

LESSON TITLE: LGBT HISTORY MONTH 2023: *THE LEGACY OF SECTION 28*

Lesson Overview

This lesson is designed to be completed over 2 class periods, it can be taught over 1 class period if the tasks on slide 10 and 11 are left out.

The purpose of this lesson is to teach young people about Section 28 and how it impacted the LGBT+ community and education, and how activists campaigned against Section 28. 2023 marks 20 years since Section 28 was repealed in England and Wales and 20 years since it was repealed in Scotland.

Relevant Benchmarks/E's and O's

- I can use evidence selectively to research current social, political or economic issues. SOC 2-15a
- I can explain why a group I have identified might experience inequality and can suggest ways in which this inequality might be addressed. SOC 3-16a
- I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own. LIT 2-07a

Materials Needed

- Lesson PowerPoint - LGBT Youth Scotland
- Paper and Pen/ Pencil
- Colour Pens/Pencils
- YouTube Access

Possible Differentiation

- Collaborative Learning - all tasks can be done individually or in pairs
- Task Choice - For the writing element of this lesson 2 options have been provided, the learner should select the option better suited to their needs and interests
- Digital Learners - For learners that use computers the tasks can be done digitally and a copy of the slides can be provided

Learning Intention and Success Criteria

Learning Intention:

We are learning about Section 28 and exploring the impact it has on the LGBT+ community in the UK.

Success Criteria:

- I can describe what Section 28 was
- I can give 2 reasons why Section 28 was passed
- I can give at least 1 example of how Section 28 impacted the LGBT+ community
- I can give 1 example of how life in school changed under Section 28
- I can give 1 example of activism against the passing of Section 28

LGBT HISTORY MONTH 2023: The Legal Gender Equality Act

What is LGBT History Month?

LGBT History Month takes place in February every year and offers the chance to connect and to reflect on the past and present of the LGBT+ community. LGBT History Month also provides an opportunity to highlight LGBT+ voices and stories that have often been minimised in history and in contemporary society.

LGBT History Month was first celebrated in the USA in 1994 a high school history teacher in Missouri originated the idea to celebrate LGBT people, their history and recognise the contributions LGBT people have made to society. Since 1994 LGBT History Month has expanded into celebrations all around the world.

Scotland's first LGBT History Month took place in 2005.

Slide 1-2 - Introduction (3m)

The introductory slides primarily describe what LGBT History Month is and why it is celebrated.

We have not included the learning intention and success criteria on the slides but you may wish to read them out at this stage.

This slide can be read in its entirety or shortened to key points.

Think, Pair, Share

Thinking about the questions below, take two minutes to discuss these questions with a partner then prepare to feedback to the class:

1. What is Section 28?
2. What do you already know about it and how it affected people?
3. If you have not heard of Section 28, have a guess at what you think it might be.

Slide 3 - Starter Task (10m)

This activity is design to assess learners existing knowledge and understanding. Pupils should take 1-2m to consider the questions , spend 1-2m sharing with a partner and discussing , then open the discussion to the whole class and hear pupils thoughts on the 3 questions. If students want to write down their thoughts they can but it is not required.

Slide 4-6 - Information (15m)

These slides give information to the learners about Section 28 and can be read out or printed. It is recommended that questions are asked between each slide to check for understanding. You may wish to print these slides out for group discussions or a wider class discussion.

Optional questions for slide 4:

1. What does LGBT+ mean?
2. What is censorship?
3. How do you think LGBT+ people at the time would have felt when this bill was passed?

Optional questions for Slide 5:

1. Why do you think the HIV/AIDS epidemic contributed to anti-gay views?
2. Do you know of any books or media that have caused controversy in recent years?
3. What does the quote tell you about how Section 28 impacted people?

Optional questions for Slide 6:

1. What other political protests have happened that you can think of?
 2. Can you give examples of other ways people have protested political causes such as the climate change and the human rights?
- Example: BLM protests

What is Section 28?

In 1988 the UK government led by Margaret Thatcher, passed Section 28 (often referred to as Clause 28) into law. This banned teachers from delivering any content or support that may be seen as 'promoting homosexuality'.

As a result, LGBT clubs and groups shut down across the country and all LGBT books were removed from libraries and book shops. People started to self-censor what they said for fear they would breach Section 28.

Teachers stopped teaching children about LGBT people and same-sex relationships, meaning LGBT pupils had very limited support around their LGBT identity and positive messages about LGBT people started to be less visible. During this time homophobia against both pupils and staff suddenly started to increase.



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Why was Section 28 allowed to pass?

The passing of Section 28 came at the peak of anti-gay views in the UK. It was passed during the HIV/AIDS epidemic which was largely considered both in the USA and UK as a 'gay disease' and people began to fear both the disease and the LGBT+ community.

