

October 11th is National Coming Out Day

This Friday is National Coming Out Day.

First celebrated in 1988, this day originally marked the one-year anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. It's founders, Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary, believed that once people are aware that they have loved ones that are LGBTQIA+, they are far less likely to maintain oppressive views and this was a powerful tool in combating homophobia.

"Most people think they don't know anyone gay or lesbian, and in fact, everybody does. It is imperative that we come out and let people know who we are and disabuse them of their fears and stereotypes"

– Robert Eichberg (1993)

Although this started off as an American awareness day, the meaning of National Coming Out Day is still highly relevant to LGBTQ+ communities across the world today.