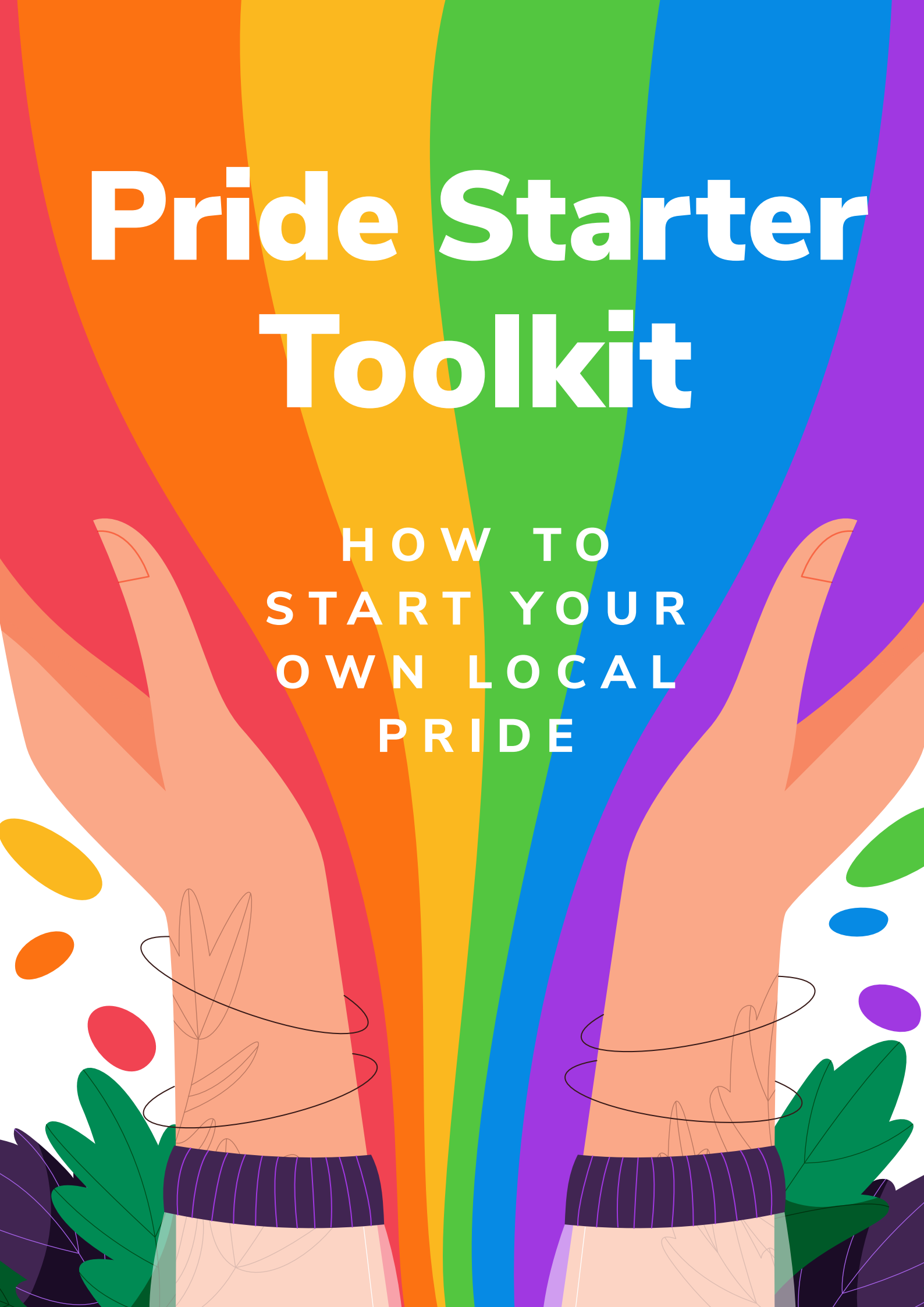


Pride Starter Toolkit

HOW TO
START YOUR
OWN LOCAL
PRIDE



Introduction

The purpose of this guide is to help you start your own pride festival in an area that has never had a pride event before.

