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**Gay rights movements in the USA in the 21st century –
a history and practical analysis of trends in politics and
society with an emphasis on the depiction of gays
and lesbians in popular culture**

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Prohlašuji, že jsem práci zpracoval(a) samostatně a použil(a) jen uvedených pramenů a literatury.

Plzeň, duben 2015

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1. INTRODUCTION

Homosexuality is a very actual theme these days. It is more discussed and normalised theme than in the past, but frequent suicides of gay teenagers reflect that society is not as tolerant as it presents. More than half of the world doesn't allow same-sex marriages and in many states homosexuality is hardly punished, including death penalty. On the other hand, situation about gay rights gets better and better in many democratic countries.

This bachelor thesis deals with the main events in the United States which are connected to gay right movements and effort to equalization. The bachelor thesis is divided into two parts, theoretical and practical. Theoretical part starts with the definition of key terms and sums the basic history in the world from Ancient Times to the Middle Ages because of perspective on changing tolerance through times. Bachelor thesis puts the most emphasis on the situation in the United States, briefly describes Pre-Columbian and Colonial Era to show that the open access was not common phenomenon. It describes important moments (for example AIDS crisis) and significant groups and their activities that led to next progress and reality these days. The next part of this bachelor thesis deals with the situation in political area and statements of American presidents on the same-sex marriage and its legalization. It deals also with situation in California and more complicated process of equalization in this state. The last chapter of theoretical part focuses on popular culture, especially on film industry and inspiring coming-outs of two famous people - favourite comedienne and NBA player. The practical part analyses results of questionnaire which contains answers regarding same-sex marriage, adoption and other related themes. Respondents were homosexual people mainly from the United States and the Czech Republic.

The aim of bachelor thesis is to summarize the basic history of LGBT movements in the United States with the depiction on political area and popular culture and analyzes how people sense changes in the 21st century.

2. INTRODUCTION INTO TOPIC

To understand the history, process, efforts and results of gay rights movements it is necessary to define basic terms at first as the word homosexuality itself and meaning of the abbreviation LGBT. Important is also to compare tolerance of society in times and summarize short overview of changing perception of homosexuality.

2.1 Definition and origin of homosexuality

The origin of the word homosexuality comes from Greek, where the word homo means the same or the similar; the opposite term hetero means the different. The heterosexual describes the sexual attraction between members of the different gender.¹ The term homosexuality describes the permanent psychological and sexual attraction between members of the same gender.² There is a difference between the terms *homosexual behaviour* in case of particular conditions and permanent *homosexuality*. These terms are often wrongly interchanged.

The homosexuality means clear preference to the same gender also in case of other possibility. It is permanent, lifelong state that was not chosen by the individual.³ On the other hand, the good example of homosexual behaviour to understand the meaning is homosexual behaviour in prison. There is no possibility to have heterosexual relationship and the individual is affected by surroundings. It is not permanent state. Not everyone that had homosexual experience is a homosexual. It can be affected by different reasons. Some people searching exciting experience, some men prefer men because of a fear of failure by women while some women prefer men for their maternity

¹ Heterosexuality. *Wikipedia.org* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heterosexuality>

² Homosexualita. *Pf.jcu.cz* [online]. 2002 [accessed 2015-04-17], <https://www.pf.jcu.cz/stru/katedry/pgps/ikvz/podkapitoly/b06gayove/03.pdf>

³ Medicínský pohled na homosexualitu. PROCHÁZKA, Ivo. *Spoleketf.org* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], http://spoleketf.org/attachments/article/86/050_Prochazka_cz.pdf

satisfaction. Homosexual behaviour occurs also by animals, the homosexual orientation only by people.⁴

The homosexual and also heterosexual orientation is not absolute but unlike bisexual orientation one option strongly dominates.⁵ (See Kinsey's Heterosexual-Homosexual scale in the chapter Antisodomy Laws) The number of homosexual people over the world is not exact. Mostly the number 4% is used but the answers from sociological research are highly affected by local toleration.

The secret about the origin of homosexuality is as old as the homosexuality itself. Homosexuality is born into human; it is an inborn fact. Scientists claim that genes are responsible for the occurrence of homosexuality fractionally. The important role plays also the temperament determining the mental development (related to sexual preference) of person. As another reasons are presented typical and untypical activities for particular gender. Children that do activities typical for their gender (boys play with toy cars, girls play with dolls) perceive the opposite gender as interesting and *exotic*. In the specific age, this difference is showed as resistance (Girls= ugh), but in teen age this difference is shown as attraction. On the other hand, children that do untypical activities for their gender (boys play with dolls) perceive the opposite gender as uninteresting because of their similar activities. The person is attracted by dissimilarity.⁶ This is the reality of today. Earlier homosexuality was connected to God, Satan, perversion and many other 'reasons.'

⁴Homosexualita. *Pf.jcu.cz* [online]. 2002 [accessed 2015-04-17], <https://www.pf.jcu.cz/stru/katedry/pgps/ikvz/podkapitoly/b06gayove/03.pdf>

⁵ Medicínský pohled na homosexualitu. PROCHÁZKA, Ivo. *Spoleketf.org* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], http://spoleketf.org/attachments/article/86/050_Prochazka_cz.pdf

⁶ *Jak vzniká homosexualita?* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://psychologie.cz/jak-vznika-homosexualita/>

"The term homosexuality itself was firstly appeared in English in nineties of 19th century when it was used by Charles Gilbert Chaddock, the translator of *Psychopathia Sexualis* by R. Von Krafft-Ebinga. The original of this writing was founded in Germany in 1869 as an anonymous pamphlet."⁷ (translated by author) Some sources say that the author of the pamphlet is Károly Mária Kertbeny and it advocated repeal of the country's sodomy law.⁸ The term *inversion* and *sodomy* was also used up to 1892. It described everything that was considered as deviant activity including homosexuality.⁹ It was interpreted as "same-sex sexual activity, usually anal intercourse, between men" and it was strictly punished. Women were prosecuted very rarely and in the year 1851 they were fully exempted because of the Prussian legal code.¹⁰

⁷ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p.7

⁸ *German Sodomy Laws* [online]. 2004 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.glbtc.com/social-sciences/germany.html>

⁹ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p.7

¹⁰ *German Sodomy Laws* [online]. 2004 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.glbtc.com/social-sciences/germany.html>

2.2 The abbreviation LGBT

The abbreviation LGBT consists of the first letters of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

- Lesbian: female homosexual
- Gay: male homosexual, for the individual it is used the term gay-man
- Bisexual: person that is permanently attracted by both genders¹¹
- Transgender: person that doesn't match one's assigned sex; the term transgender includes transsexual, crossdresser and transvestite¹²

Initially, there were just two words GL (or G/L, G&L) and with the emancipation there were added other letters. The word B was added in nineties of the 20th century, the word T was added soon. Approximately in the same time the letter L moved on the first place. It is probably connected with often lesbian movements. It is used also the abbreviation LGBTI with I to intersex or Q to queer. Sometimes is the abbreviation extremely lengthened, the example is the abbreviation LGBTTTQQAAP (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transsexual, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Ally, Panssexual).¹³ Symbol of LGBT people is a rainbow flag. (See Appendix 1)

¹¹Medicínský pohled na homosexualitu. PROCHÁZKA, Ivo. *Spoleketf.org* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], http://spoleketf.org/attachments/article/86/050_Prochazka_cz.pdf

¹²*Transgender* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transgender>

¹³*LGBT* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT>

2.3 Homosexuality in history

As it was said in the chapter Definition and origin of homosexuality, this phenomenon is as old as humanity itself. But the form of homosexuality is radically different. Colin Spencer mentions five basic types in the book *Dějiny homosexuality*:

- Relations with age difference: man and boy, woman and girl (here belongs also ritual 'practice' of adolescents into the world of adults)
- Relations in which one plays the opposite gender (transvestism plays here pivotal role)
- Equal relations (equal age, social status)
- Unequal relations (especially unequal social status)
- Relations that cross the racial barrier¹⁴

2.3.1 Ancient Times

Ancient Greek myths tell a lot of about the history of homosexuality (it is no coincidence that the term homosexuality comes from Greece). These myths describe rituals and real practices that vanished gradually. These rituals were known in nations by the Atlantic Ocean to the river Ganges. Concrete example is the story of the learner and the mentor: "A boy or a young man represents the pupil, learner or follower, his older lover represents the expert, warrior, teacher and mentor. Very often, there occurs a kidnapping and a journey into forests, the wild open, where the older man gives lectures to the boy about the life and the wisdom in gifts like kariola, accoutrements, magic impassibility or prophetic abilities in myths."¹⁵ (translated by author) After this experience either the young man does a heroic deed to show his devotion or dies to be born again. In the first case he becomes an adult man with excellent experiences.

¹⁴ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p.8

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 18.

This is the only possibility to become a real man. The specific example of this relationship is the couple Zeus and Ganymédes.¹⁶

Ancient Egypt has the opposite opinion. The anal contact of a man means the fact, that the man acts like a woman and loses his masculinity. To call some man effeminate was a serious insult and he was disrespected more than a slave. However, homosexuality occurs also in Ancient Egypt. Men married in the age of 15-16 and sex was easily accessible with slaves and prostitutes of both sexes. Homosexual women had very low status in ancient times and their sexual preferences were tolerated. However, the majority stayed in heterosexual marriages.¹⁷

Ancient Rome was very tolerant. The homosexuality was a common phenomenon. The ancient Romans often pestered young boys right on streets. Young, handsome boys were liked almost more than women. The women were symbols of respect and faithfulness, young men were symbols of passion and romance. The important was to be sexually active, passionate and charming, contrarily to be passive was very degrading. The activity and flirting itself was important no matter if with man or woman.¹⁸ The very apt is the quote from Ovid: *“Every lover is a soldier and has his camp in Cupid”*.¹⁹

2.3.2 The Middle Ages

With The Middle Ages very strict and clear point of view of sexuality comes. Raimond of Penyaford defines what is abnormal in sexual life and all these forms are punished and called a sin. The declaration of the Emperor Justinian that the sexual freedom produces natural disasters and famine became even stronger and it is a part of a medieval morality. Clergymen living ‘abnormal sexual life’ should be deported from monastery, other people were

¹⁶ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p.18

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 21-23.

¹⁸ Ibid., p. 48.

