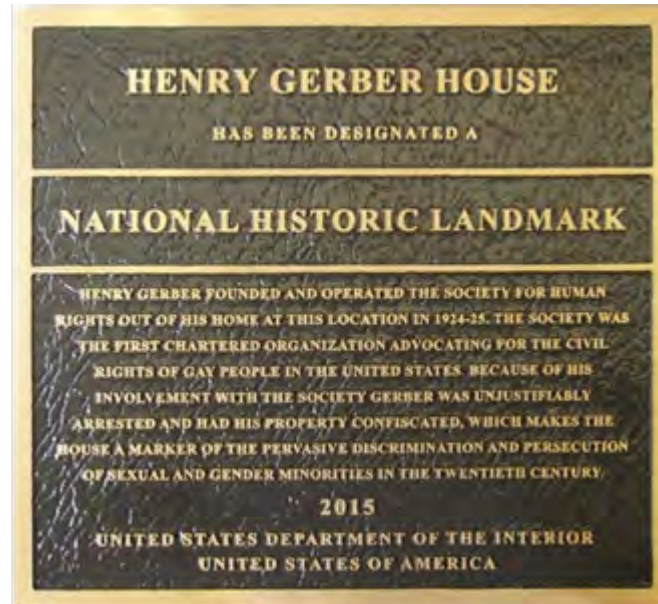
The Institute for Sexual Research offered additional services to the public including treatment for alcoholism, gynecological examinations, marital and sex counseling, treatment for venereal diseases, and access to contraceptive treatment. It's educational offerings were available to health professionals as well as the lay public. Prior to the establishment of the Institute, Dr. Hirschfeld led the world's first organization dedicated to advancement of LGBT rights, called the Wissenschaftlich-humanitäres Komitee (Scientific-Humanitarian Committee).

The institute's archives were destroyed during the Nazi book burnings in Berlin in the 1930s as part of a Nazi government censorship program by youth brigades.

"Looking back on the story of Hirschfeld's institute—his protocols not only for surgery but for a trans-supportive community of care, for mental and physical healing, and for social change—it's hard not to imagine a history that might have been. What future might have been built from a platform where "sexual intermediaries" were indeed thought of in "more just terms"? Still, these pioneers and their heroic sacrifices help to deepen a sense of pride—and of legacy—for LGBTQ+ communities worldwide. As we confront oppressive legislation today, may we find hope in the history of the institute and a cautionary tale in the Nazis who were bent on erasing it." – Brandy Schillace (Scientific American, 2021)

Read more: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-forgotten-history-of-the-worlds-first-trans-clinic/>

Society for Human Rights

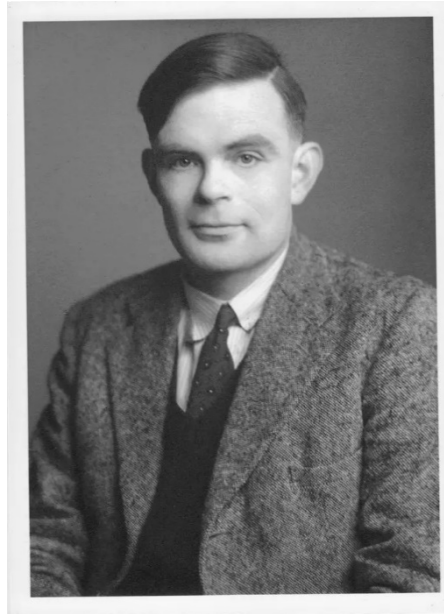


The first LGBT rights organization in the United States as founded by Henry Gerber in 1924. The Henry Gerber House as it became known was located in Chicago and it's existence was short lived. Only months after its opening, its doors were closed after a police raid resulted in the arresting Gerber and other key figures of the organization. The organization aimed to challenge many of the misperceptions of gay individuals, in particular pushing back on much of the longstanding stigma often resulting in criminal and social persecution. The legacy of the Henry Gerber house and Society for Human Rights was evident in the establishing of the Mattachine Society, the first enduring LGBT rights organization in the United States which was founded by those whom had connection with the Gerber House. Henry Gerber was indicated into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and the Henry Gerber House is designated as a National Historic Landmark in Chicago.