Starting a new LGBTQIA+ Pride festival in smaller towns and rural areas revolves around involving the local community. Pride thrives when it's driven by the local community.

It's perfectly acceptable to begin with modest plans and evolve as ideas and support from the community grows. While you can draw inspiration from other Pride events, your Pride festival can be unique and reflect your community's identity and values.

Pride isn't just a festive occasion; it is a protest and a platform for advocating fairness and respect for all. As we start this journey, let us remember that Pride is more than mere enjoyment. It's an opportunity for us to demonstrate solidarity and advocate for equal rights. By fostering inclusivity, promoting understanding, and advocating for LGBTQIA+ individuals, Pride festivals have the potential to foster more accepting communities across the island.



Table of Contents

- 1. The History of Pride in Ireland**
- 2. Ireland Pride Event Schedule 2024**
- 3. Mission Statement and Values**
- 4. Committee Formation**
- 5. Event Planning**
- 6. Financial Setup**
- 7. Insurance and Constitution**
- 8. Vendor Contracts**
- 9. Promotion and Outreach**
- 10. Accessibility and Inclusivity**
- 11. Education and Training**
- 12. Supporting Other Festivals**
- 13. Resource References**
- 14. The All Island LGBTQIA+ Forum**
- 15. Acknowledgments**



**All Island
LGBTQIA+
Forum**

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The History of Pride in Ireland

Pride is rooted in its activism. When exploring the origins of Pride, we can look back to events like the Stonewall Riots.

In Ireland, important milestones include the first Pride parade in Dublin in 1983. The history of Pride in Dublin is closely tied to the wider LGBTQIA+ rights movement. It began with public demonstrations for gay rights in 1974 and gained momentum with a significant march in 1983, protesting violence against the LGBTQIA+ community.

The first Pride in Northern Ireland took place in Belfast in 1991, around a decade after decriminalisation, with around 100 LGBTQIA+ people marching through the streets of Belfast. Previously, the NI Gay Rights Association (NIGRA) would send a delegation from Belfast to London Pride every year, until they decided to organise one themselves

Both Dublin and Belfast Prides have grown into significant cultural and social events, celebrating LGBTQIA+ identities and serving as a platform for activism and advocacy, while other localised Pride celebrations and protests have sprouted up across the island outside of the capital. It continues to draw diverse participants, highlighting the ongoing fight for LGBTQIA+ rights and acceptance in Ireland and beyond.

In more recent years, a whole network of Pride festivals has grown up right across the island. Your new Pride will be a key part of that network.



Ireland PRIDE

EVENT SCHEDULE 2024

May	25	Wexford Pride	Wexford
June	1	Mayo Pride	Westport
	1	Pride of the Déise	Waterford
	2	Inishowen Pride	Inishowen
	15	Clonmel Pride	Tipperary
	15	Dungarvan Pride	Dungarvan
	22	Omagh Pride	Omagh
	29	Dublin Pride	Dublin
July	6	Wicklow Pride	Wicklow
	13	Limerick Pride	Limerick
	13	Trans Pride Dublin	Dublin
	13	Navan Pride	Navan
	13	Mullingar Pride	Mullingar
	14	Carlow Pride	Carlow
	22	Drogheda Pride	Drogheda
	27	Belfast Pride	Antrim
August	3	Causeway Pride	Antrim
	3	Letterkenny Pride	Letterkenny
	4	Cork Pride	Cork
	17	Galway Pride	Galway
	17	Meath Pride	Duleek
	24	Foyle Pride	Derry
	24	Roscommon Pride	Roscommon
	31	Kildare Pride	Kildare
	TBC	Letrim Pride	Letrim
September	6/7	Fermanagh Pride	Fermanagh
	7	Laois Pride	Laois
	14	Trans PrideNI	Belfast
	21	Clare Pride	Clare

*Subject to change

Mission Statement and Values

Establishing a mission statement and core values is essential for defining the purpose and intentions of your LGBTQIA+ Pride festival.

This statement serves as a guiding principle, outlining your event's overarching goals and aspirations.

