

Chapter 1

What is sociology?

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Activity: Research

Changing norms about homosexuality

Learning objective

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Analyse the changes over time in norms relating to homosexuality.

A. Using the link below, answer the questions that follow.

http://www.stonewall.org.uk/at_home/history_of_lesbian_gay_and_bisexual_equality/default.asp

1. What were the punishments for sodomy in 1300 and in 1533?
2. When was the death penalty for buggery abolished?
3. When were homosexual acts between men decriminalised, and what was then the age restriction?
4. When was homosexuality decriminalised in: a. Scotland; b. the Isle of Man; c. Ulster?
5. When did lesbian parents receive legal recognition to conceive a child through fertility treatment?
6. When was the first lesbian and gay pride march held?
7. Why was Action for Lesbian Parents founded?
8. When was the first gay TV series?
9. When did the first gay MP 'come out' whilst in office?
10. In 2001 why were a couple no longer able to foster children?

B. From your answers to questions 1 to 10, write a brief summary of how norms relating to homosexuality have changed over time.