



STONEWALL RIOTS

Stonewall riot is the first case in American history that marked the beginning of LGBT's rights movement in the US and all over the world. It was considered the launch of the LGBT's rebellion against the police raid. Stonewall Inn is located at the Greenwich Village in New York. It was managed by the Genovese Family. At first, it was a restaurant and a nightclub for heterosexuals. In 1966, three mafia members invested money to turn the Inn into a gay bar. Stonewall Inn was known to be popular with the poorest and most marginalized people in the gay community. It's mainly composed of drag queens, transgender, effeminate (womanish) young men and homeless youth. Because of the attraction of dancing, the Inn is known as the "gay bar of the city". It is the only gay bar in New York City where dancing was allowed. Visitors of Stonewall Inn were greeted by the bouncers. To be able to enter, patrons must sign a register but rarely with their real names so some invented humorous name. They have to be known by the doorman or must look gay. Most of the customers are transvestite and men who wore make ups. Whenever the local police planned a raid on the bar, the management was often informed so they'll just turned on the white lights as a signal to the patrons to stop dancing, touching etc.

In the early hours on the morning of Saturday, June 29, 1969 the New York Police Department First District arrived at the Stonewall Inn and raided the said bar. Four undercover policemen had entered the bar earlier to gather evidences. Meanwhile the other policemen are waiting outside for the signal. Around 200 people were inside the bar. Some were mystified but some who realized what was happening started to find their way out. Nobody wants to be arrested. And so the raid did not go as planned. The policemen decided to bring them all to the police station. They went all outside the bar, waiting for the patrol wagons. The crowd began to grow. An officer shoved a transvestite and responded by hitting the officer's head with her purse and so the crowd started to become wild and create noise. And it was the moment that the scene became explosive and then the riot has begun. The fight spill on the streets and surprisingly more street youth joined in the insurrection. Many LGBT's from the crowd joined also the riot. The rebellion lasted six-days and then it was followed by forming LGBT's different organizations, early activism and marches in different cities.

At that time, the riot became the center of the news throughout the world. The true legacy of Stonewall riots is the ongoing struggle for LGBT equality. It marked as a significant turning point in the lives of those people belonging in LGBT. The rebellion is crucial because it became a symbol for gay and lesbian's power. It became a literal example of gays and lesbians fighting back. Something special happened that night, the historical coming together of forces of people who just want to be respected and accepted. It brought a pivotal change to the modern lesbian, gay, bisexuals and transsexuals. People began to appear in public as homosexuals, demanding respect. In 1999 the U.S. Department of the Interior affirmed the building of the Stonewall Inn and the surrounding streets a National Historic Landmark for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. President Barack Obama declared June 2009 as LGBT

Pride Month mentioning the riots as a reason to commit to achieving equal justice under law for LGBT Americans. The year marked the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots giving the LGBT people time to reflect progress made since 1969. Stonewall Inn served as a rallying point for celebrations after the New York Senate voted to pass same-sex marriage and was signed into law last June 24, 2011.

REFERENCE: LGBT Angst and Police Entrapment (Article)

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