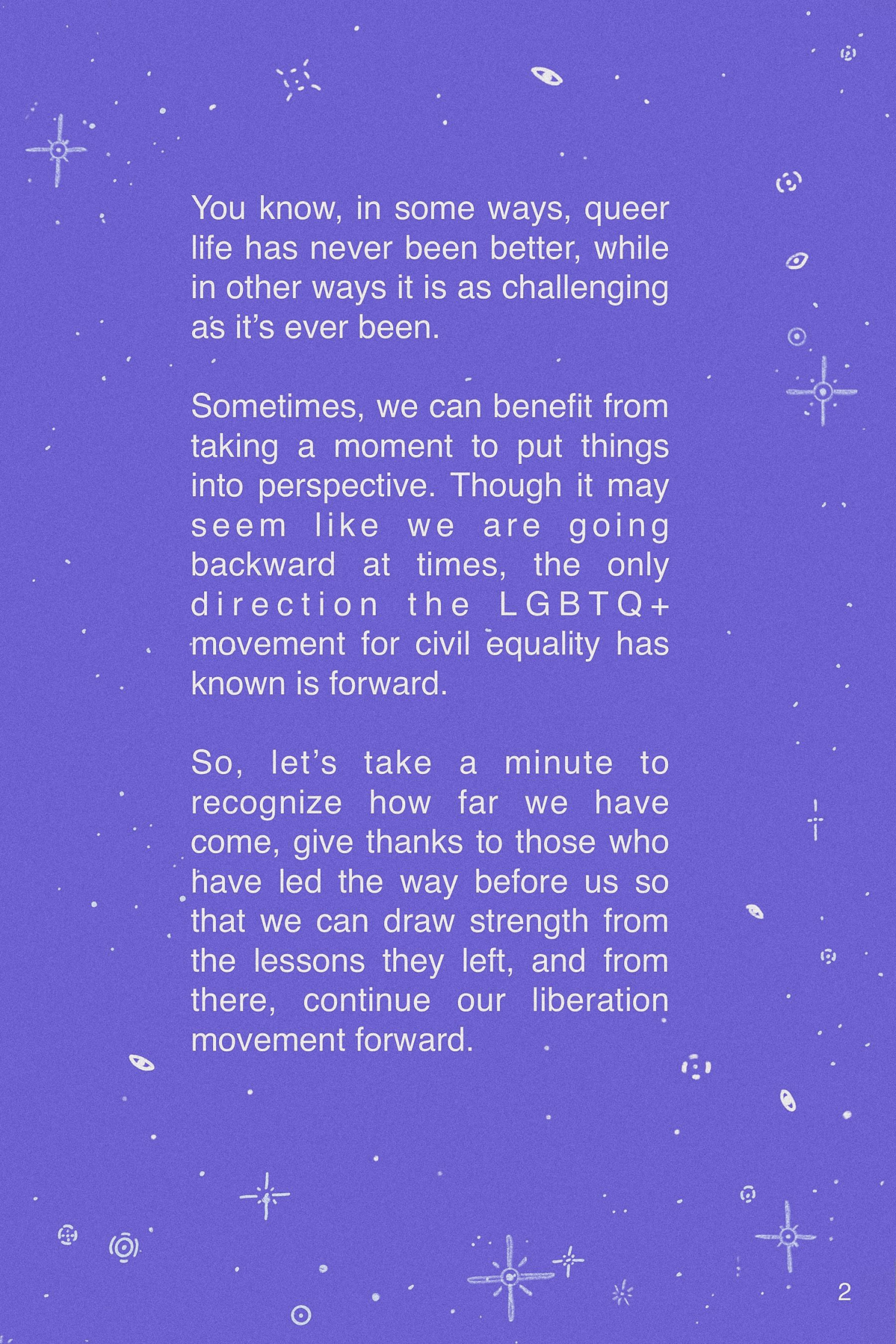




**Happy Pride,
Riverside**



You know, in some ways, queer life has never been better, while in other ways it is as challenging as it's ever been.

Sometimes, we can benefit from taking a moment to put things into perspective. Though it may seem like we are going backward at times, the only direction the LGBTQ+ movement for civil equality has known is forward.

So, let's take a minute to recognize how far we have come, give thanks to those who have led the way before us so that we can draw strength from the lessons they left, and from there, continue our liberation movement forward.