Funders often seek clarity on your mission and values to ensure alignment with their own objectives. Therefore, crafting a concise and compelling mission statement is crucial for securing support and fostering transparency within your community.



Committee Formation

To start your own Pride event, assembling a dedicated team of volunteers to fill key roles is essential. Core positions such as Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary provide the foundational leadership necessary for effective planning and execution. Additionally, roles like Volunteer Coordinator, Events Managers, and Social Media and Public Relations Officers play a crucial role in promoting the event and engaging with the community through online platforms.

When planning your Pride events, whether short or long, brainstorm fun activities like parades, family-friendly events, and drag shows. It's often a good approach to curate events both specifically for LGBTQIA+ communities, as well as ones which reach outside our community to bring in broader society. It's also important to pick the right time for your events so they don't clash with other local events. Let's make your Pride memorable!

Following the formation of the committee, your next step involves establishing a credit union / bank account to responsibly manage finances, ensuring utmost transparency and accountability.

You can also engage with the wider community by registering with the local Public Participation Network (PPN), which will grant you access to information about vital council festival funding and help you build connections.



Event Planning

When planning your Pride events, first, determine the scope and duration. Decide if it will be a single-day parade or a week-long celebration. Explore a range of event options, such as parades, talks, family fun days, and drag shows.

Choose the event date wisely to prevent conflicts with other local activities. Ensure that day events are family-friendly to welcome attendees of all ages. Additionally, consider reaching out to your local Volunteer Center if you need help recruiting volunteers for your Pride event. Their assistance can be invaluable in ensuring the success and smooth operation of your festivities. crucial role in promoting the event and engaging with the community through online platforms.



If your Pride event will take the form of a parade or static protest, be sure to check with your local council to ascertain what - if any - approval is needed for it to go ahead smoothly. In Northern Ireland, all parades require pre-approval by the Parade's Commission, while static protests and celebrations do not have this same requirement.

Static events (which take place in one area and are not a 'march') only require the permission of the land-owner where the event will take place. If the land is publicly owned, you may need to book it early in the year with your local Council to ensure you're able to use the space on the day.

Financial Setup



1. Local Funding:

- Your Local Council
- Representatives like Councillors
- Local SICAP and development companies

2. Online Fundraising:

- Setting up a GoFundMe page
- Organising fundraisers within the local community

3. Sponsorships and Donations:

- Seeking support from businesses for sponsorships or donations
- Encouraging local businesses to host fundraisers in support of Pride

4. Support from LGBT-owned Local Businesses:

- Engage with LGBT-owned businesses within the community for financial support, sponsorships, or in-kind donations to contribute to the success of Pride.

Look to multiple sources for funding, unions have helped Trans and Intersex Dublin. Borrow sound systems, lend a hand with other events, and find your allies. Corporate and council are only two routes.

It's essential to research your potential funders thoroughly. You want to ensure that their values align with those of your Pride event, as their support will be reflected in your event's branding and messaging. By being mindful of the companies and organisations you partner with, you can uphold the inclusive and supportive nature of your Pride event.



Insurance and Constitution

When planning your Pride event, it's important to consider both insurance and a constitution.

Insurance is vital for any event, as most venues will require it. This ensures protection for you and your event against unforeseen circumstances. It's important to allocate a portion of your budget for the cost of insurance or seek sponsorship specifically for this purpose. Securing financial support or sponsorship for insurance can help and ensure that your Pride event is protected.



While some Pride events may operate without a constitution, having one can provide structure and clarity. A constitution outlines your organisation's purpose, structure, and key responsibilities. It can be adapted to suit the unique needs of your Pride event, providing a solid framework for its operation.

Vendor Contracts

Make sure your Pride event is noticeable in the community.

By actively supporting other local events and initiatives, you increase the likelihood of receiving support in return.

It's crucial to establish contracts with vendors and suppliers to safeguard against cancellations and other potential issues.



Promotion and Outreach

To spread the word about your Pride event, start by creating social media pages on platforms like Instagram and Facebook. These platforms offer great visibility and engagement opportunities.



Collaborate with your local radio station and newspaper for advertising and announcements to reach a wider audience and generate excitement about your event.