June 5, 2024

Alan Turing

he/him



Alan Turing (1912-1954) was born in London and was known for his work as a mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, physicist, and biologist. He was working for the British Government's Code and Cypher School before WWII, and started working at Bletchley Park during the war. There he focused on cracking the Enigma code used by Germany and its allies, and developed a machine to break the code in 1942. He was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his efforts, and it is estimated that these efforts shortened the war by 2-4 years.

After the war Turing worked in computer and software design and was a founding father of artificial intelligence. The Turing Test, which he proposed in 1950, was the leading criterion for whether an artificial computer is thinking on its own.

Turing was openly gay and was arrested and convicted the early 1950s for his sexual orientation. He was sentenced to 12 months of hormone "therapy" or chemical castration. He was found dead by cyanide poisoning in 1954.

In 2013 Turing was given a posthumous royal pardon after bills were submitted in Parliament and the House of Lords. In 2016 the Government announced gay and bisexual men convicted of now-abolished sexual offences in England and Wales were to receive posthumous pardons under an amendment dubbed the "Turing Law."

What is Gender-Affirming Care?

Gender-affirming care is a supportive form of healthcare that encompasses both medical and non-medical services for gender-diverse people. Health services may include puberty blockers or hormone replacement therapy (HRT), gender-affirming surgeries, mental health treatment, voice therapy, and more. Supportive services are typically socially affirming things that can be done to recognize gender, such as using correct name and pronouns, advocating for other healthcare providers or family members to use correct name and pronouns, gender-affirming hairstyles and clothing, or other actions that affirm the person's gender. Typically, gender-affirming care for minors does not include any surgeries, except on rare occasions (and in certain states) when their gender dysphoria is life threatening. In these cases, providers and families of these youth are often making the decision to pursue surgery after observing consistently declining mental health and/or multiple suicide attempts.

The effects of puberty blockers are largely reversible, where some of the side effects of HRT are not. For example, breast tissue growth on feminizing HRT is permanent. However, these changes are often both welcome and lifesaving for transgender people, who suffer from depression and suicidality at much higher rates than the general population. Additionally, the regret rate for gender-affirming medical care is extremely low. The rate of regret has typically been cited at 1%, but a recent study by Jedrzejewski et al. (2023) found that 6 out of 1989 people (0.3%) regretted transition. Similar results were found in a systematic review by Thornton et al. (2024), who indicated that regret across multiple forms of gender-affirming surgery is less than 1%. In contrast, regret rates for other life-altering decisions are consistently much higher (e.g., having children: ~7%, getting a tattoo: 16.2%) (Thornton et al., 2024). Across multiple studies, the most common reason cited for regret of transition is broadly negative societal treatment of transgender people.

Laverne Cox

she/her



Laverne Cox (b. May 29, 1972) is a prominent actress and activist, and the first openly transgender person nominated for a Primetime acting Emmy. She grew up in Mobile, Alabama with her mother and twin brother. She started studying dance at age 8 and received a scholarship to study at the Alabama School of Fine Arts in Birmingham. She then accepted a dance scholarship to Indiana University at Bloomington and transferred to Marymount Manhattan College where she earned a BFA in Dance.

At Marymount, Laverne started exploring acting and went from being gender-nonconforming to being more femme, and soon started her medical transition and living and identifying as a woman. She was inspired by Candis Cayne who made history in 2007 as the first openly transgender actor to have a recurring role on a prime-time TV show as Carmelita in “Dirty Sexy Money.”

In 2012 Laverne landed the role that would change her life as Sophia Burset on “Orange is the New Black,” which brought her attention from diverse audiences across the world and made her the first Trans woman of color to have a leading role on a mainstream scripted television series. Laverne Cox is now a four-time Emmy-nominated actress Emmy-winning producer, and a prominent equal rights advocate and public speaker. The last documentary she produced, ‘Disclosure,’ (streaming on Netflix) gives an unprecedented look at the depiction of transgender characters throughout the history of film and TV.