¹⁹ *Translation: Amores/1.9* [online]. 2014 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Translation:Amores/1.9>

removed from social life. The church claims the sodomy, including the homosexuality, is the hardest crime, harder than incest between mother and son. During this period of time homosexuality is on the same level as zoophilia. In the 1250s there is established also the legislative preventing of homosexuality. The royal decree in Castile threatens with castration in public, hanging for legs and letting die. Also the Faculty of Law in Orleans passes a law including castration, quartering and burning to death. In 1250-1300 the majority of Europe passes the law about the death penalty for homosexuality, often abused for elimination of inconvenient people.²⁰

2.3.3 Pre-Columbian America

There were founded shards of ceramic with drawings, belonging to civilizations Moche and Chimu that lived on this continent before Inca. Some of them depict homosexuals during sexual act that indicates homosexuality was not a taboo. In 1542 Bartolome de la Casas wrote that Maya's parents of teenage sons bring to them young boys for sexual practice before son's marriage. Raping of captives is common to show conqueror's dominance.²¹

Homosexuality was found also by Aztec: six years old boys disguised as girls and working as prostitutes, Aztec's god Xochipilli as the symbol and the patron of homosexual men and male prostitutes, homosexual act as ritual for clergymen, brothels with homosexual activities especially with men disguised as women. For mentioned transvestite prostitutes the term *bardaches* exists occurring in all Indian nations of the Central and Southern America.²² (See Appendix 2) Bardaches were special category in the society of Native Americans and they had a specific role there. Not only they wore clothing typical for women, they also practiced actions typical for women as pottery weaving. They took lifestyle of women completely. Bardaches played a specific

²⁰ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p. 74-75

²¹ Ibid., p. 91-92.

²² MILLER, Neil. *Out of the past: Gay and lesbian history from 1986 to the present*. London: Vintage, 1995, p. 31-34

role in traditional rituals – a bardache had sex with married men and became a second “wife” of these men. Bardaches played responsibly their role in society, never married women and there were expected they haven’t any heterosexual relations. Their sexual partner was a masculine man. The idea that two bardaches having sex together represented for indians the same lapse as incest. In common social life they often solved problems between married couples. They understood to both sides and functioned as a mediator between them. The term bardache is common by 130 Native American Tribes and their role is mostly the same.²³ This fact signifies that these small nations were very tolerant of homosexuality, contrary to Inca and Aztec in following period of time. Inca accepted a law about burning to death for homosexuality between men and Aztec punished also lesbians and transvestites.²⁴

2.3.4 Colonial America

America that time held the view that nobody can openly confess his different sexual orientation, even to practise it. Punishment for it was cruel. There are written records about homosexual activities especially during long voyages. In the year 1624 Capt. Richard Cornish was condemned to death penalty in Virginia, the reason was raping his steward. In the year 1629 it was written article about five English boys ‘enjoying themselves’ during their journey to America. They were deported back to England and punished according to the English law. The 14 years old boy, the oldest one, was reportedly hanged.²⁵

There was a legal dispute about lesbians in Colonial America because a law about homosexuality (the Buggery statute) didn’t apply to homosexual women. One side of the dispute was based on the Old Testament, where sodomy includes only men and the other was based on Roman law that wanted to punish also lesbians. Second claim won in 1636 and reverend John Cotton

²³ Ibid

²⁴ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p. 92

²⁵ FANEL, Jiří. *Gay historie*. Praha, 2000, p. 207-211

included into the law against sodomy also lesbians. This law included in addition to homosexuality also abortion, rape, adultery, bestiality and incest. For all these sins follows death penalty. In 1777 Thomas Jefferson wanted to change the death penalty into castration but his suggestion was rejected.²⁶

The long-term separation during wars supported relationships between same gender and not only between men. The French lawyer and politician Moreau de St. Méry writes in his records about relationships between American girls (only because of physical reasons) and he strictly condemns these relationships.²⁷

On the other hand, the first American president George Washington was known for his strong relationship to his older brother Lawrence and than for relationship with frontiersman and explorer Christopher Gist. Probably from social reasons he married with a rich widow but he had a weakness for young youth for all his life. Thanks to wealth of his wife he become a commander and at the moment he appointed Alexander Hamilton, young attractive youth, to his adjutant and personal secretary. This is the common argument for proving Washington's homosexuality.²⁸

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

3. GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENTS

Gay rights movements (called also homosexual right movements or gay liberation movements) are civil movements that request equalization of homosexuals and heterosexuals that include rights equalization eliminating of sodomy law and suppressing of discrimination in all areas of life. To achieve this goal there were founded groups fighting for gay rights. This chapter mentions the significant groups and their activities especially in political area and basic moments in American LGBT history.²⁹

3.1 Significant groups

When people started to cooperate and achieve for their goals together, it was the real beginning of gay rights movements. This chapter introduces the significant groups and figures.

3.1.1 The society for Human Rights in Chicago

The world after the World War II is influenced by psychiatry and the United States is not an exception. Sigmund Freud declares all people are born as bisexuals and denies that homosexuality is a mental illness. He rules out the possibility of transforming gay people into heterosexuals and denies punishments for homosexuals. The world should be tolerant and free.³⁰

Despite of the guarantee of freedom of speech, first attempts to change conditions are suppressed by state and city governments. The Chicago Society for Human rights put forward a proposal about civil rights for gay people. Although this organization was not long lasting, it is often considered as the first official organization appealing for better conditions for gay people. It was founded by the middle class (railway workers, postal workers) and was

²⁹ *Gay rights movement* [online]. 2013 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/766382/gay-rights-movement>

³⁰ MILLER, Neil. *Out of the past: Gay and lesbian history from 1986 to the present*. London: Vintage, 1995, p. 247

incorporated in Chicago on 10 December 1924. This organization was successful in putting out *Friendship and Freedom*, journal of poems and essays. There were putted out only two issues because of detention of directors. The headline in newspapers ran: *Strange sex cult exposed! There exists evidence that "points toward a well-developed underground in all the major cities."*³¹ There are identified social clubs, music halls and restaurants in cities of United States as New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco and more. There exist also organizations as Nor that protected only white gay people. *"Racial segregation ironically opened the way for the artistic expression of homosexual experience. While gay topics were punished out of white theaters in the 1920s, "race records" (ignored or misunderstood by white authorities) included Ma Rainey's renditions of "Sissy Man Blues," "B[ull] D[yke] Woman's Blues," and "Fairy Blues". Bessie Smith's participation in Detroit's "buffet flats" and Claude McKay's observations of the "dark dandies loving up their pansies" in Harlem bars leave little doubt about organized gay life among black Americans."*³²

3.1.2 The Beat generation

For new outlook and following events was important the Beat generation boom. It started with a small group of poets that rejected all conventions of the 1950s strict conservatism. They celebrated everything that was banned – drugs, homosexuality and other taboo pleasures. *Among this anarchical group were Allen Ginsberg and William Burroughs, two icons of the beat generation and by coincidence homosexuals.*³³ Firstly mentioned was lately putted in court for obscenity in his poems.³⁴

³¹ ADAM, Barry D. *The rise of a gay and lesbian movement*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1987, p. 39-42

³² Ibid.

³³ FANEL, Jiří. *Gay historie*. Praha: Dauphin, 2000, p. 359-360

³⁴ ADAM, Barry D. *The rise of a gay and lesbian movement*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1987, p. 68-69

The Beats open new perspective on current social themes including homosexuality especially in “*San Francisco (the North Beach) and New York (Greenwich Village) developed in 1960s as free zones for cultural dissidents of all types.*”³⁵

In common life strict conservatism still controls all parts of social life. The United states were open-minded to modern streams except homosexuality. Homosexuality is considered even as the reason of political problems as the end of the Roman Empire, Britain’s loss of India and many more and homosexuality is generally hated as a communism. McCarthy (Joseph Raymond McCarthy - American senator) claims that Ministry of External affairs is overfilled by communists described as homosexuals. The politic and sexual orientation is often connected – the right wing and heterosexuals are the good ones, the left wing and homosexuals are enemies for American society. In newspaper is often repeated opinion as: “*sexual deviants that influenced our government in previous years were maybe as dangerous as communists*”³⁶ by republican Guy George Gabrielson. Senator Kenneth Wherry defines a homosexual as “*mentally ill man and deviant person similar to communist*”³⁷ in New York Times. Congressman Miller openly says that gay man has desires similar to menstrual cycle of woman and that these cycles can be mitigated through sedatives.³⁸

3.1.3 Mattachine Society

According to fact that Society for Human Rights in Chicago ended after two issues of its journal, Mattachine Society is sometimes considered as the

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p. 230

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

first real homophile organization in United States sometimes as the second one.³⁹

Mattachine Society was found in Los Angeles by Henry Hay. Sources present different years of founding. Due to Spencer it was found in 1948 and in next years specifically in 1950 there were putted basic aims and traits.⁴⁰ Due to Richardson and Seidman Mattachine Society was found in April of 1951.⁴¹ The name is derived from Société Mattachine (Société Mattachine was a group of townspeople in medieval France that protested against repression through rituals and during these rituals were protesters anonymously wreathed in costumes and masks). Founder of Mattachine Society is Henry Hay, married man with children. Hay was supported by his mother and her permanent address was also the seat of Mattachine Society. One of the members of Mattachine Society Dale Jennings was accused of an affair with some commissioned officer that he denied but openly admitted his homosexuality. Possibly this is the reason why Mattachine Society starts to show in public. Mattachine Society organizes a congress in 1953 that was highly supported by five hundred homosexuals to show their requirements for human rights.⁴² That year Mattachine Society has two thousand members and one hundred discussion groups in California.⁴³

Mattachine Society was founded and perceived as politically neutral group but political conditions and homophobic (oriented against homosexuals) purges in Office of the Government forced Hay into political environment according to the fact that all political parties including Liberal overlook unfair

³⁹ *Mattachine Society* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mattachine_Society

⁴⁰ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p. 231

⁴¹ RICHARDSON, Diane a Steven SEIDMAN. *Handbook of lesbian and gay studies* [online]. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE, 2002, p. 382

⁴² SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p. 231

⁴³ RICHARDSON, Diane a Steven SEIDMAN. *Handbook of lesbian and gay studies* [online]. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE, 2002, p. 382

social conditions. At that moment Mattachine Society starts to divide into politically oriented and politically neutral members. The reason of disputes was also Hay's membership in Communist Party and animosity towards communists. After some conflicts with HUAAC (House Un-American Activities Committee) and tabloid Confidential Hay later resigns eighteen years long membership of Communist Party. Oppression of Hay resided in lasting defamatory articles about Mattachine Society and forced interrogation by HUAAC. Hay this dispute won among other things due to resigning membership of Communist Party and becoming apolitical. Contradictory fact is that leaders of this oppression McCarthy, Cohn and Hoover were homosexuals too.⁴⁴

Original Mattachine Society expanded into affiliates all over United States. Popular is for example The Mattachine Society of Washington or The Mattachine Society of New York. These non-profit organizations helped with educating in public about homosexuality, coping with individual problems relating to homosexuality, effecting changes in social life and repealing discrimination of homosexuals in laws.⁴⁵

*"Like members of other minority groups, homosexuals are interested in their rights, freedom, and basic human dignity, as homosexuals."*⁴⁶ Franklin Kameny (founder of The Mattachine Society active in Washington, D.C.)

