



## **King's takes "important step" to raise Progress Pride flag on June 1**

May 28, 2021

London, ON: King's University College will raise the Progress Pride flag on June 1 to coincide with the start of Pride month. The raising of the Progress Pride flag is a significant milestone in King's journey toward the meaningful inclusion of all peoples.

"This is an important step in welcoming and fostering an inclusive, caring and affirming community at King's for LGBTQ2S+ students and employees – for everyone. The Progress Pride flag signifies our openness and support for those on the margins who we want to affirm are fully part of our place, which is a place for everyone," says Dr. David Malloy, King's Principal.

The raising of the Progress Pride flag comes after consultation with members of the King's community including students, staff, faculty, future students, alumni, members of the King's University College Students' Council (KUCSC), College Council and the Principal's LGBTQ2S+ Advisory Group. All involved wanted to ensure everyone's voices could be heard regarding how King's could be a more welcoming and caring place.

"At King's we respect the inherent dignity of all persons, and we stand in solidarity with those who experience discrimination or marginalization. We want everybody, including members of the LGBTQ2S+ community, to know that they have a place at King's and will be welcomed with respect, compassion, and sensitivity," adds Dr. Malloy.

The Catholic Church teaches that LGBTQ2S+ persons are to be accepted "with respect, compassion, and sensitivity" and that "every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2358). As well, Pope Francis has recently called for renewed social dialogue, and calls us to develop "the ability to recognize other people's right to be themselves and to be different," (*Fratelli tutti* 218).

The Progress Pride flag includes the original six full-sized background colour stripes of the Pride flag plus the addition of five half-sized stripes (in the shape of a chevron) representing Trans individuals (light blue, light pink, white); marginalized People of Colour and Indigenous peoples (brown, black); as well as those living with AIDS, those no longer living and

the stigma surrounding them (black). It was designed by Daniel Quasar, a Portland, Oregon-based graphic designer who identifies as queer and non-binary.

A special video, celebrating the raising of the Progress Pride flag, will be available on King's social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)) on June 1. The flag will be raised in June and July to honour national and local Pride events. By flying the Progress Pride flag each Pride month (June) and during London Pride in July, King's seeks to send a supportive message that members of the LGBTQ2S+ community and their allies belong, are valued, and are safe to be visible at King's. King's is a community that is seeking to care for the entire human person while affirming the identities of all people - a community that is learning, re-assessing, and responding to its ever-developing collective knowledge as it relates to the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization.

Further information can be found [here](#).

### **About King's University College**

King's is a public Catholic University College that provides general and honors degree programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, management, and a master's degree in social work. It is positioned in the top rank of institutions of higher learning in Canada for the high quality of its teaching faculty and student experience. Institutionally autonomous, King's is academically affiliated with Western University, and King's graduates receive a Western University degree. King's is open to students of all faith backgrounds, with its community centred on the values of social justice, equality and the education of the whole person.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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