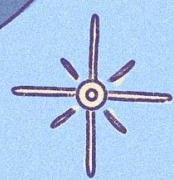


Thanks to the early 20th century critical-thinking queers who began to see that gender and sexuality should be expressed freely, like the ball-throwing queers in pre-revolution Mexico City and the newsletter writers in Germany.





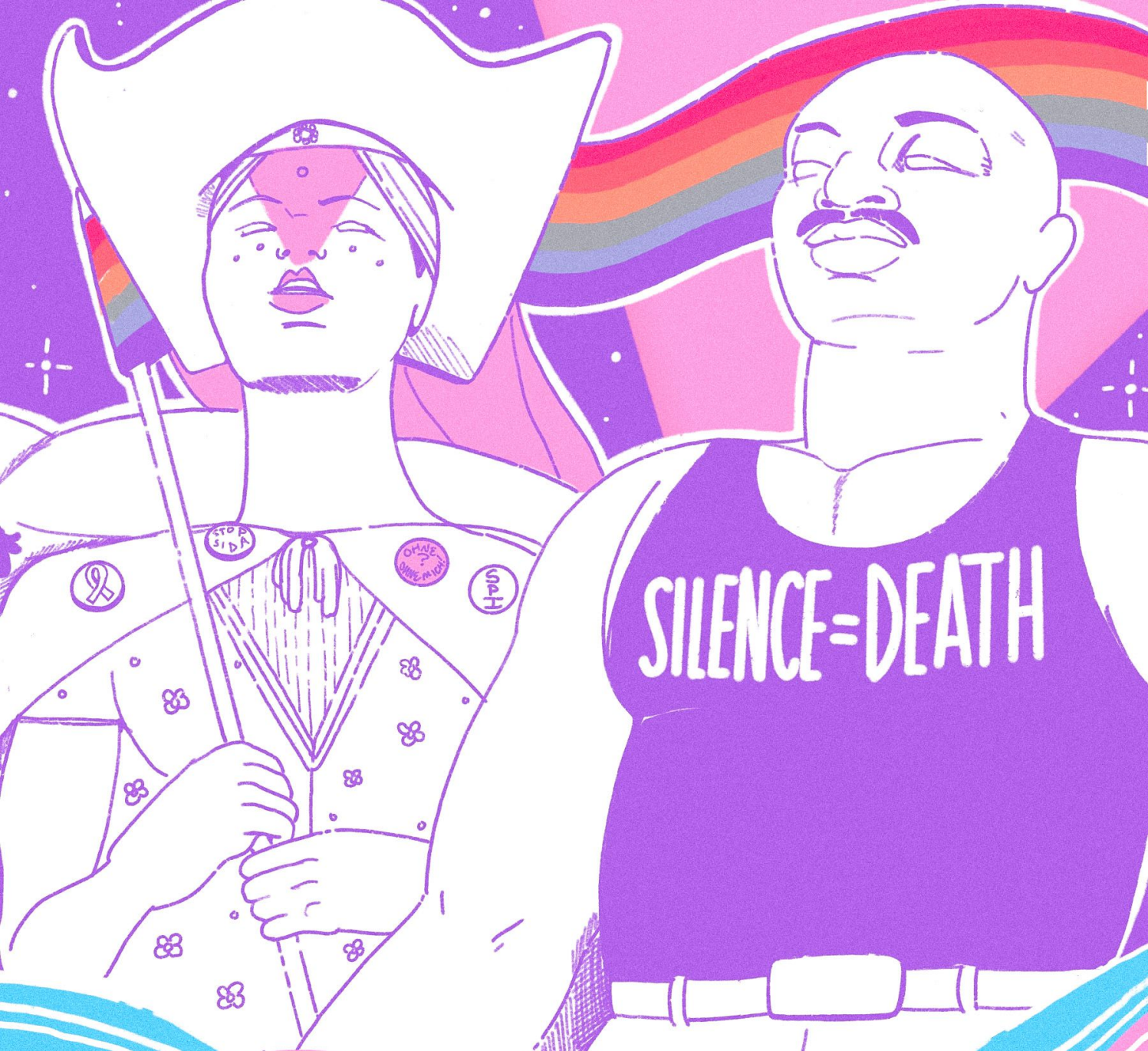
Thanks to the early queer groups like the Mattachine, Sisters of Billitis, the Liberation Front in London, the Radical Faeries in San Francisco, *Frente de Liberación* in Buenos Aires, the trans women of color at Compton's & Stonewall...





