

History of criminalisation and of legal rights gained by LGBTQI people in the UK

1533: The Buggery Act

This is the first time in law that male homosexuality is targeted for persecution in the UK
Completely outlawed sodomy in Britain – and by extension in what would become the entire British Empire. Convictions were punishable by death

1921: Proposal of Criminal Law Amendment Bill

Female homosexuality, which was never explicitly targeted by legislation, is discussed for the first time in Parliament with a view to introduce discriminatory legislation
Was rejected because of fear that a law would raise attention to/encourage women to explore homosexuality

1988: Section 28 of the Local Government Act

Introduced by Margaret Thatcher
Banned local authorities from 'promoting homosexuality'
Prohibited councils from funding LGBTQI educational materials or projects
Repealed in 2003

2010: The Equality Act

Gave LGBTQI employees protections from discrimination at work
Brought together existing legislation and added protections for trans workers

2004: Civil Partnership Act

1861: Offences Against the Person Act

Death penalty was abolished for acts of sodomy
Now punishment was a minimum of 10 years imprisonment

1954-1957: Report of the Departmental Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution (The Wolfenden Report)

Aimed to bring about change in the current law by making recommendations to the Government
Suggestion that the state should focus on protecting the public, rather than scrutinising people's private lives

2004-2005: The Gender Recognition Act

Gave trans people full legal recognition of their gender, allowing them to acquire a new birth certificate

1885: The Criminal Law Amendment Act

Made any male homosexual act illegal whether or not a witness was present
(Labouchere Amendment)

1967: Sexual Offences Act

Implementation of the Wolfenden Report
Partially legalised same-sex acts in the UK between men over the age of 21 conducted in private
(Scotland 1980, Northern Ireland 1981)

2013: Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act

Allowed same-sex couples in England and Wales to marry (Scotland 2014. Northern Ireland 2019 - 2020)

(lowered to 18 in 1994 and equalized to hetero limit of 16 in 2000)