⁴⁴ SPENCER, Colin. *Dejiny homosexuality*. Bratislava: Slovart, 1999, p. 231

⁴⁵*The Mattachine Society, Inc. of New York* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://microformguides.gale.com/Data/Introductions/20230FM.htm>

⁴⁶ ADAM, Barry D. *The rise of a gay and lesbian movement*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1987, p. 68

3.1.4 Daughters of Bilitis

Daughters of Bilitis was the first organization aiming for lesbians in the United States. Daughters of Bilitis was found in San Francisco in 1955 and the name of this organization came from a book of erotic poems *The songs of Bilitis* by Pierre Louÿs. Originally this group was mentioned only as a social club of same oriented women. The club comprised eight women including a leading couple Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. Lately the organization became involved in political environment. That time Daughters of Bilitis cooperate with Mattachine Society and struggle for the same aims. In 1956 Daughters of Bilitis started to publishing journal *Ladder*. According to someone, activities of Daughters of Bilitis were restrained. It is necessary to take account of the fact that The United States were conservative and strict against homosexuality and political interrogation and restrictions (for example against Henry Hay) are common measures.⁴⁷

In 60's Daughters of Bilitis enlarges similarly as feministic movement. Women claim same working conditions and salary inequity. This time Daughters of Bilits considers entering into some feministic organization but finally stays independent. Also the component communities in Daughters of Bilitis gain strength and found new, more radical affiliates and Daughters of Bilitis attenuates leading to end of journal *Ladder* in 1972.⁴⁸

3.2 Important moments

There are many turning points and key moments in the history of LGBT movements. The most important ones connected to gay rights movements are described in this chapter.

⁴⁷ *Dcery Bilitis* [online]. 2005 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.bengales.cz/historie/dcery-bilitis.html>

⁴⁸ Ibid.

3.2.1 Riots at the Stonewall Inn

"Christopher Street belongs to the queens" is a sentence chanted at the Stonewall riots⁴⁹

Roundups in bars with homosexual customers were a daily occurrence. At 3:00 a.m. on June 28, 1969 police raided one of the bars on Christopher Street in New York, Stonewall Inn, and included common intervention involving arrest of more obvious homosexuals and transsexuals.⁵⁰

Men in dress and women in male clothes should be brutally put in prison vans going to police station while other ones run away. Course of events was different and by police unexpected. Customers put up resistance more than usually and possibly it was caused by police's brutality. Firstly customers pelt bottles at policemen and than they add stones and other items. When customers free captives from police vans it continues more intensely. Policemen barricade themselves inside the empty club and mob chanting 'Gay Power' pelts bricks inside. The feeling of momentary freedom and the vision of long-term oppression were the main driving force. The information about riots spreads out and almost all Greenwich Village inhabitants, students, children and homeless stand up for customers and for gay rights. Neither next police cars nor police intervention help. The mob was unified and adamant, dancing, singing songs and slogans together.⁵¹ The chant *"We are the Stonewall girls / We wear our hair in curls / We don't wear underwear / We show our pubic hairs"* singing transvestite in front of policeman credibly catches that cheerful atmosphere.⁵²

⁴⁹ ANDRYSZEWSKI, Tricia. *Gay rights* [online]. Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, 2000, p. 9

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ *Stonewallské nepokoje: noc, kdy gayové a lesbičky vytáhli do boje* [online]. 2011 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://xman.idnes.cz/stonewallske-nepokoje-noc-kdy-gayove-a-lesbicky-vytahli-do-boje-ps9-/xman-styl.aspx?c=A110703_233547_xman-styl_fro

⁵² *Pride: bleaching the rainbow* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.martlet.ca/features/pride-bleaching-the-rainbow/>

The next day there were thousands of protesters chanting ‘Legalize gay bars’ and ‘Support gay power’ and other people joined. The riots lasted 5 days and changed general view on homosexuality. The conservative American society were shocked and LGBT became self confident and resolved as never before. There were founded new modern organizations as Gay Liberation Front and Gay Activists Alliance.⁵³ Stonewall riots inspired new open view on homosexuality. In time to come many people stopped feeling shame and stopped hiding their sexual orientation and their gained self-confidence was important for next progress.⁵⁴

3.2.2 First Gay pride parade

One year after Stonewall Riots on July 4, 1969 Mattachine Society conducted by Frank Kameny and Craig Rodwell organized protest in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia. This protest is called Annual Reminder and was quiet and brief. After this protest Rodwell came back to New York and organized Christopher Street Liberation Day. This parade was actually the first Gay Pride in history.⁵⁵

This Gay Pride parade in New York on June 28, 1970 drew about ten thousands marchers and “covered 51 blocks from Christopher Street to Central Park.”⁵⁶ It was realized as a memory on Stonewall riots and pride of homosexual people.⁵⁷ Next year LGBT people organized this parade in every bigger city in the U.S. The biggest success of Gay Pride parade was changing

⁵³ *Stonewallské nepokoje: noc, kdy gayové a lesbičky vytáhli do boje* [online]. 2011 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://xman.idnes.cz/stonewallske-nepokoje-noc-kdy-gayove-a-lesbicky-vytahli-do-boje-ps9-/xman-styl.aspx?c=A110703_233547_xman-styl_fro

⁵⁴ ANDRYSZEWSKI, Tricia. *Gay rights* [online]. Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, c2000, p. 10

⁵⁵ *A Brief history of the Stonewall Riots and the Gay Rights Movement* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://gaylife.about.com/od/stonewall/a/stonewallhistory_4.htm

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

of American opinion on homosexuality and marchers proudly parade without shame for the first time.⁵⁸ Lately it is realized in Paris, Stockholm, London and other big cities all over the world and celebrates lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual pride.⁵⁹

3.2.3 The rise of Harvey Milk

“It takes no compromise to give people their rights...it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression.” Harvey Milk⁶⁰

Harvey Milk is key figure of LGBT movements in the United States. Harvey Milk was “a visionary civil and human rights leader who became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the United States when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977.”⁶¹ His strength was intransigence and strong-mindedness and became quickly hope of LGBT people all over the United States.⁶²

Harvey Milk was born May 22, 1930 in New York. He came from Jewish family and his homosexual orientation realized in the course of high school, he was talented and popular student by schoolmates with interests like football, opera and soon penned student newspaper column where he gained speech abilities. He changed several jobs from teacher to production associate for Broadway musicals and starts to engage in advocacy and politics. In 1972 Milk moves to San Francisco, opens a small camera store in city’s gay community and thanks to his sense of humour and cordiality becomes popular person.

⁵⁸ ANDRYSZEWSKI, Tricia. *Gay rights* [online]. Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, c2000, p. 14

⁵⁹ *Pride Parade* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pride_parade

⁶⁰ *Harvey Milk Quotes* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/3450036.Harvey_Milk

⁶¹ *The Official Harvey Milk Biography* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://milkfoundation.org/about/harvey-milk-biography/>

⁶² Ibid.

*“Little more than a year after his arrival in the city, he declared his candidacy for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors”.*⁶³ Milk finds out Castro Village Association protecting local merchants and allowing enterprising of gay community on Castro Street. In 1977 Milk won a supervisor post and his career progresses well. He becomes an icon of homosexual community and saves them against discrimination for example in the business zone thanks to the Gay Right ordinance.⁶⁴

In 1975 Harvey Milk becomes the first city commissioner in the United States that openly admitted his gay orientation. His popularity grows and in 1978 becomes a San Francisco City-County Supervisor. His name is internationally famous and is considered to an icon of LGBT communities. His reforms require better conditions for homosexuals, protect gay rights, include anti-discrimination law and help also to heterosexuals (for example care centres for working mothers, low cost housing or the conversion of military facilities). His interest is to improve living conditions without regard to sexual orientation. He speaks out issues about human rights of women, ethnic groups and many more and urges mayor to change these shortcomings. As next Milk’s success it is mentioned lifting of gay teachers dismissing, that time very often.⁶⁵

In one of his speeches Harvey Milk says a few sentences introducing his determination and zeal: *“Gay people, we will not win our rights by staying quietly in our closets. ... We are coming out to fight the lies, the myths, the distortions. We are coming out to tell the truths about gays, for I am tired of the conspiracy of silence, so I'm going to talk about it. And I want you to talk about it. You must come out.”*⁶⁶

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ *Harvey Milk: Civil rights work* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <https://sites.google.com/site/jackiepisani/career>

⁶⁵ *The Official Harvey Milk Biography* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://milkfoundation.org/about/harvey-milk-biography/>

⁶⁶ Ibid.

In November 27, 1978 Harvey Milk was shot in the age of 48 by a former city Supervisor Dan White. That night thousands of people came silently with burning candles into streets to restore the honour of Harvey Milk and murdered mayor George Moscone, Milk's sympathizer.⁶⁷ (The life of Harvey Milk was made into a film mentioned in the chapter Popular Culture.)

