

SECTION 28

LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH



Section 28 was a clause in the Local Government Act 1988 passed under Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government that stated that:

(1) A local authority shall not—

(a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;

(b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.

WHAT DID THIS MEAN?

Schools could not teach in any way that could be seen to 'promote homosexuality'. This meant LGBTQ+ pupils received no relationship or sex education.

All libraries had to remove all literature and non-fiction that contained LGBTQ+ characters, themes or information.

Teachers couldn't tell students off for bullying LGBTQ+ pupils.

Section 28 made LGBTQ+ young people to feel as if they were second-class, as if their sexuality or gender identity had to be repressed.

The clause was enforced for nearly 30 years and the damages are still present today.

"Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay." - Margaret Thatcher



WHEN WAS IT ABOLISHED?

It was the first anti-LGBT piece of legislation in over 100 years.

After much protest, including storming the BBC while broadcasting and abseiling into the House of Lords, the clause was repealed in 2003.