

26 August 2026

Statement on the Passing of Dolly Parton

Some are preachers, some are gay/ Some are addicts, drunks and strays/ But not a one is turned away/ When it's family

- Dolly Parton, *Family*, 1991

We at the PRIDE Centre are all deeply saddened at the loss of Dolly Parton.

Dolly Parton was an icon and a strong supporter of queer rights, but also for queer persons' right to dignity and fulfilling, equal, and loving lives... support which dates back to the 1970s. Her support for trans people – both quiet and full throated- should live on as an example of compassion and humanity which so many others should learn from. Her courage in standing up for and walking alongside her queer fan base, even in the deep conservative traditions of country music, is a level of courage that should be emulated across society.

That her embrace of queer persons was rooted in her faith – a Southern US Christian faith at that - also serves as an example not only to those Christians who opt to take the path of hate and exclusion, but also for the many LGBTQIA+ persons who wrestle with their faith, that those who choose to believe in a higher power have a home and community within their churches, mosques, and places of worship.

In our own sector of humanitarian action, a sector which Dolly also supported generously with financial donations and advocacy support, we have a great deal to learn from this incredible, kind, giving, and loving human.

The world has slightly less colours in it today than it did the day before. But her examples and her messages, her courage and her love, are all values which we continue to hold at the heart of our mission at The PRIDE Centre.

Farewell, Dolly. See you down the road.