Dan White was acquitted a 7 year sentence (in truth 4 years) for murder of two people. As the reason of low punishment was mentioned eating of too much junk food that day, among other things.⁶⁸ This verdict is causation of White Night Riots on May 21, 1979. By coincidence the day after Milk would have celebrated his 49th birthday.⁶⁹ An angry crowd gathered in Castro District walking through Castro Street to City Hall. The crowd grew and one participant broke window of the City Hall and fired some documents. Police took action and by using of tear gas drove the crowd away. The crowd defended by tree limbs and pieces of asphalt. The White Night Riot lasted all night. There were hospitalized about 61 policemen and at least 100 members of crowds.⁷⁰

3.2.4 The AIDS Crisis

In June 5, 1981 American journal MMWR (Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) publishes report about strange disease *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP), a serious infection that causes inflammation and fluid build up in the lungs.⁷¹ This disease was diagnosed to young homosexual men in Los Angeles. Two of them died and it caused many questions about origin, causation and treatment of this disease. In the end of the year scientists found

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ *White Night riots* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Night_riots

⁷⁰ *The White Night riot and Harvey Milk's birthday party* [online]. 2006 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://thecastro.net/milk/whitenight.html>

⁷¹ *AIDS, HIV & Pneumocystis Pneumonia* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.webmd.com/hiv-aids/guide/aids-hiv-opportunistic-infections-pneumocystis-pcp-pneumonia>

that the disease is sexually transmitted. The number of infected sharply grew. The occurrence by homosexuals caused the name GRID5 - gay related immunodeficiency syndrom, that means the illness of homosexuals.⁷²

The next wave of hatred for homosexuals triggered AIDS. *“Some medical personnel refused to treat AIDS patients. Some ambulance workers and police refused to touch patients who appeared to be gay.”*⁷³ (See the chapter Popular Culture mentioning the film Philadelphia dealing with AIDS patient.) Later the disease occurs by heterosexuals, drug users, prostitutes and high number of infected came from Haiti. That is the reason why this disease got the name ‘4H’ for a short time. ⁷⁴ Officially it is used the name AIDS meaning Acquired immune deficiency syndrome caused by infection of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus).⁷⁵

The death of movie star Rock Hudson, caused by AIDS, was headline of journals for a long time. Rock Hudson was well-known and popular actor and star of movies like *Lover Come Back*, *The Undefeated*, *Embryo*, soap opera *Dynasty* and many more. That time AIDS is not considered to be the disease of homosexuals but the disease of all people doing non-safe sex, sharing blood during drugs abusing and also of children with infected mother. AIDS outbreak calls for safe sex and monogamous partnerships by all people, not only homosexuals. The United States invests in research, treatment and prevention. The AIDS contributes to tolerance of homosexual people later, contrary to time during outbreak of AIDS. In 1990s many U.S. companies (Levi Strauss, the Apple computer company) grants benefits to homosexual employees

⁷² *Krátký přehled HIV/AIDS* [online]. 2006 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://david-daniel.blog.cz/0612/kratky-prehled-historie-hiv-aids>

⁷³ ANDRYSZEWSKI, Tricia. *Gay rights* [online]. Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, c2000, p. 24

⁷⁴ *Krátký přehled HIV/AIDS* [online]. 2006 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://david-daniel.blog.cz/0612/kratky-prehled-historie-hiv-aids>

⁷⁵ *HIV/AIDS* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HIV/AIDS>

and adopts non-discrimination policies.⁷⁶ On the other hand, on stage the musician Sebastian Bach (band Skid Row) wears T-shirt with logo similar to Raid and slogan “Aids: Kills Fags Dead.” Later he said he had no idea what it means (Sebastian Bach is rare example of illiteracy in America in the 20th century).⁷⁷

3.2.5 Antisodomy laws

The first success of events in the past (for example Stonewall riots) can be considered removing homosexuality from Official list of mental disorders in 1973. Homosexuality is generally perceived as a normal option of human sexuality not as a mental disorder. It is, among other things, based on the results of The American Psychiatric Association researching origin of homosexuality. The leader of Association Alfred Kinsey and his team strongly castigated classifying of homosexuals and heterosexuals as different types of individuals. He held an opinion that all men are equal and their sexual orientation doesn't change this fact. Kinsey implemented a Heterosexual-Homosexual scale from 0 to 6. This scale classifies sexual behaviour from absolute heterosexual orientation to absolute homosexual orientation. There includes also bisexuality (3) and incidental forms of homosexuality.⁷⁸

0 = entirely heterosexual

1 = largely heterosexual, but with incidental homosexual history

2 = largely heterosexual, but with a distinct homosexual history

3 = equally heterosexual and homosexual

⁷⁶ ANDRYSZEWSKI, Tricia. *Gay rights* [online]. Brookfield, Conn.: Twenty-First Century Books, 2000, p. 23-26

⁷⁷ MEEM, Deborah T, Michelle GIBSON a Jonathan ALEXANDER. *Finding out: an introduction to LGBT studies* [online], Calif.:SAGE, 2014, p. 138

⁷⁸ *The History of Psychiatry & Homosexuality* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://www.aglp.org/gap/1_history/

4 = largely homosexual, but with a distinct heterosexual history

5 = largely homosexual, but with incidental heterosexual history

6 = entirely homosexual⁷⁹

He also found out in his researches that 37% of men and 13% of women have had some homosexual experience.⁸⁰

The next success comes in 2003 when the Supreme Court of United States repealed the law defining homosexuality as sodomy in 13 states. Intimately behaviour is the free decision of every person in the United States and cannot be punished for it.⁸¹ This decision is known as *Lawrence v. Texas*. The name Lawrence comes from the process of John Lawrence, gay-man judged for his homosexual behaviour in Texas. In June 8, 2000 was this decision described as unconstitutional. On July 26, 2003 was this law definitely repealed in Texas and all states of the United States.⁸²

⁷⁹ *Incidence, Frequency, and the Kinsey 0-6 Scale* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <https://christiangays.com/articles/kinsey.shtml>

⁸⁰ *The History of Psychiatry & Homosexuality* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://www.aglp.org/gap/1_history/

⁸¹ CAHILL, Sean. *Same-sex marriage in the United States: focus on the facts* [online]. Lanham: Lexington Books, 2004, p. 2

⁸² *Lawrence v. Texas* [online]. 2015 [cit. 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_v._Texas

4. STATEMENT ON GAY MARRIAGE BY PRESIDENTS

In modern age gay rights movements apply especially on marriage and adoption. Gay people want to have same conditions in current life and also in legal issue. They continue to fight for their rights and refuse all disadvantages by homosexuals compared to heterosexuals. That means the impossibility of marriage and adoption. The laws and rights in modern civilized society should be same for all, irrespective to religion, colour of skin or sexual orientation. Gay people repose trust and hope to change in American president but sometimes not successfully.

4.1 Bill Clinton

Democratic President Bill Clinton was known as a person with good relations with gay-people and was known for his activism in AIDS campaigns. Despite the fact he had been familiar with gay-equality issues, in September 20, 1996 he signed The Defense of Marriage Act refusing same-sex marriage.⁸³ (See the chapter Defense of Marriage Act and Appendix 3) Later he said this stand against gay-people had been wrong and after his second presidency election openly supports gay-people and refuses their discrimination. He supports also anti-discrimination measures in employment and suppresses sexually oriented crimes.⁸⁴

Hilary Clinton, wife of Bill Clinton, supports same-sex marriages as she has told in Human Rights Campaign clip in 2013. Analysts say Clinton's statement is declared in order to her President-candidacy in 2016.⁸⁵

⁸³ *Why Bill Clinton signed The Defence of Marriage Act* [online]. 2013 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/why-bill-clinton-signed-the-defense-of-marriage-act>

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ *Hilary Clintonová podpořila sňatky gayů* [online]. 2013 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://gaynet.cz/hillary-clintonova-podporila-snatky-gayu/>

4.1.1 Don't ask, don't tell

This official policy of the United States bans participation of gays, lesbians and bisexuals in American military and lasted from December 21, 1993 till September 20, 2011. Policy was instituted by Clinton's administrative. The reason of policy was ostensibly exposure of decency and morality. The real demonstrations were the reason for launching of investigating. This processes let to an extention of the name "Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue, don't harass."⁸⁶ Although "Don't ask, don't tell" policy ended in 2011 (see the chapter Barack Obama), transvestites and people with defects of the genitalia cannot still to enter in military.⁸⁷

4.1.2 Defense of Marriage Act

Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is a federal law that allows state of the United States to refuse same-sex marriage closed in other state. DOMA was passed by Bill Clinton in 1996 and lasted until 2013 (repealed by Barack Obama). Later Clinton criticized his practises against homosexual people, DOMA wasn't mentioned.⁸⁸

During the lawsuit about Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in Supreme Court Justice Ruth Ginsburg introduced the term 'full marriage' and 'skim-milk marriage', in which full marriage means marriage between man and woman and skim-milk marriage means the same-sex marriage. Justice Ginsburg takes the side of homosexuals when she says that DOMA is unfair to gay people when their marriage is not legal in all states in the United States and don't have same benefits as straight-couples like Social Security Perks and others. According to

⁸⁶ *A Recent History of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal* [online]. 2011 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/06/27/988893/-A-Recent-History-of-Don-t-Ask-Don-t-Tell-Repeal#>

⁸⁷ *Don't ask, don't tell* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Don%27t_ask,_don%27t_tell

⁸⁸ *Defense of Marriage Act* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_of_Marriage_Act

Justice Ginsburg these disadvantages lead to underprivileged marriage and it is the reason why the term skim-milk marriage.⁸⁹

4.2 George Bush

In February 24, 2004 republican President George Bush gives a speech as a reaction on legalizing same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. In this speech openly criticizes same-sex marriage and mentions following positions:⁹⁰

*"After more than two centuries of American jurisprudence and millennia of human experience, a few judges and local authorities are presuming to change the most fundamental institution of civilization"*⁹¹

*"Activist courts have left the people with one recourse. If we're to prevent the meaning of marriage from being changed forever, our nation must enact a constitutional amendment to protect marriage in America"*⁹²

This statement attracted much criticism and reactions all over the world during 2004. The mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom, gave marriage licenses for same-sex couples although he wasn't authorized enough.⁹³ (See chapter Prop 22.) Senator John Kerry's spokeswoman says the Bush's speech is just another attempt to divide the nation.⁹⁴

⁸⁹ *The Skim Milk in Edith Windsor's marriage* [online]. 2013 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/the-skim-milk-in-edith-windsors-marriage>

⁹⁰ *Fast Facts: Same-sex marriage* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/05/31/us/ff-same-sex-marriage/>

⁹¹ *Bush calls for ban on same-sex marriages* [online]. 2014 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://edition.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/02/24/elec04.prez.bush.marriage/>

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ JASON PIERCESON, Adriana Piatti-Crocker. *Same-sex marriage in the Americas policy innovation for same-sex relationships*[online]. Lanham, Md: Lexington Books, 2010, p. 185

⁹⁴ *Bush calls for ban on same-sex marriage* [online]. 2004 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://edition.cnn.com/2004/ALLPOLITICS/02/24/elec04.prez.bush.marriage/>

4.2.1 Federal Amendment

Federal Marriage Amendment, proposed amendment to Constitution of the United States of America, recognizes marriage as a marriage between man and woman. This amendment is openly supported by George Bush during his President-candidacy. The marriage between man and woman is the only possible form of marriage in a decent society, said Bush.⁹⁵ Federal Marriage Amendment repeatedly died in the Committee on the Judiciary.⁹⁶

4.3 Barack Obama

Barack Obama is open-minded and gay-friendly president for the first time in the history of the United States. He isn't afraid openly discuss about gay-people issues and takes their side also in political area. Thanks to him "Don't ask, don't tell" policy was officially repealed on September 20, 2011 after seventeen years. Openly admitted homosexuality is not the reason for thrown and discrimination in military. Obama said that almost two millions of gay-people are trained and able to enter a military during his utterance about "Don't ask, don't tell" ban.⁹⁷