Thanks to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, the zine-writing queer punks, the squatters at Tuntenhaus ...

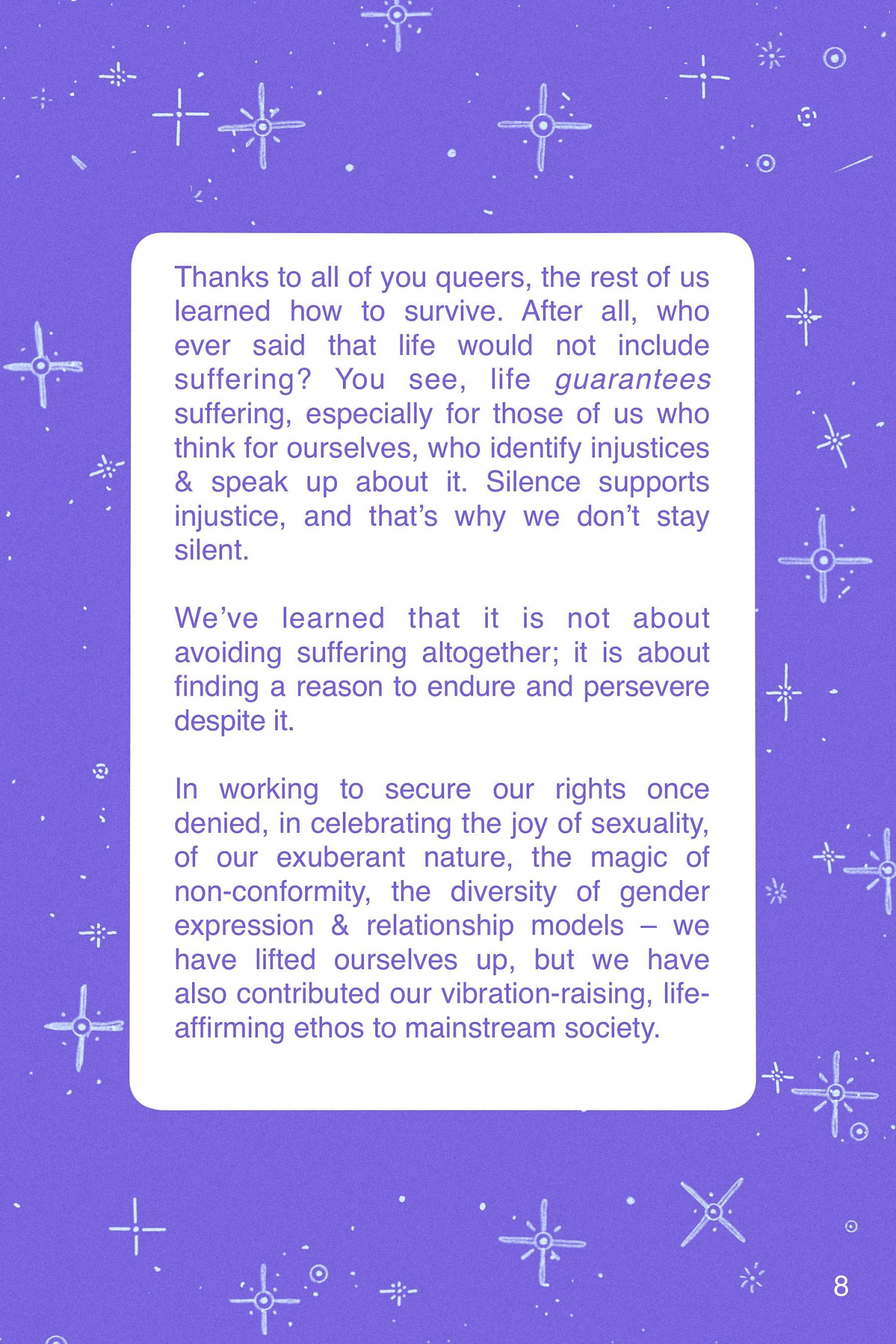
the ACT UP queers, & the countless others who fought to bring visibility to the HIV epidemic.



