



PIONEERS AND ADVOCATES

Peter Williams | 2023 | London, United Kingdom

01 | OVERVIEW



Gayther is an online service home to one of the world's largest collections of current and relevant LGBTQIA+ information. To celebrate the people that make up the LGBTQIA+ community, each year, Gayther highlights five worldwide pioneers who have contributed to the movement for equality and acceptance. Many of those featured are individuals who, through their direct actions

and bravery in accepting who they are, even when the odds were stacked against them, helped change the laws, minds and perceptions concerning the community.

Since 2019, Gayther has released the pioneers' collection as LGBTQIA+ dollars, a unique set of dollar bills ranging from 5 to 100. The dollar bills within the pioneers' collection are symbolic and used to draw attention to the amount the community likely contributes to the world's economy every year, which according to the Gayther LGBTQIA+ Dollar Index, is estimated to be over 1.4 trillion US dollars.

Where pioneers are those individuals that had come before us and helped lay the foundations of modern society, Advocates are those still using their voices, influence and platforms to highlight specific causes and improve the lives of community members across the globe. For individuals ranging from celebrities to ordained ministers, advocacy plays a vital role in the continuing movement for equality taking place right now. Advocacy can come in many forms, such as an individual publicly identifying as LGBTQIA+, someone pushing boundaries and perceptions or those who take more direct action in protesting and calling on governments to take action.

"Remembering and learning more about pioneers and advocates is important for the community. Understanding the sacrifices and obstacles so many people have made and faced to secure the rights we enjoy today helps continue the movement for equality and also helps acknowledge how far we have come in the past 50 years," says Peter Williams, founder of Gayther.

"In a world full of uncertainty and rising anti-LGBTQIA+ sentiments and hostility in specific regions and countries, unfortunately, people facing persecution will inevitably have no choice but to stand up for their rights and freedoms and become the pioneers for future generations."

02 | TAGS

pioneers, advocates, history, equality, movement, contribution, action, community, bravery

03 | KEY FACTS

- Gayther highlights 183 well-known and public individuals associated with the LGBTQIA+ community. 144 people featured within the Pride in Series, and there are currently 25 pioneer and 14 advocate profiles
- 150 or 82% of those individuals featured were born in the twentieth century, with 4 or 2% being before the first century BC, 20 or 11% from the second century to the nineteenth century, and there are 9 or 5% that were born in the twenty-first century
- Of all those featured, 63% are linked to sexualities, 25% are related to gender identities and 12% are more general. The most prominent identities are gay (53), Lesbian (24) and Transgender (24)
- Of those featured, 30% or 54 individuals are entertainers, 16% or 30 are musicians, 12% or 22 are writers and poets, and 12% or 22 are activists
- Of the notable and well-known individuals featured, 55% or 100 are from the Americas, followed by 26% (48) from Europe and 13% (23) from Asia. The United States of America has the highest number of individuals featured at 83, followed by the United Kingdom at 18 and then Italy at 9