Select a logo for your Pride event and maintain consistency by using it across all communications. Additionally, it's important to share your pride dates with LGBTQ+ organisations and related community groups which operate in your area. This fosters collaboration, prevents scheduling conflicts, and encourages cross-promotion, ultimately strengthening the unity and visibility of the LGBTQ+ community.



Accessibility and Inclusivity

Ensuring accessibility and inclusivity is crucial for organising a successful Pride event. It's essential to consider the diverse needs of all attendees, including those with disabilities. From the choice of venues to parade routes and event activities, every aspect should be designed to accommodate everyone.

Accessibility includes various aspects, such as wheelchair access, ramps, and accessible bathrooms, to ensure that individuals with mobility challenges can fully participate. Additionally, it's crucial to consider hidden disabilities, such as mental health conditions, and provide quiet spaces or accommodations if needed.

Look at venues, shops, pubs along the way and find ones willing to let marchers use their toilets. Signpost these clearly for everyone marching ahead of time to let people with disabilities, young kids, or incontinence issues know that they can safely join in. Also, have walk-in points for those who cannot walk the entire route.

By prioritising accessibility and inclusivity, you create a welcoming environment where everyone can participate and feel valued. It sends a powerful message of acceptance and reinforces the principles of equality and diversity that Pride stands for.

In this context, Neuro Pride Ireland is a valuable resource. Their mission of "Celebrating Neurodivergent People, Community, and Culture" aligns well with the goals of inclusive Pride events. Neuro Pride Ireland has experience collaborating with various Prides and other queer organisations to enhance accessibility. They are available to provide guidance and support to any Pride events looking to improve their accessibility. Including Neuro Pride Ireland as a resource can ensure that your Pride event is as inclusive and welcoming as possible for neurodivergent attendees.



Education and Training

In preparing for your Pride event, it's crucial to ensure that your team of volunteers and committee members are well-equipped with the necessary knowledge and awareness.

LGBT Training

Seek out training programs provided by NGOs and local organisations dedicated to LGBTQIA+ issues. These initiatives can help understanding and sensitivity among your team members.

Explore training sessions offered through your Public Participation Network (PPN) network or Education and Training Boards (ETBs). Topics may include financial management, first aid, fundraising, and more.

Business Engagement

Businesses may express interest in training on LGBTQIA+ inclusivity. Direct them to nearby LGBT organisations that offer such training, enabling them to create more inclusive workplace environments.



Supporting Other Festivals

It's important to show support for other local festivals and events throughout the year. Consider participating in events like St. Patrick's Day parades and other community celebrations. By being present and actively involved, you can raise awareness of your Pride festival and build relationships with other organisers and attendees. Whether you're marching in a parade, setting up a stall, or simply attending as a supporter, making your presence known demonstrates your commitment to community engagement.



Additionally, supporting other festivals can lead to support for your Pride event, as organisers and participants recognise and appreciate your involvement. For instance, if your Pride festival lacks a dedicated space, collaborating with local venues or organisations, like the Clonmel Pride example, using the local art centre for meetings, can provide invaluable support and resources.

Resource References

LGBT Helpline // www.lgbt.ie/lgbt-helpline-opening-hours

LGBT Ireland // www.lgbt.ie

The Rainbow Project // www.rainbow-project.org

TENI // www.teni.ie

Volunteer Ireland // www.volunteer.ie

Neuro Pride Ireland // www.neuropride.ie



The All Island LGBTQIA+ Forum

The All Island LGBTQIA+ Forum is an initiative by The Rainbow Project and LGBT Ireland, supported by Community Foundation Ireland. Its primary goal is to foster partnership and cooperation among LGBTQIA+ individuals and organisations across the entire island of Ireland, both north and south. This forum aims to address common challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community, such as reducing hate crimes and enhancing LGBTQIA+ rights, by working together on shared interests and issues. The forum also seeks to strengthen connections between LGBTQIA+ community resource centres and Pride festivals, ultimately promoting equality and support for LGBTQIA+ people across Ireland.

Thank you to the funders

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