In May 9, 2012 during an interview in ABC the president Barack Obama supported same-sex marriages. Obama said: *"I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."*⁹⁸ He is the first president of the United States who openly supported same-sex marriages.⁹⁹ On the other hand, he changes his

⁹⁵ *Bush se pokusí znovu prosadit zákaz* [online]. 2004 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://archiv.ihned.cz/c1-15336640-bush-se-pokusi-znovu-prosadit-zakaz>

⁹⁶ *Federal Marriage Amendment* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Marriage_Amendment#Bush_administration.27s_stance

⁹⁷ *Pravidlo "Neptej se a mlč" končí. Gayové můžou do armády* [online]. 2010 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ct24/svet/104792-pravidlo-neptej-se-a-mlc-konci-gayove-muzou-do-armady/>

⁹⁸ *President Obama supports same-sex marriage* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/05/10/obama-supports-same-sex-marriage>

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

stances very often. In 2008 Obama said that marriage, because he is a Christian, is a sacred union between man and woman according to God.¹⁰⁰

¹⁰⁰ *Same-sex marriage in the United States* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_the_United_States

5. MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES IN CALIFORNIA

California is different and more complicated than other states in the route to equality. On January 1, 1999 California implements a domestic-partner registry and ensures visitations in hospitals to same-sex couples.¹⁰¹ After all difficulties and attempts described below California legalized same-sex marriage in June 26, 2013.¹⁰²

5.1 California Legislative LGBT Caucus

In 2002 there was established California Legislative LGBT Caucus. This political organization was made up of LGBT people and was and still is committed to legislation of California.¹⁰³ *“Its role is to present a forum for the CA Legislature to discuss issues that affect LGBT Californians and to further the goal of equality and justice for all Californians. Formation of the LGBT Caucus made CA the first state in the country to recognize an official caucus of openly-LGBT state legislators.”*¹⁰⁴ The examples of bills suggested by California Legislative LGBT Caucus are:

- Non-discrimination in foster care (vetoed by Governor G. Davis in 2002)
- To provide fund AIDS research and care in California (approved in 2003)
- Require HIV testing of pregnant women (approved in 2003)
- Amend the Education Code to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation (vetoed by Governor A. Schwarzenegger in 2006)

¹⁰¹ *Domestic partnership in California* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_partnership_in_California

¹⁰² *Manželství je i pro gaye a lesby, rozhodl nejvyšší soud USA* [online]. 2013 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://www.tyden.cz/rubriky/zahranici/amerika/manzelstvi-je-i-pro-gaye-a-lesby-rozhodl-nejvyssi-soud-usa_274710.html#.VRaLNfmG9NE

¹⁰³ *LGBT history in California* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_history_in_California#21st_century

¹⁰⁴ *California Legislative* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://lgbtcaucus.legislature.ca.gov/>

- Prohibit discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity (approved in 2006)
- Declare May 22 as Harvey Milk State Holiday (vetoed by Governor A. Schwarzenegger in 2008)
- Repeal section of the California Welfare and Institutions code doing researches about the “*causes and cures of homosexuality.*”¹⁰⁵ (accepted in 2010)
- Permit pharmacists and physicians to furnish up to 30 hypodermic needles and syringes for human use, without a prescription or city/county authorization, to a person 18 years or older (accepted in 2011)
- Establish the California Bullying Prevention Coordinating Center in schools (suggested in 2013)¹⁰⁶

California Legislative LGBT Caucus is responsible for basic changes in law in California, mainly for better living conditions of Californians and LGBT people there. By 2006 this organization publishes Pride Recognition Awards for people that significantly contribute to better conditions of LGBT people. Awards are divided due to activities in several groups as community activism, health and human services, business, film and television, fashion, military service, sports, music, theatre and more. As few examples it can be mentioned following awarded.¹⁰⁷

In 2006 Bishop Dr. Yvette A. Flunder was awarded for community activism, health and human services. In the same year Ms. Honey Labrador (filmmaker, model) was awarded for activities in fashion, film and television. Mr. Esera Tuaolo (former NFL defensive lineman) was awarded for sport activities. In 2009 Ivy Bottini was awarded for her extensive pioneering work

¹⁰⁵ *Legislation* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://lgbtcaucus.legislature.ca.gov/legislation>

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ *Pride Recognition Awards* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://lgbtcaucus.legislature.ca.gov/pride-recognition-awards>

and for being strong civil leader. In the same year Miss Major was awarded for work with transgender community and activities inhibiting AIDS transfer. In 2010 Dr. William Beck was awarded for his lifelong commitment to the LGBT community. In the same year Cecilia Chung and Professor David Cruz were awarded for advocacy for LGBT community and Armistead Maupin for novels portraying the lives of LGBT people. In 2012 Dustin Lance Black (screenwriter, film and television producer) was awarded for LGBT right activism. In 2013 Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato were awarded for provocative documentaries.¹⁰⁸

5.2 Prop 22

Proposition 22 (Prop 22) was a law in California accepted in 2000 inhibiting marriage of same-sex people and is as follows:¹⁰⁹

“This initiative measure is submitted to the people in accordance with the provisions of Article II, Section 8, of the California Constitution.

This initiative measure adds a section to the Family Code; therefore, new provisions proposed to be added are printed in italic type to indicate that they are new.

PROPOSED LAW

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the "California Defense of Marriage Act."

SECTION 2. Section 308.5 is added to the Family Code, to read:

308.5. Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.”¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ *California Proposition 22* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_22_\(2000\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_22_(2000))

¹¹⁰ *Text of Proposition 22* [online]. 2000 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://vigarchive.sos.ca.gov/2000/primary/propositions/22text.htm>

The author is William Knight, American state senator, politician, aeronautical engineer and astronaut. Because of that Prop 22 is also called The Knights Initiative. Knight hoped that Prop 22 picks up on Proposed 6, law about ban of gay-men and lesbians working as teachers of 1978 stopped thanks to Harvey Milk.¹¹¹

Prop 22 was voted by public. The campaign about supporting and opposing the measures was financed mainly by private individuals. Opponents of the Proposition 22 included David Bohnett (internet entrepreneur donated with \$350,000) and Bruce Bastian (philanthropist, LGBT rights supporter donated \$250,000). Supporters of Proposition 22 and therefore opponents of same-sex marriage are Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles (donated \$144,998) and Helping Hands Ministries (donated \$440,000).¹¹² The result was 61 (for):39(against) however previous research had showed the majority of voters didn't agree with this law. It started a wave of attempts to legalize same-sex marriage.¹¹³

From February 12 to March 11, 2004 Mayor Gavin Newsom gave same-sex marriage licenses to 4000 couples in San Francisco. People had gotten married (including Knight's son David Knight that married his male partner) but lately their marriages were nullified by the California Supreme Court. As Supreme Court of California ruled, Mayor Gavin Newsom had bypassed state law. In 2005-2006 Mark Leno presents his view of bill and wants a possibility of same-sex marriage during sitting of California State Legislation.¹¹⁴ On September 2, 2005 the California Senate approves the

¹¹¹ *William J. Knight* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_J._Knight

¹¹² *California Proposition 22, Limit on Marriages* [online]. 2000 [accessed 2015-04-17], [http://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_22,_Limit_on_Marriages_\(2000\)](http://ballotpedia.org/California_Proposition_22,_Limit_on_Marriages_(2000))

¹¹³ *California Proposition 22* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_22_\(2000\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_22_(2000))

¹¹⁴ *California Proposition 22* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_22_\(2000\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_22_(2000))

proposal but it is vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Governor states that the decision about same-sex marriage should depend on courts and public. This attempt was realized once more in 2006, this time was vetoed by reason that “*the California Supreme Court needed to finish its rule on the challenge which had been made to Proposition.*”¹¹⁵ A few month before the California Supreme Court decision was established Proposition 8.¹¹⁶

5.3 Prop 8

Proposition 8 often reduced to Prop 8 was law with the same requirement as Prop 22. Prop 8 appeals on California Constitution in 2008 and requires constitutional amendment, that only marriage between man and woman it the real one. 52% of votes vote for the amendment, 48% again. Prop 8 was openly supported by Mormons, religious group in the United States, and by politicians including George Bush. Prop 8 came into force immediately after elections on November 5, 2008. That day protested same-sex couples, political institutions, nullified couples from 2004 and collectively pressed charges. Proposition 8 was found unconstitutional in 2010 (goes into effect in 2013).¹¹⁷ By that day same-sex marriages are allowed in California. (See Appendix 4 to see the current situation about same-sex marriages in the United States of America)

¹¹⁵ *Same sex marriage in California* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Same-sex_marriage_in_California#Proposition_22_.282000.29

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ *California Proposition 8* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_8_\(2008\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_Proposition_8_(2008))

6. POPULAR CULTURE

All events and important movements all over the world are reflected in popular culture, whether in music, films or sport. LGBT movements in the United States are no exception. Conversely, the popular culture in the United States is even more popular than in other countries. It is caused by Universal Studios Hollywood, actors, musicians and sportsmen known all over the world. And maybe by the fact that homosexuality in the United States is more normal these days than everywhere on the world.

