

Discussion

Name of Student

Institutional Affiliation

6-1 Discussion

A significant event associated with the LGBTQ+ movement discussed in this week's resources is the Stonewall Riots of 1969. The event marked a turning point in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. The riots began on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City after a police raid sparked spontaneous and violent demonstrations by members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Stonewall Riots are often credited with igniting the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement, leading to the formation of numerous advocacy groups and the annual celebration of Pride Month.

A significant event that happened after 2004 is the legalization of same-sex marriage across the United States by the Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* on June 26, 2015. The landmark decision declared that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right under the Fourteenth Amendment, effectively legalizing it nationwide (Capizzo, 2020). The ruling was a culmination of decades of activism and legal battles aimed at achieving marriage equality for same-sex couples, representing a monumental victory for the LGBTQ+ movement.

The Stonewall Riots and the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision share similarities in that both were pivotal moments that galvanized the LGBTQ+ community and significantly advanced their rights. However, the nature of these events is different. The Stonewall Riots were spontaneous acts of resistance against police brutality and discrimination, while the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision was a legal victory achieved through strategic litigation and advocacy. The former was a grassroots uprising that led to greater visibility and activism, whereas the latter was the result of a prolonged legal struggle within the judicial system.

Both movements utilized different strategies to advance their causes. The Stonewall Riots relied on direct action and public demonstrations to bring attention to the injustices faced by the LGBTQ+ community, leading to increased activism and the formation of

advocacy organizations. In contrast, the push for marriage equality involved strategic litigation, public education campaigns, and building broad coalitions to gain support from various sectors of society. These strategies highlight the adaptability and resilience of the LGBTQ+ movement in achieving its goals through both grassroots activism and legal advocacy.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0363811120300849>

References

Capizzo, L. (2020). The right side of history, inc.: Social issues management, social license to operate, and the Obergefell v. Hodges decision. *Public Relations Review*, 46(5), 101957.

Responses

Response 1

Your discussion of the LGBTQ+ movement and the Stonewall Riots brings to mind the civil rights movement, which also sought to address systemic discrimination and inequality. Both movements intersect significantly, especially regarding the fight for human rights and social justice. The civil rights movement, particularly during the 1960s, focused on ending racial segregation and discrimination against African Americans, which laid the groundwork for subsequent social justice movements, including LGBTQ+ rights. Activists from both movements have shared goals such as legal equality, protection from discrimination, and societal acceptance. Furthermore, both movements have utilized similar strategies, including peaceful protests, legal challenges, and coalition-building, to advance their causes. The shared history of oppression and the pursuit of equality underline the deep connections between these social movements.

Response 2

The Obergefell v. Hodges decision, which legalized same-sex marriage across the United States, has significant benefits for those outside the LGBTQ+ movement as well. This landmark ruling reinforced the principle of equality under the law, setting a legal precedent that can be applied to other marginalized groups seeking equal treatment. It has also promoted broader societal acceptance of diverse family structures, thereby fostering a more inclusive environment for everyone. By affirming that marriage is a fundamental right for all, regardless of sexual orientation, the decision has contributed to a more open and accepting society, where diversity is recognized and valued. Additionally, the increased visibility and normalization of same-sex relationships can reduce stigma and discrimination, benefiting not only LGBTQ+ individuals but also their families, friends, and allies.