Despite the odds,
we survived
because we knew
we had a purpose.
In the face of
death, our
community came
to life ...

We developed a
blueprint for collective
care, resistance, &
harm reduction.
In the face of death,
House music &
nightlife became a
space to foster love &
celebrate life.





Thanks to all of you queers, the rest of us learned how to survive. After all, who ever said that life would not include suffering? You see, life *guarantees* suffering, especially for those of us who think for ourselves, who identify injustices & speak up about it. Silence supports injustice, and that's why we don't stay silent.

We've learned that it is not about avoiding suffering altogether; it is about finding a reason to endure and persevere despite it.


In working to secure our rights once denied, in celebrating the joy of sexuality, of our exuberant nature, the magic of non-conformity, the diversity of gender expression & relationship models – we have lifted ourselves up, but we have also contributed our vibration-raising, life-affirming ethos to mainstream society.



Today, the fight continues ...

LA LUCHA
SIGUE!

Queer history is made every day...




When I hold your hand,
when I hug you ...

When we share love
some legislator is
spending their life trying
to make illegal.




Today, we
cultivate
positive
energy



we release focus on
the negative
because we know
there is more work to
be done...



Gender non-conforming kids
to affirm ...



Bodily
autonomy
to defend ...

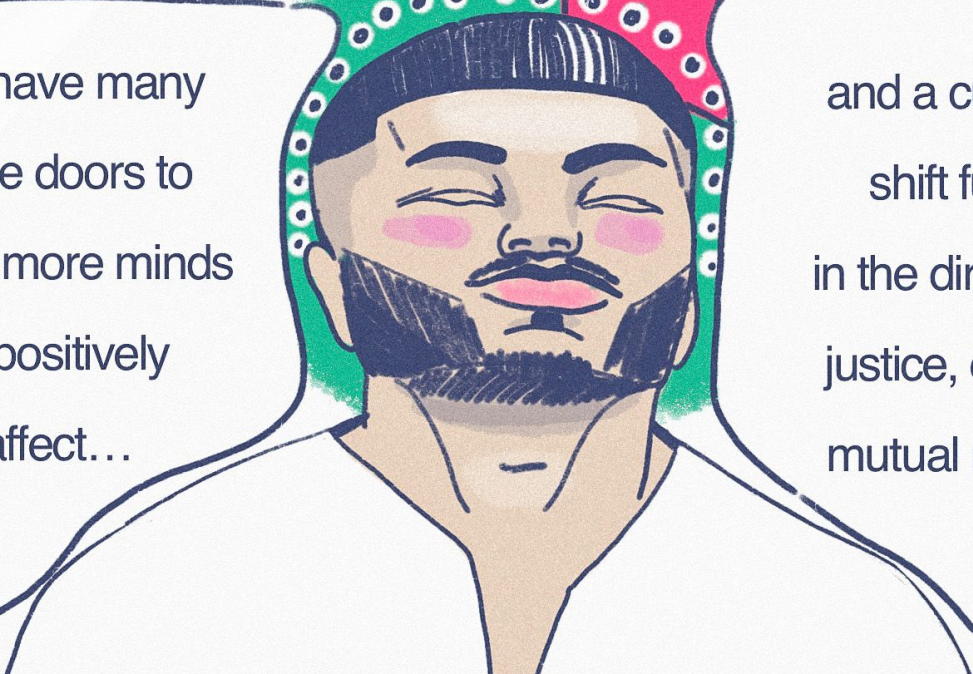


Housing and job
discrimination to end ...



Banned
books to
read ...

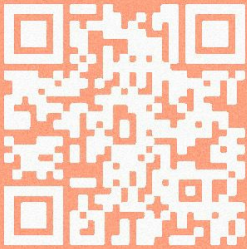
Love to
spread...



We have many
more doors to
open, more minds
to positively
affect...

and a culture to
shift further
in the direction of
justice, equity &
mutual respect.

Y'all, queer history is vast, spanning the length & width of world history! This humble zine makes reference to just a few key moments from the past one hundred years or so and is meant to serve as a jumping-off point for those interested in doing further research into the stories of our community. Go to our resources page to find a list of the figures and pivotal events in LGBTQ+ history referenced in this zine.



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