6.1 Film industry

The important role in popular culture plays definitely the film industry. The candour of movies and documents reciprocally relates with the candour of society. In 1950's people didn't want to see particular themes including homosexuality. The perfect picture of society was mother, father and their two children sitting with their dog by the television. In addition, the fact that gay-people were on the same level of hatred as communist wasn't very positive. Popular culture in 1950's overlooked gay-people and pretended homosexuality didn't exist. At the time the United States had a Production code (sometimes called Hays code after Will Hays, president of the Motion Picture Association of America) denoting rules in movies. Homosexual relationships and all kind of hints were strictly banned.¹¹⁸

In 1960's Hays code undermines and it affirms the film *Advise and Consent* by Otto Preminger, first film showing homosexual theme that time, powerful man is blackmailed because of his olden homosexual romance.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ *Motion Picture Production Code* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motion_Picture_Production_Code

¹¹⁹ *Tématika LGBT ve filmu a televizi* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tematika_LGBT_ve_filmu_a_televizi

In 1970's Stonewall Riots and attention on this theme reflects in film industry. Cinematography is open-minded and it brings films like *A Very Natural Thing* (1974 by Christopher Larkin) or *Dog Day Afternoon* (1975 by Sidney Lumet) and *Girlfriends* (1978 by Claudia Weill).¹²⁰

In 1980's cinematography reflects themes about homosexuality more often including *Can't Stop The Music* (1980 by Nancy Walker, the story in Greenwich Village) and it also reflects AIDS issues. Films in which transvestites and homosexual people are showed in negative way are also frequent for example in *Windows* (1980 by Gordon Willis) where psychopathic lesbian woman chases the heterosexual heroine. Interesting is sometimes also the background of films not only the story. In *Making Love* (1982 by Arthur Hiller) two main actors were so afraid of conviction that this fear affected their acting that society really decried this film.¹²¹

1990's and the 21st century means a real flourish of cinematography and also films with homosexual issues. *The Philadelphia* (1993 by Jonathan Demme) celebrated real success. Main roles were performed by respected actors like Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks and Antonio Banderas. Impressive story about reputable lawyer discriminated for his AIDS disease and homosexuality changed stereotypical opinion on gay-people. In 2003 Charlize Theron performed biographical story of American serious killer Aileen Wournos in the film *Monster*. The film was supported by unbelievable transformation of a beautiful model into a murdering ugly monster and also with Theron's convincing acting. Aileen is a prostitute with sad life living in highways, pubs and dirty toilets and probably through cruel behaviour of her 'johns' is she attracted by young naive woman, harbour in her world. Charlize Theron deservedly won Oscar for this film.¹²²

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

Great acclaim got *Transamerica* (2005 by Duncan Tucker) about transsexual man that want to be operated on woman portrayed by Felicity Huffman. The film tells a story about her/his road-trip with her/his newly found son in humorous way. Probably the most controversial film is *Brokeback Mountain* (2005 by Ang Lee) heretofore. The film tells a story about the love of two men living in conservative American countryside in 1960'. Both men have heterosexual relationships and despairingly wish to be 'normal'. They 'start' as friends travelling together to mountains but it grows into a romance. The film is remarkable because of the strong view how people that time wished to suppress their litch, blend and to be like other people and this theme is in fact still actual. Main roles were portrayed by Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger and the film won a lot of awards including Oscar and Golden Globe Award. Very important film telling a story about the famous man of LGBT movement is definitely *Milk* (2008 by Gus Van Sant). The biography of Harvey Milk truly says his story from his meeting with long-life partner to his death and mourning procession with candles. Harvey Milk was portrayed by Sean Penn and excellently depicted Milk's determination, cordiality and kindness. Penn was awarded by Oscar.¹²³

In 1990's there was found out a stream called New Queer Cinema. This stream openly shows characters of people regardless of their sexual orientation. For example paedophilia can be found by heterosexual and homosexual people, orientation doesn't play a role. Film-makers of this stream are Derek Jarman, Tom Kalin and others.¹²⁴

Themes about LGBT people are reflected also in documentaries. As documentaries introducing AIDS issues can be mentioned *We Were Here* (2011 by David Weissman and Bill Weber) about the people in San Francisco during early AIDS crisis and their ability to stick together. *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* (1989) tells true stories of five people marked by AIDS

¹²³ *IMDb Movies* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://www.imdb.com/?ref_=nv_home

¹²⁴ *Tématika LGBT ve filmu a televizi* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tematika_LGBT_ve_filmu_a_televizi

disease. New documentary *How To Survive a Plague* (2012) catches the transformation of infected people, actions and revolutions of activist group Act Up. Numerous documentaries monitored process of LGBT movement as *The Times Of Harvey Milk* (1987) and *Stonewall Uprising* (2010). Authentic recordings excellently capture the reality of that time.¹²⁵

The document *Licensed to Kill* (1997 by Arthur Dong) catches the mind of homophobic men whose hatred to homosexuals led to a murder.¹²⁶ *Cruel and Unusual: Transgender women in prison* (2006), document by Janet Baus and Dan Hunt shows the suffering of transgender women in American prisons. *“Imagine being a woman in a men's prison. For many individuals, this is a grim reality because the U.S. prison system decides where to place inmates based on their genitalia, not their gender identity. This award-winning documentary makes an unflinching examination of transgender women in men's prisons”*.¹²⁷

6.1.1 GLAAD Media Award

By 1990, non-profit organization Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation (GLAAD) every year awards production of LGBT people and their contribution in medial area. GLAAD Media Award is very similar to award Oscar and the ceremony evening is a prestigious event. By 2005 is this ceremonial showed in television. GLAAD Media Award diverse awards into categories like documentary, comedy series, newspaper article, blog, music artist and many others. The latest 26th GLAAD Media Award ceremonial was held on

¹²⁵ *10 Best Documentaries About LGBT History* [online]. 2014 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://nonfics.com/best-lgbt-documentaries-2/>

¹²⁶ *Licensed to Kill* [online]. 1997 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0119530/plotsummary?ref_=tt_ov_pl

¹²⁷ *Cruel and Unusual: Transgender Women in Prison* [online]. [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://documentaryaddict.com/cruel+and+unusual+transgender+women+in+prison-11171-doc.html>

May 9, 2015 in New York and awarded were for example blog Autostraddle and drama Days of Our Lives.¹²⁸

6.2 Coming-out in popular culture

The coming out (self-disclosure of homosexual orientation)¹²⁹ is more or less a hard act and it is definitely the turning point in life of same-sex oriented people. In many times coming out doesn't come because of many reason as career, fear, maternity instinct and others. The decision to openly confess homosexual orientation is hard especially because of fear of reactions by people and when the person is famous the confession is much harder. But in area of popular culture is very important coming out of famous people because their courage is very often the inspiration for other people.

6.2.1 Ellen DeGeneres

Ellen DeGeneres is a favourite American comedian, actress and star of The Ellen DeGeneres Show. Her coming out in 1997 through The Oprah Winfrey Show inspired same-sex oriented people all over the world (especially women). In some interviews she described sexual abusing by her step father, cancer of her mother and other things in very open way. She denied these events let to her sexual orientation. She also mentioned the past discrimination in her career. For three years after her coming out Ellen was vilified and lost job, now she is on top of her career. Her opened-hearted and sincere speech is admirable. Ellen's partner Portia de Rossi, American actress, admitted the fear of reactions, losing job and modelling demands led to her eating disorder and it almost killed her. By 2008 they are married and both say it is the best time of her life now. In 2011 Ellen was named as special envoy for Global AIDS Awareness.¹³⁰

¹²⁸ *26th GLAAD Media Awards* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/26th_GLAAD_Media_Awards

¹²⁹ *Coming Out* [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coming_out

¹³⁰ *Ellen DeGeneres (Sexual abuse, Coming Out, Oscars)* [online]. 2010 [accessed 2015-04-17], <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-3S7jVBBG4>

6.2.2 Jason Collins

NBA player Jason Collins was the first active player in professional basketball in the United States that announced he is gay. He announced it through Sports Illustrated magazine and said he doesn't want to talk about his privacy more. His team in NBA and trainer supported him and appreciated his coming out. His decision was supported also by President Barack Obama, his wife Michelle and ex-president Bill Clinton. His jersey with number 98 become a bestseller on NBA e-shop after his coming out.¹³¹

“Everybody wanted to know what it’s like to play in a game as an openly gay man in the NBA. From the moment I stepped onto the court to the moment the final buzzer sounded – it was the same as my previous 12 years.

I was locked in. Nothing was different. I did what I always do. Being gay certainly didn’t affect how I played. I tipped rebounds to teammates, tried to de-cleat opponents with my screens, and I did my best to make life miserable for the opposing big. When the ball tipped off, I realized something that I wish I could instill in every single coach, GM, and player reading this.

IT’S STILL JUST BASKETBALL...

In the locker room after the first few games, there were a lot more cameras in front of me than usual ... After a couple weeks, the media coverage shifted off of me because there are only so many ways you can write a story about having a gay teammate.”¹³²

¹³¹ Jason Collins [online]. 2015 [accessed 2015-04-17], http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Collins#Coming_out

¹³² Jason Collins, *first openly gay player retires: our indifference is his triumph* [online]. 2014 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2014/nov/20/jason-collins-gay-nba-player-retires>

7. QUESTIONNAIRE

The aim of this questionnaire survey was to find out how LGBT people sense the situation and changes in the 21st century after LGTB movements. Questions were focused mainly on marriage, travelling, adoption and popular culture. The questionnaire was created on the web page Survio.com and was shared via e-mail, forums (Vinted.cz), private groups (Facebook.com), LGBT chats and dating sites (Us21.chatzy.com and Gayspeak.com).

The questionnaire has 11 questions. Questions 1, 2 and 3 are informative questions with the aim to know the name (optional), the country of origin and current place of living because these places play the important role in answer of the respondent. There isn't a question about the age of a respondent because not the age but sexual orientation is essential in this questionnaire. Next questions are about the perception of homosexuality in 21st century, tolerance in the world, gay marriage, adoption and the popular culture. Respondents were born in the United States, the Czech Republic, Bangladesh, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Thailand. They are living in the United States, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

This questionnaire was built in a qualitative not quantitative way. The place for answer was opened and respondents had an opportunity to share their opinions more specifically than through check-boxes. The list of results consists either of the table with particular answers or of the graph, if some answers dominates and interesting answers are published below. Every question is commented by author. Some questions (4, 6, 9 and 10) were mainly answered by one word – yes or no. Contrarily the question 11 about adoption elicited intense reactions with similar attitude.

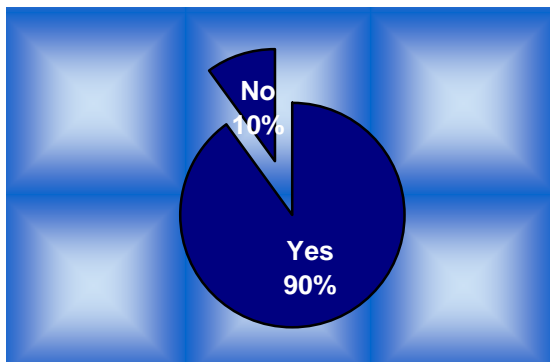
Some respondents, especially from not English-speaking countries, answered with broken English. Despite this fact all answers are understandable and are published in the original way. The author believes that the natural answers have bigger value than the corrected ones.

7.1 Results

The list of respondents including optional name (question 1), country of origin (question 2) and current place of living (question 3).

	Name (optional)	Country of origin	Current place of living
Respondent 1	Tereza	The Czech Rep.	The Czech Rep.
Respondent 2	James	USA	USA
Respondent 3	Bee	Bangladesh	UK
Respondent 4	Michael	USA	The Czech Rep.
Respondent 5	Lucie	The Czech Rep.	The Czech Rep.
Respondent 6	Caroline	USA	USA (Virginia)
Respondent 7	anonymous	UK	UK
Respondent 8	anonymous	Thailand	USA
Respondent 9	Ann	UK	The Czech Rep.
Respondent 10	anonymous	New Zealand	The Czech Rep. (Prague)

*Question 4: Do you think that the perception of homosexuality is improving?
Have there been any different changes in your opinion in the 21st century?*



Interesting answers:

Respondent 1 Tereza: Yes I think there are some different, but still is there some problems.