Section 28 also came as a backlash to the children's book 'Jenny Lives with Eric & Martin' which was initially written to educate children and tells the story of Jenny who lives with her father and his boyfriend. It was one of the first children's books to openly show a homosexual family. In 1986 a newspaper reported that a copy of the book was on display in the library of a London primary school which sparked hate and controversy. Protests and demonstrations against the book followed.

"Because of Section 28, a lot of teachers felt they couldn't stop in. It did a lot of damage to people like me."

"It just erased people completely. There was no discussion around it, so you'd have no understanding as a gay person that there can be a different way of living."

Davina DeCampo - Drag Race UK Season 1




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Activism Against Section 28

Section 28 was in place in the UK for 15 years in England and Wales and 12 years in Scotland. It was met with mass protests from the LGBT+ community and allies. Young, old, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans people took to the streets in a number of marches across the UK. Celebrities such as Sir Ian McKellen and Boy George also publicly spoke out against Section 28 in the media.

Some groups found inventive ways of protesting. For example on 23 May 1988, the evening before Section 28 came into force, lesbian activists stormed the BBC News studio where midway through the Six O'Clock News wearing T-shirts that said 'Stop the Clause'. Others absconded into the House of Lords during the vote.


2023 marks 20 years since Section 28 was repealed in England and Wales and 23 years since it was repealed in Scotland.



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Video Clip Activity

Watch the video clip below and think about the following questions and be prepared to feedback verbally:



1. What impact did Section 28 have on teachers?
2. What impact do you think Section 28 had on students?
3. What do you think the long term impact of Section 28 might be? How do you think it might still affect some people today?

LGBT Youth Scotland do NOT hold responsibility for and/or claim to be the creator of the content in the video.

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Slide 7 - Video Activity (10m)

Students should watch the video linked and then verbally feedback their thoughts to the 3 questions on the slides.

It may be helpful to get students to make notes whilst watching the video.

The video is 3m long and is created by Pink News

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SimHYICmEA&feature=youtu.be>

Slide 8 - Conclusion (5-10m)

The concluding slide for period 1 should be read out. All statistics come from LGBT Youth Scotland's Life in Scotland Survey (2022). Over 1,200 LGBT+ young people were surveyed. You may wish to conclude the lesson by asking these questions:

1. What progress has been made in LGBT+ Equality in Scotland since the repeal of Section 28 in 2000 (2003 in England and Wales)?
2. Can you summarise some of the issues LGBT+ people in Scotland still face?

LGBT+ Inclusion in Scotland today

Scotland has come a long way in LGBT+ rights since Section 28, with Scotland being the first country to include LGBT+ education as part of their national curriculum. However LGBT+ people still often face discrimination. Here are some statistics from the Life in Scotland 2022 survey:

- 46% of LGBT+ participants rated their schools experience as bad
- 70% of gay and lesbian participants stated they experienced bullying at school
- 69% of participants believe transphobia is a big problem in Scotland
- 41% of gay and lesbian participants and 49% of transgender participants experienced a hate crime in the last year

The progress towards LGBT+ equality must continue, recognising the progress made since Section 28 and the work that is yet to be done is part of this.

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Slide 9- Period 2 Starter (5-10m)

Start off Period 2 by getting learners to note down slogans and images they see in the pictures on the slides. Then ask the class to feedback verbally what they noticed in these pictures of protests against Section 28.

Writing/Creative Activity

Look at the images below, think about the slogans and imagery used during the protests.

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Slide 10-12 - Literacy/Design Activity (40m)

Pupils have been given two options for tasks. The first option is a newspaper writing task and is more focused on literacy skills. The second option is a social media campaign design task and will require focus on images and design. Learners should pick the task most suited to their needs and interests. Students could work on this individually or in pairs. Full instructions for both tasks can be found on the slides. To conclude this lesson pupils could present the work they completed. Alternatively you may wish to ask "Why is it important to remember events like Section 28?" and discuss this with learners as a plenary task.

Writing/Campaign Activity Option 1 - Newspaper Article

Pick from Option 1 or 2 to work on:

- Imagine you are living in 1988, Section 28 has passed and protests are occurring. Write a newspaper report detailing what is happening during this time.
- Think about what was happening, why it was happening and how people were feeling about it.

Writing/Campaign Activity Option 2 - Social Media Campaign

- Imagine Section 28 passed in 2023 and you wanted to let people know what was happening and how it impacts the LGBT+ community.
- Now lots of activism takes place on social media with information about the Black Lives Matter Movement, climate change, and the war in Ukraine on every social media platform.
- Design a social media campaign for Instagram that informs people about Section 28, you may wish to create multiple 'slides' so that you can include more information.
- Think about what imagery and colours you will use to make people stop and look at the post in the post.
- It needs to...

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