

Pride PSA #1:
Let's keep pedophiles out of pride!

Preamble:

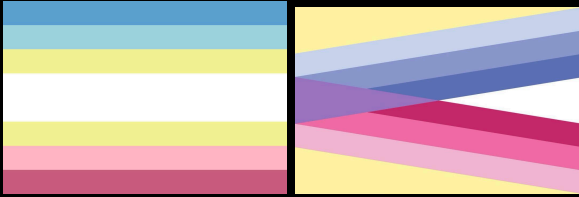
*Disclaimer: This is not intended to be an “end all be all” reference document this is just something I made to offer information and suggestions.

For the past few years now, there's been a growing presence online of pedophiles trying to validate their sick attraction to children and act like they belong in the LGBTQIA+ community. This is something many far right reactionaries have pointed out to weaponize against queer people and I personally find it's often presented in a way that's intellectually dishonest at best so I'd really like this idea to die in my lifetime.

None of us want sexual predators at pride! Let's do something about it!

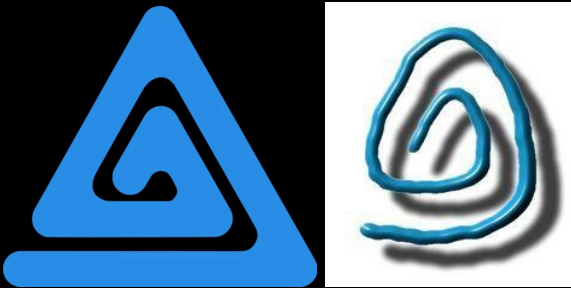
Step#1:

“How do I know what to look for?”



These are two known variations of the “MAP”¹ pride flag.

The one on the top has been in use since the year 2018 so it's the more common of the two examples pictured here.



These are two known variations of the “boylove”² symbol.

This symbol was mentioned and pictured in a declassified document from the FBI and dates all the way back to 2007.³



This is the “girllove”⁴ symbol.

It was mentioned in the same declassified 2007 FBI document alongside the “boylove”² symbol.³

¹ MAP is an acronym meaning “Minor Attracted Person” this is just a fancy way of saying pedophile.

² “Boylove” describes a pedophile attracted to little boys.

³ (Cyber Division, Innocent Images National Initiative 2007)

⁴ “Girllove” describes a pedophile attracted to little girls.



This is the “childlove”⁵ symbol.

It has been seen and used recently by pedophiles online.

“Is there anything else I should look for?”

Even trained professionals can’t tell who is a pedophile and who isn’t based on appearance or a single interaction. *However*, you may notice that these people have adopted a certain language and some of these symbols are very uncommon to see at pride events. While we cannot determine who is or is not going to commit a horrendous sexual offense we can still make an educated guess based off of the language that they use and what these people choose to identify and associate themselves with.

There is no such thing as a “good” pedophile but some are arguably more dangerous than others. Online they use a certain term “Pro-contact” which means *they believe there is no harm in them having sexual contact with a child*. People with this belief are likely to be very vocal about it because they genuinely believe CSA⁶ and CSEM⁷ do not harm children long term. Regardless of if a person says this online or in person, if they use it in conjunction with identifying with those flags or symbols they are a threat.

⁵ “Childlove” is just a gender neutral variant of the boy/girllove terms.

⁶ Child Sexual Assault

⁷ Child Sexual Exploitation Material

Step #2:

“What do I do as an event goer?”

- If you're in a safe location try to take a photograph of the person with their face and symbol/flag both visible in the picture. This is to make reporting them easier, it also gives you a reference photo to compare to the flags or symbols above.
- Tell the event organizer. They have the legal right to politely yet firmly ask the individual to leave. You can also reach out to members of staff and they can do the same thing. Pride events are often private venues open to the public so they can remove anyone that makes people feel unsafe.
 - “But what if they don't take it seriously?!” Take a deep breath. A lot of people don't have experience or understanding of the severity of sexual crimes and lack the skills to confront suspicious people directly. If you can, just try to talk to another member of the staff and try to remain collected and composed.
- Contact law enforcement. Some pride events have police at the venue so reach out to them if organizers and staff haven't already.⁸
- Make your voice heard. If it's safe to do so, share photos and any other information you have on social media. They might try to attend other events nearby so your local community needs to know!

⁸ Please note that making repeated calls and such can have the opposite of the desired effect. Police do not like being harassed by the public about the same case or person.

Step #2 continued:

“What do I do as an event organizer?”

- Before the event, establish a clear line of communication with your team and hold a training session so everyone knows exactly what to do. I recommend the following:
 - Identify and assess the threat. Who are they? Where are they? What are they doing?
 - Isolate the threat from children. Yourself or another staff member should talk to the person privately.
 - De-escalate the situation. Take any opportunity to peacefully and quietly remove them from the venue.
 - Inform the authorities. This is for everyone's safety!
- Print out physical references for your team to look at. I recommend putting this reference somewhere near admissions in a place where guests cannot see. I also recommend laminating this reference if possible if your event is outdoors so it's not damaged by inclement weather.
- Keep an eye out for unattended children. If someone comes to claim an unattended child, ask them questions only someone close to them would know the answer to and verify with the child all the information is correct.
 - By extension: be watchful of children with suspicious caregivers. A lot of predators harm children who are close to them.
- Take any claims from event goers and staff seriously!

Step #3:

Stay educated!

An educated community is a safer community! Share this with as many people as possible! <3

It's also important to communicate! Keep open lines of communication between event goers and organizers. I recommend making a groupchat of some kind so you can send all kinds of information instantly!

The internet is our greatest weapon: There are entire communities online dedicated to observing and cataloging all kinds of creeps online. While some of these people are hateful or misguided⁹ there's also plenty of groups run by and for queer folx with the express purpose being keeping pedophiles and other paraphiles out of LGBTQIA+ spaces and events. I would know because I'm actually in a few of these groups myself!

⁹ (Ex: [Kiwifarms](#) , a site dedicated to harassing transgender people and people with autism.)

References

Cyber Division, Innocent Images National Initiative. 2007.

“Intel Bulletin Pedophile Symbols.” Intel Bulletin
Pedophile Symbols.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20071121034025/https://secure.wikileaks.org/leak/FBI-pedophile-symbols.pdf>.