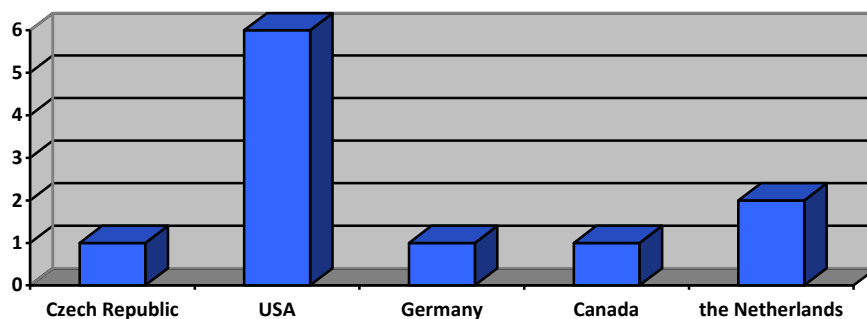
Respondent 5 Lucie: Yes, I think so. No, there haven't.

Respondent 6 Caroline: Yes it has but there's to work to do.

Respondent 9 Ann: Slowly, but i guess so. More famous people are coming out.

Almost all respondents feel the perception of homosexuality is improving and the majority answered with "yes". There is mentioned more people coming out so the tolerance in society gets better. Respondents also admit improving is slow and there are still some problems (probably meant as discrimination) but it is better than in the past. Only respondent 8 from Thailand living in USA answered "no" but this respondent was not specific.

Question 5: Which country is the most tolerant toward homosexuality in your opinion?

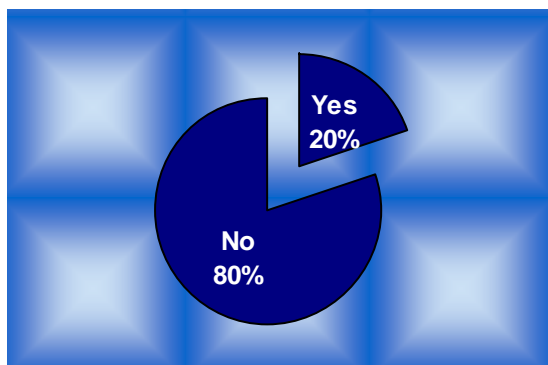


Interesting answer:

Respondent 1 Tereza: I think it is Amsterdam or Berlin (their mayor is gay)

Six respondents answered the most tolerant country are the United States. Two of them are living in the United States. One respondent specified his answer on New York. One respondent living in the Czech Republic answered the Czech Republic is also the most tolerant country. One respondent didn't answer and two respondents mentioned two countries at the same time (Canada and Netherlands, Netherlands and Berlin in Germany). Respondent Tereza said that the Mayor of Berlin is gay-man so it is probably tolerant country. She thinks that the attendance of gay-people in politics reflects the toleration of country (city).

Question 6: Does tolerance play any role in your choice of vacation destination?



Respondent 1, Tereza: Definitely!

Respondent 10, anonymous: No, i've travelled to Jordan and lots of non gay friendly destinations

This result is surprising, eight respondents answer the tolerance of the country don't play any role in choice of vacation destination. Probably the fact that they have to hide their sexual orientation in non gay-friendly countries is not the barrier. Only two respondents answer the tolerance of the country play some role in choice of vacation destination.

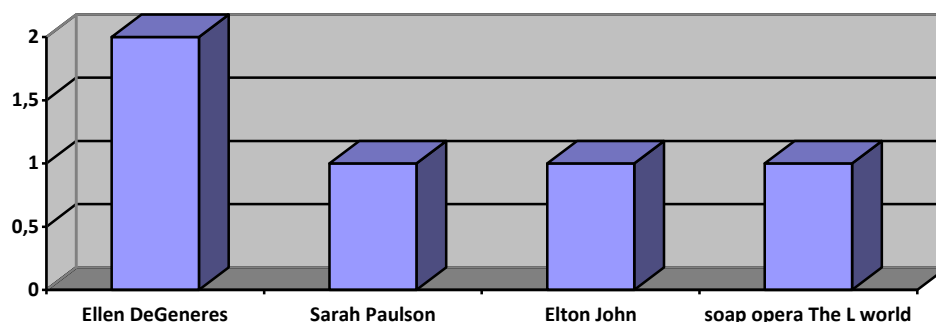
Question 7: How do you feel about the representation of homosexuals in Hollywood movies? (gay men = women's best friend, gay men are often attractive, or effeminate)

Respondent 1	It is nothing unusual because gay mens are often best friends for womans because they like fashion and this thinks. But not every gay men is effeminate.
Respondent 2	It is what it is. It doesn't bother or affect me.
Respondent 3	I don't see it like this. This is just some common misconception. You have films like Single man or TV shown like Queer as folk or Accused.

Respondent 4	I don't care.
Respondent 5	I think it is real representation. The most of them behave this way in real life.
Respondent 6	I love them dearly
Respondent 7	It sucks
Respondent 8	I don't care as long as they are portrayed fairly
Respondent 9	Its a stereotype
Respondent 10	Pretty good representation of gay men.

Answers are very diverse. Some respondents think the representation in movies is depicted due to real life. Some respondents don't take attention to this fact however until the time they are portrayed in fairly way and some respondents are angry because of this representation.

Question 8: Have there been any gay or lesbian celebrities / famous people in your life who have inspired you in terms of your sexuality / orientation?



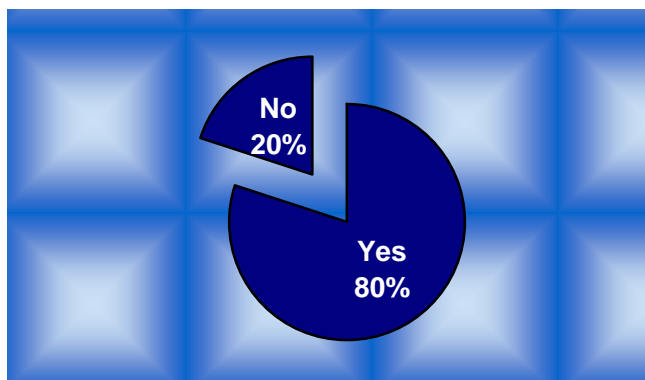
Respondent 1, Tereza: Not entirely famous people. But serial the L world help me with my personal coming-out. Because I saw there I can live like normal heterosexual.

Respondent 7: Everyone in Orange is the New Black, Sarah Paulson, Ellen

Respondent 10: Loosely, Sir Elton John

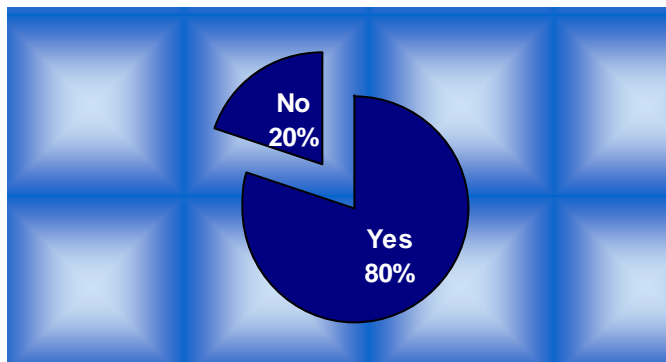
Five respondents answered they were not inspired by any famous person. Probably they are naturally calm with their sexual orientation or they didn't need some inspiration for example for their coming out. Two respondents mentioned American comic actress Ellen DeGeneres that came out in 1997. Respondent 1 mentioned she was not inspired by person but by soap opera The L world about group of lesbians in Los Angeles. Respondent 10 mentioned he was inspired by Elton John but only loosely.

Question 9: Is marriage as an institution important to you?



For the majority is marriage an important institution. This answer was quite predictable but as we have seen in question 6 also predictable questions can surprised. The majority (8 respondents) answered by one word yes. The institution is not important for 2 respondents. This result shows for gay-people is marriage as important institution as for heterosexual people.

Question 10: Is gay marriage or some form of civil union / registered partnership legal in your country of origin?



8 respondents answered that marriage or registered partnership is legal in their country of origin. 2 respondents from USA (not specified) and from Bangladesh answered no. Answers were no more commented.

Question 11: What is your general opinion of adoption for gay / lesbian couples?

Respondent 1	I think we need to be taken like normal people. Lots of people are scary about us, they think homosexuality is illness or something like this. And this is wrong!
Respondent 2	I am unsure. I want to have kids but sometimes i wonder if bringing a child into such a relationship is a good thing. That child will get a lot of backlash from society and what if it is a sin, this lifestyle...As a gay man and also a Christian this is something i think about often.
Respondent 3	Everyone should be able to adopt. For a child is better to have a family and it doesn't matter if it is man and woman, single man, single woman or a gay couple.
Respondent 4	Me and my husband have adopted child. It is a boy. And I think it

	should be legal everywhere. Cuz sometimes, you can give them better home than real parents.
Respondent 5	This is so complicated topic...in my opinion children need love, and it doesn't matter who give it to them. It's better to be in loving gay/lesbian family than in orphanage. But on the other way children should grow up with both male and female views of live.
Respondent 6	They should be granted the right to do so
Respondent 7	So wonderful
Respondent 8	I think it's great that more and more places are legalising gay/lesbian marriage.
Respondent 9	I am definitely for
Respondent 10	Children deserve good parents. Regardless of the parents orientation.

This question elicited intense reactions with similar attitude. Adoption should be legalized because gay people should give same love to children as heterosexual people. Sexual orientation doesn't play any role. Respondent 4 from USA mentioned he and his partner adopted a child and it should be legal everywhere. On the other hand, respondent 5 admitted that a child should grow up with view of life of both sex. Respondent 2 mentioned that he is scared from reactions and possibly bulling of these children because they live in another type of family.

8. CONCLUSION

The goal of the bachelor thesis was to describe main events that led to current situation in the United States and to describe the situation in 21st century from the political and public point of view. Next goal was to find out the stance and opinions of gay people about the situation today. The first part of the theoretical section (including history and important moments) is based primarily on the print sources and the second section (including political and popularizing point of view) is based on internet sources, partially because this topic is a very current one.

The practical part of the bachelor thesis is a questionnaire that inquires opinion of gay-people on current situation, coming-outs of famous people, marriage and adoption. The questionnaire was shared on LGBT forums and chats via internet and was filled out by 10 respondents from USA, Great Britain and Czech Republic. The number of respondents should be suitable in terms of the content of the questionnaire, as the questions were of a more qualitative nature. Higher numbers of respondents could be required for a more extensive research.

