



activity

14

## One Flag, Six Colours



<b>time</b>	1 hour
<b>material</b>	Flip chart paper; sheets of paper; pens; timer; coloured markers (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple).
<b>description</b>	Artistic activity expressing what the rainbow flag symbolizes for each person.
<b>objective</b>	To recognize and respect the diversity of the LGBTI community; to question the prejudices existing within the LGBTI community.
<b>values</b>	Respect, equality, inclusion
<b>rights</b>	Right to equality (Art. 1); Right to non-discrimination (Art. 2.)

## preparations

- 1.** In preparation for leading this activity, read the *“The Rainbow Flag,”* provided in the appendix.
- 2.** On flip chart paper, reproduce the *“Design of the Rainbow Flag,”* provided in the appendix.
- 3.** Ensure you have the following coloured markers: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Have enough sets of markers in these colours on hand for as many groups of 4-6 people as will be participating.

## instructions

1. Introduce the activity in the following way: “Each person, whether they are LGBTI or not, is unique. This activity will allow us to recognize the diversity of the LGBTI community and the importance of respecting that diversity.”
2. Form groups of 4-6 people. Hand out one sheet of paper and one pen to each person. Give each group a set of markers with the following colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.
3. Display the **“Design of the Rainbow Flag”** and ask participants to draw it on their sheet of paper. Make sure that they leave a blank space around their flag.
4. Ask participants if they are familiar with the rainbow flag. If necessary, refer to the **“The Rainbow Flag,”** in the appendix in order to explain its meaning.
5. Explain that this activity is an opportunity to express our own take on the rainbow flag. Point out that it is not about reproducing its official meaning, but instead allowing each person, LGBTI or not, to explain what the flag means to themselves.
6. Ask each participant to take a coloured marker. Give the participants 1 minute to allow them to draw or jot down the thoughts and emotions which that colour brings up for them on the corresponding bar of the flag. For example, a person with a blue marker might draw a bird or a storm, and write down the words “intimacy” and “fear.”
7. After the minute has passed, get participants to swap markers and give another minute for each of the colours.
8. Then give another few minutes to let each participant finish the flag and to draw or write down their personal interpretation of the rainbow flag in the margin of the sheet. For instance, someone might write the following on the edges of the sheet: “worldwide movement,” “marginality,” “pride,” “fragility,” etc.
9. Invite those who would like to present their flag to the rest of the members of

## debrief

Lead a discussion by choosing some of the following questions:

### feel

- Did everyone in the group see the flag in the same way? Why or why not?
- What does respect for diversity mean to you?

### think

- In your opinion, are LGBTI people all treated the same way? (For example, are bisexuals treated the same way as homosexuals?)
- Can you name some examples of prejudice or exclusion within the LGBTI community?
- Can you provide examples of solidarity and helping one another within the LGBTI community?

### act

- What initiatives can we set up to encourage respect for diversity?

## Design of the Rainbow Flag

Red
Orange
Yellow
Green
Blue
Purple

## Two Symbols of the LGBTI Movement

### The Rainbow Flag

The American artist Gilbert Baker designed the first rainbow flag to be used as a symbol of the LGBT movement, in celebration of the Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade in San Francisco on June 25, 1978. Originally it had 8 stripes, with Baker giving each colour the following meaning: :

- Pink = sexuality
- Red = life
- Orange = health and healing
- Yellow = light and sunshine
- Green = nature
- Turquoise = magic and art
- Blue = serenity and harmony
- Purple = spirit

Versions of the flag with 7 colours were produced the following November, in preparation for protests against the assassination of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in San Francisco. This version had only 7 stripes because the manufacturer did not have any pink material available. Afterwards, Baker did away with the turquoise in order to maintain an even number of colours on the flag. Today, the 6-striped version has become known around the world and is mostly used by the LGBTI movement.

### The pink triangle

The pink triangle was used in the Nazi concentration camp system to “mark” male homosexuals. It was larger than the other triangles used to identify the other categories of detainees. This marker of persecution and discrimination was later adopted by the homosexual community as a symbol of identity. Act Up, an American organization in the struggle against AIDS, used the triangle in the context of its own fight against an epidemic that had begun to touch the lives of homosexuals.

In Haiti, the group Kouraj has placed the triangle in the middle of its logo. Yet despite its long history, the pink triangle is a lesser-known symbol than the rainbow flag on the world stage.

**Référence** : [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symboles\\_LGBT](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symboles_LGBT)

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