

# Historical Figures of LGBTQ+ History



**Simon Nkoli**  
(1957-1998)

Simon Nkoli was a gay activist and an AIDS activist who fought against the apartheid in South Africa. He helped found the Gay Association of South Africa (GASA) and the Gay and Lesbian Organizations of the Witwatersrand (GLOW). Nkoli helped to pave the way for South African queer rights.



**Barbara Gittings**  
(1932-2007)

Barbara Gittings was a gay rights activist who started the first lesbian civil rights organization in the US: The Daughters of Bilitis (DOB). Gittings organized public marches and demonstrations for gay rights and equality. Gittings also helped to promote gay literature by working with the Gay Task Force of the American Library Association.



**Jackie Shane**  
(1940-2019)

Jackie Shane was a transgender soul singer from Nashville, Tennessee who built a large audience in the US and in Canada during the 1960's. In 2019, Shane's album, *Any Other Way*, received a Grammy for best historical album.



**Ifth Nasim**  
(1946-2011)

Ifth Nasim was a gay poet from Pakistan who wrote "Narman," the first book to appear in Urdu that openly expressed homosexuality. Nasim fled to the United States to avoid persecution in Pakistan. In the US, Nasim co-founded the group Sangat, a group established for queer south Asian youth.