The questionnaire reveals that almost all respondents feel that the situation and rights of LGBT people are better than in the past, but this is not actually the case. The United States is considered to be the most tolerant country. People are influenced by popular culture and they are inspired by soap operas and coming-outs of famous people. The cult of marriage is important for the majority but they have different opinions on the adoption. They mention that love to child can be given by all people without regard to sexual orientation but they also admit the fear of child's bullying and impossibility to grow up with both models of gender.

This bachelor thesis can be useful for people that want to know basic history of LGBT movement in the United States and the oppression and sufferings of LGBT people today. Because frequent teen suicides and the fact that a lot of people still fear to confess homosexual orientation shows that the society is still not as tolerant as it is presented. Only the individual can change this fact through support of LGBT people. Because, as Brad Pitt said: *"no one*

*has the right to deny another their life, even though they disagree with it, because everyone has the right to live the life they so desire if it doesn't harm another and because discrimination has no place in America".*¹³³ And in the whole world, isn't it? Anyway, the mentioned chapter about the homosexuals in Ancient Greek shows that the term 'normal orientation' is speculative and only the society determines it. It can change everyone of us – we are the society.

¹³³ *Brad Pitt's Against Gay Marriage* [online]. 2012 [accessed 2015-04-17], <http://www.newnownext.com/brad-pitt-mom-jane-pitt-gay-marriage-mitt-romney/07/2012/>

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10. ABSTRACT

This bachelor thesis deals with the LGBT movements in the United States and the analysis of this trend in politics and popular culture. The aim is to introduce the explanation of basic terms, briefly outlines the historical position of gay people in the world and focuses on the United States in detail. The thesis defines organizations that led to important moments in gay and lesbian history in the United States and describes this moments. It includes statements on same-sex marriage by American presidents and describes complicated way to legalizing of same-sex marriage in California. The overview of the gay-rights laws today in the United States is clearly depicted through maps. The next part deals with popular culture and the showing of LGBT people especially in film industry. The practical part deals with the results of questionnaire which asks for common themes to gay people. The contribution of this bachelor thesis can be found in characteristic of history of gay movements, in description of the situation in 21st century and also in opinions of people that sense these events best.

11. RESUMÉ

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá hnutím za práva leseb, gayů, bisexuálů a transgender osob ve Spojených státech amerických a analýzou tohoto trendu v politice a populární kultuře. Cílem je vysvětlit základní termíny, stručně popsat pozici gayů ve světě z historického hlediska a nejvíce se zaměřit na Spojené státy americké. Práce definuje organizace, které vedly k důležitým okamžikům americké historie gayů, a tyto okamžiky popisuje. Zahrnuje postoj prezidentů Spojených států amerických na manželství osob stejného pohlaví a popisuje komplikovanou cestu k legalizování těchto svazků v Kalifornii. Celkový přehled současných práv gayů ve Spojených státech je přehledně zobrazen na mapě. Další část se zabývá populární kulturou a zobrazováním leseb, gayů, bisexuálů a transgender osob zejména ve filmovém průmyslu. Praktická část se zabývá výsledky dotazníku, který pokládá homosexuálům otázky k aktuálním tématům. Přínos této bakalářské práce lze nalézt v charakteristice hnutí za práva gayů, v popisu situace 21. století a také v názorech lidí, kterých se tyto události týkají nejvíce.

12. APPENDICES

12.1 Appendix 1: Photo of LGBT flag

12.2 Appendix 2: Photo of Bardache

12.3 Appendix 3: Statement on DOMA by president Bill Clinton

12.4 Appendix 4: Map showing same-sex marriage situation in the United States in 2015

12.5 Appendix 5: The questionnaire

12.1 Appendix 1

Photo of LGBT flag



Source:<http://www.oneequalworld.com/2013/04/22/salon-announces-lgbtq-blogger-conference/>

12.2 Appendix 2

Photo of Bardache



Source:<https://soloosos.wordpress.com/2011/02/03/february-3th-a-zuni-princess-visited-washington/>

12.3 Appendix 3

Statement on DOMA by president Bill Clinton

Throughout my life I have strenuously opposed discrimination of any kind, including discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans. I am signing into law H.R. 3396, a bill relating to same-gender marriage, but it is important to note what this legislation does and does not do.

I have long opposed governmental recognition of same-gender marriages and this legislation is consistent with that position. The Act confirms the right of each state to determine its own policy with respect to same gender marriage and clarifies for purposes of federal law the operative meaning of the terms "marriage" and "spouse".

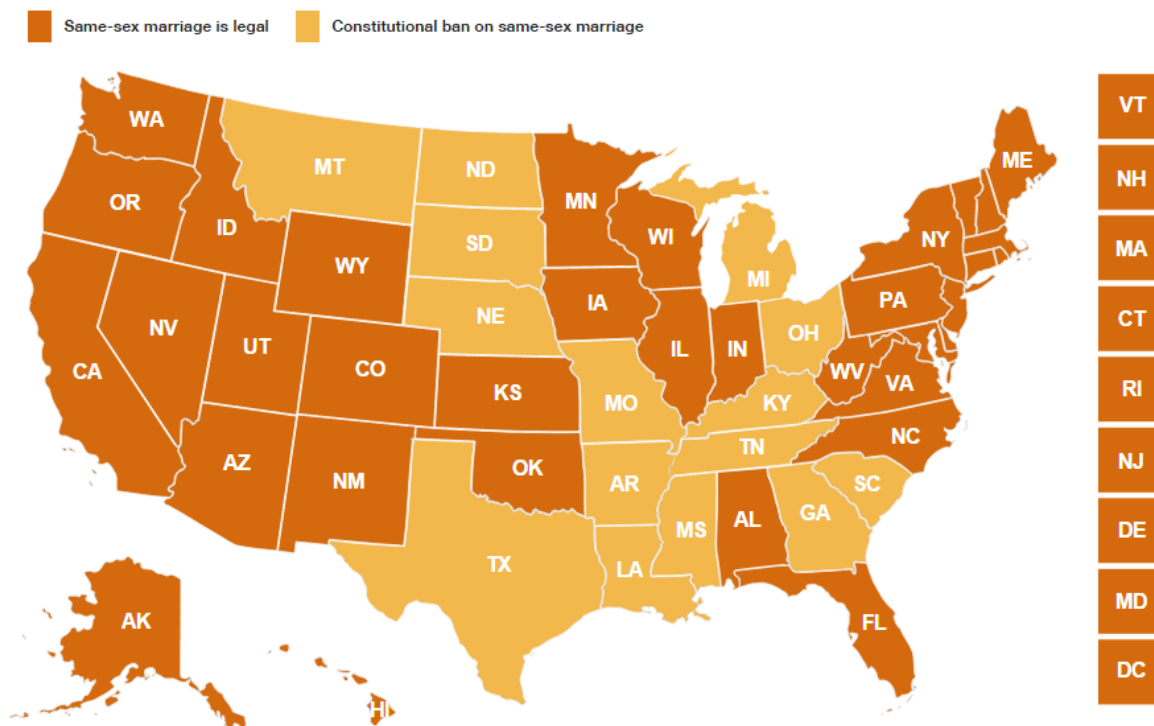
This legislation does not reach beyond those two provisions. It has no effect on any current federal, state or local anti-discrimination law and does not constrain the right of Congress or any state or locality to enact anti-discrimination laws. I therefore would take this opportunity to urge Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, an act which would extend employment discrimination protections to gays and lesbians in the workplace. This year the Senate considered this legislation contemporaneously with the Act I sign today and failed to pass it by a single vote. I hope that in its next Session Congress will pass it expeditiously.

I also want to make clear to all that the enactment of this legislation should not, despite the fierce and at times divisive rhetoric surrounding it, be understood to provide an excuse for discrimination, violence or intimidation against any person on the basis of sexual orientation. Discrimination, violence and intimidation for that reason, as well as others, violate the principle of equal protection under the law and have no place in American society.

Source:<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs/user/scotts/ftp/wpaf2mc/clinton.html>

12.4 Appendix 4

Map showing same-sex marriage situation in the United States in 2015



Legend:

AK-Alaska, AL-Alabama, AR-Arkansas, AZ-Arizona, CA-California, CO-Colorado, CT-Connecticut, DC-District of Columbia, DE-Delaware, FL-Florida, GA-Georgia, IA-Iowa, ID-Idaho, IL-Illinois, IN-Indiana, KS-Kansas, KY-Kentucky, LA-Louisiana, MA-Massachusetts, MD-Maryland, ME-Maine, MI-Michigan, MO-Missouri, MN-Minnesota, MS-Mississippi, MT-Montana, NC-North Carolina, ND-North Dakota, NE-Nebraska, NH-New Hampshire, NM-New Mexico, NV-Nevada, NY-New York, OH-Ohio, OK-Oklahoma, OR-Oregon, PA-Pennsylvania, RI-Rhode Island, SC-South Carolina, SD-South Dakota, TN-Tennessee, TX-Texas, UT-Utah, VA-Virginia, VT-Vermont, WA-Washington, WI-Wisconsin, WV-West Virginia, WY-Wyoming

Source:<http://edition.cnn.com/interactive/us/map-same-sex-marriage>

12.5 Appendix 5

The questionnaire

Hello!

The aim of my bachelor thesis is the gay rights movement in the 21st century – a history and practical analysis of trends in politics and society with an emphasis on the depiction of gays and lesbians in popular culture. All the information will be anonymous, or published only with your first name. This is strictly up to you.

Thank you very much for your time!

Your first name (optional)

What is your country of origin?

Where do you live now?

Do you think that the perception of homosexuality is improving? Have there been any different changes in your opinion in the 21st century?

Which country is the most tolerant toward homosexuality in your opinion?

Does tolerance play any role in your choice of vacation destination?

How do you feel about the representation of homosexuals in Hollywood movies? (gay men = women's best friend, gay men are often attractive, or effeminate)

Have there been any gay or lesbian celebrities / famous people in your life who have inspired you in terms of your sexuality / orientation?

Is marriage as an institution important to you?

Is gay marriage or some form of civil union / registered partnership legal in your country of origin?

What is your general opinion of adoption for gay / lesbian couples?

A screenshot of a text input field from a survey. The field is empty and has a light gray border. On the right side, there are three small square buttons: a top arrow, a middle square, and a bottom arrow. At the bottom of the field, there are two small square buttons: a left arrow and a right arrow.

Source: <http://www.surveio.com/survey/d/I7G8T6V7I2D7M1A5L>