



FLA Statement on Pride Month As adopted 2021

Pride Month is celebrated annually in the United States during the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall riots, and to expand awareness of people of all genders and sexualities, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual, pansexual, and allies, inclusively described using the “umbrella” LGBTQIA+ acronym.

The Florida Library Association (FLA) affirms the diversity of our library workers, library users, and members of the communities in which we serve. FLA understands that LGBTQIA+ rights are important throughout the entire year, but Pride month provides an opportunity for us as an association to recognize the traditions celebrating dignity, equality, and human rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. Florida’s diversity is our greatest strength and something that FLA is committed to support.

FLA recognizes that our society still has a long way to go in the struggle for equal rights, and many members of the LGBTQIA+ community still face discrimination, but with education and understanding, we are more likely to have an acceptance for all individuals, no matter what they look like, what gender they may or may not identify as, or who they love. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a sobering reminder of how marginalized and vulnerable LGBTQIA+ people continue to be. FLA is committed to exploring these issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion, particularly as they affect the library community.

FLA will join libraries across the nation in a national celebration of Pride month and continue our advocacy of and support for our LGBTQIA+ colleagues and communities. Pride month is significant because it symbolizes the major changes that have taken place over the past decades, from the landmark civil rights case in which the Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples in June of 2015, to the 2020 Supreme Court decision recognizing the workplace equality of all people, categorically rejecting all statements and actions intended to invalidate, harm, erase, and oppress people’s identities and lives.

FLA encourages library leaders and staff to create safe environments for LGBTQIA+ users, allowing everyone access to materials, facilities, activities, and programs that are consistent with their gender identity and provide safe spaces for dialog that allow for intellectual freedom as well as the safety for all members of the community.

Our goal is for Florida libraries to act in accordance with current research on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, belonging, and social justice (DEIA) within our association and to affirm the rights of our LGBTQIA+ community, along with those representing a multiplicity of identities and issues. Encouraging greater acceptance and support for all will make our communities, libraries, and other settings safer and better places for all.