

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS HENRY SANTANA, BREADON, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, PEPEN,
AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 AS INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATE BISEXUALITY DAY AND BI+ VISIBILITY DAY

- WHEREAS,** Bisexuality Visibility Day is observed annually on September 23 to celebrate the lives and experiences of bisexual+ people and to raise awareness of the prejudices, inequities, and challenges faced by the bisexual+ community; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Bisexuality Visibility Day has been recognized and celebrated since 1999, and was originated by bisexual rights activists Wendy Curry of Maine, Michael Page of Florida (also known for creating the Bisexual Pride flag), and Gigi Raven Wilbur of Texas, having begun in part as a celebration on Gigi's birthday on September 23, 1999 at the International Lesbian and Gay Association Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, making this the 26th anniversary of the tradition, which has since spread globally; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This tradition builds on San Francisco's official proclamation recognizing June 23, 1990, as Bisexual Pride Day during the first National Bisexual Conference in America, hosted by BiNet USA (formerly known as North American Multicultural Bisexual Network) after the organization's founding that year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This annual observance has also been recognized under multiple titles, including Bisexuality Visibility Day, Celebrate Bisexuality+ Day, and Bi+ Visibility Day; Bisexual+ individuals and communities deserve the right to express, name, and celebrate themselves authentically, and the diverse use of these and other terms reflects and affirms the fluidity and breadth of bisexual+ identities, expressions, experiences, and individuals; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Despite more than half of LGBTQ+ Americans identifying as bisexual, they are up to five times less likely to come out to family and up to thirty times less likely to come out to friends by comparison to gay and lesbian individuals, largely due to stigma and societal misunderstandings of the identity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Identifying as bisexual means different things to different people, and can be inclusive of people who additionally or alternatively identify as biromantic, pansexual, queer, fluid, polysexual, omnisexual, or other identities; the term bisexual+ or bi+ is often used to refer more inclusively to these broader identities; *and*

- WHEREAS,** The individual experiences of each person and the language they choose to understand and express their identities are all valid and worthy of celebration, and not intended to be undervalued or oversimplified in recognizing International Celebrate Bisexuality Day and Bi+ Visibility Day; *and*,
- WHEREAS,** Bisexual advocate Robyn Ochs defined the identity as, “the potential to be attracted — romantically and/or sexually — to people of more than one sex and/or gender, not necessarily at the same time, not necessarily in the same way, and not necessarily to the same degree”; *and*
- WHEREAS,** People who identify as bisexual+ or experience attraction to more than one gender often face stereotypes that their experience is a phase, experiment, or uncertainty, and may face biphobia and discrimination in personal, professional, academic, dating, and other environments; bisexual+ people deserve to be respected and accepted without judgment, fear, or hatred; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Bisexual+ people who are in or have been in straight- or gay-presenting relationships often experience “bi erasure,” where others presume their sexuality based on their partner or partners, and inadvertently or intentionally overlook or refuse to accept their bisexuality; people should be free to own and express their bisexuality as they choose, and we must work to educate ourselves and others not to make assumptions based on the partners or relationships someone may or may not have or share publicly; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A 2024 study found that 81.8% of Bisexual+ respondents experienced discrimination from gay or lesbian people, and such experiences of stigma, discrimination, and self-doubt amongst the broader LGBTQIA+ community may lead Bisexual+ individuals feel they are not “queer enough” or “bi enough”; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Bisexual+ people are statistically less likely to participate in LGBTQIA+ community spaces, in part due to these experiences of exclusion, invisibility, or dismissal, which in turn reduces the visibility and representation of Bisexual+ people and further reinforces the harmful misperception that Bisexual+ people are less common than in actuality, or even the misbelief that they do not exist; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The stigma and discrimination against Bisexual+ people within the LGBTQIA+ community further impacts their leadership opportunities in LGBTQIA+ community organizations, undermining opportunities for Bisexual+ people to work towards creating broader queer spaces that aid in overcoming stigma, erasure, and barriers to belonging for Bisexual+ people; *and*
- WHEREAS,** To overcome this stigma and discrimination, Bisexual+ people should be validated in their personal experiences and included in conversations surrounding LGBTQIA+ issues; *and*

WHEREAS, Per a Human Rights Campaign report, “bisexuals face striking rates of poor health outcomes ranging from cancer and obesity, to sexually transmitted infections, to mental health problems”, with these disparities stemming from systemic inequities, including lower rates of preventive care due to biphobia and negative experiences ; *and*

WHEREAS, Bisexual+ youth are at heightened risk of sexual violence, physical violence, and bullying; *and*

WHEREAS, Bisexual+ people are at heightened risk for anxiety, depression, suicidality, and substance abuse disorders, and are at the highest risk for suicidal ideation and suicide attempts when compared to gay, lesbian, and straight populations; *and*

WHEREAS, These disparities are notably due to lower rates of preventive care due to encountering biphobia in healthcare settings, increased mental health stresses from discrimination and stigma, and reduced access to supportive community members including due to more discomfort and statistically lower rates of coming out than other sexual identities; these effects are observable in data not only in adults, but even for bisexual+ youth beginning at a young age, and significantly credited to a lack of visible adult role models and positive adult mentors; *and*

WHEREAS, The challenges faced by bisexual+ people are more pronounced for individuals with intersectional identities who additionally face racism or transphobia, with some studies showing that more than 40% of LGBTQ+ people of color identify as bisexual, and about half of transgender people describe their sexual orientation as bisexual or queer; *and*

WHEREAS, Recognizing and creating visibility for Bisexual+ experiences contributes to equity, health, and justice for the whole community, and we can celebrate Bisexuality+ Visibility Day without disregarding the experiences of individuals who may need or choose to remain invisible in some or all aspects of their lives for safety or survival.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council recognizes and celebrates September 23, 2025 as International Celebrate Bisexuality Day and Bi+ Visibility Day, and commits itself — and encourages all government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools — to take meaningful actions to dismantle bisexual+ stigma, advance health equity, and support the rights, dignity, safety, and well-being of Boston’s bisexual+ residents.

Filed in Council: September 17, 2025