SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and related identities have been present in various forms throughout history. All cultures have included, with varying degrees of acceptance, individuals who practice same-sex relations as well as those whose gender, gender identity, and gender expression challenge prevailing norms, and many cultures still do.

In the Māori culture of New Zealand, same-sex relations between men were accepted as part of the social structure. Other indigenous peoples in the region have similar traditions.

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Among the Igbo people of Nigeria (and parts of Benin), a married woman with independent wealth may choose to separate from her husband and marry one or more women.

The Bagu tribe group, native to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, recognizes three sexes (female, male, and hermaphroditic), four genders (women, men, transgender, and transgender), and a fifth gender group, the Iksri.

Same-sex relations were accepted until British colonialism. Third gender and gender-variant people are still today recognized and accepted throughout Indian cultures.

In the 13th century, the Buddhist term Aṅkunt, meaning mental union and loving kindness, is used to identify transgender people (as well as same-sex couples) and is an accepted part of Nepalese culture since ancient times.

In Persian poetry, the notion of Shāhīd (martyr beauty) as testimony to the power of God was frequently used by many poets, including the Persian poet Saadi Shirazi.

In 14th century BCE, the ancient Egyptian royal source Manetho and Plutarch are believed to be among the first recorded same-sex couples in history, as reflected by the drawings in their texts.

The indigenous Chichewa people in Malawi identified seven genders in addition to male and female.

During the early Roman period, "masculine love" was a term used to describe gay homoerotic orientation (also used in Rome and England). The language described same-sex love in its poems, although these references were later edited out. Ancient male statues unearthed in Rome depicting intersex people revealed a number of Roman statues.

In the 5th-7th century, women were identified as jinn, who take a child as a young age, can live as men and assume traditionally male roles in society and in their family.

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17th-18th century: Homosexuality is considered a sign of cultural elitism, was not persecuted, and has been documented as early as the Qin, Han, and Tang dynasties in poetry and songs.

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