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| **Year** | **Timeline of Gay Rights** |
| **1533** | The Buggery act is passed, making all male-male sexual activity punishable by death |
| **1861** | The death penalty for buggery was abolished  |
| **1866** | Marriage was defined as being between a man and a woman  |
| **1897** | George Ives organizes the first homosexual rights group in England |
| **1958** | The Homosexual Law Reform Society is founded in the United Kingdom to begin a campaign to make homosexuality legal in the UK |
| **1967** | The Sexual Offences Act was passed, decriminalising homosexual acts between two men over 21 years of age *in private* in England and Wales |
| **1970** | Gay Liberation Front (GLF) was established in response to debates many gay men and lesbians were having in Britain about the way they were treated |
| **1972** | The First British Gay Pride Rally was held in London |
| **1980** | The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act decriminalised homosexual acts between two men over 21 years of age "in private" in Scotland |
| **1982** | The Sexual Offences Act decriminalised homosexual acts between two men over 21 years of age "in private" in Northern Ireland |
| **1994** | The age of consent for gay males is lowered to 21 to 18 |
| **2000** | The Labour government scraps the policy of barring homosexuals from the armed forces |
| **2001** | The age of consent for gay males is lowered from 18 to 16 so that it is in line with the age of consent for heterosexuals. group sex for gay men is also decriminalised |
| **2002** | Same-sex couples are granted equal rights to adopt |

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| **2004** | The Civil Partnership Act is passed by the Labour Government, giving same-sex couples the same rights and responsibilities as married heterosexual couples in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales |
| **2007** | The Equality Act which establishes the Equality and Human Rights Commission (CEHR) and makes discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the provision of goods and services illegal is passed |
| **2014** | Same-sex marriage becomes legal in England and Wales  |