# Sebastian Croft and Connor Jessup’s QWAH charity raises over £250,000 for LGBTQIA+ refugees with iconic 'Queer Past' merch



Actors Sebastian Croft and Connor Jessup, known from the Netflix series "Heartstopper," have turned their passion for queer visibility into a tangible force for LGBTQIA+ support through their charity, Queer Was Always Here (QWAH). Founded in 2022, the charity began with a striking symbolic design: a T-shirt featuring two kissing dinosaurs named Dylan and Derek. This image serves as a playful yet poignant reminder of the enduring presence of queerness throughout history. The initiative partnered with Choose Love, a charity dedicated to refugee support, particularly focusing on LGBTQIA+ individuals displaced worldwide.

This year marked a significant milestone for QWAH, as Croft and Jessup brought their charity’s message directly to London Pride in 2025. Fans and supporters could find them selling exclusive "Queer Past" merchandise from a converted horse trailer on Greek Street, Soho, which was unmistakably branded with artist Jack Taylor Lovatt's signature lettering. The merchandise line, including T-shirts, caps, and jumpers carrying the "Queer Past" slogan, has already caught the attention of notable figures such as Troye Sivan, David Tennant, and Jessie Ware, turning these items into symbolic status pieces within the Pride community.

QWAH's influence extends beyond fashion statements. Since its inception, the charity has raised over £250,000, facilitating support for more than 1,700 refugees through collaborations with organisations like Rainbow Railroad and the Say It Loud Club. The funds go toward vital grassroots efforts that provide aid and safety for LGBTQIA+ refugees globally. The re-release of the original dinosaur T-shirt, co-designed with artist Kieran Blakey, exemplifies the charity’s ongoing commitment to fundraising, having previously raised £150,000 for organizations including Choose Love and Rainbow Railroad.

Queer Was Always Here is more than a charity; it is a community dedicated to celebrating queer joy, history, and art while directly impacting those in need. The collaboration with Choose Love extends QWAH’s reach, linking financial support to tangible grassroots projects aiding displaced LGBTQIA+ individuals worldwide. The charity’s continued success hinges not only on its artistic and cultural appeal but also on its impactful humanitarian mission, merging visibility with meaningful activism.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/pride-heartstopper-sebastian-croft-connor-jessup-queer-t-shirt-b1236607.html), [[3]](https://www.attitude.co.uk/style/fashion/heartstoppers-sebastian-croft-re-releases-queer-was-always-here-charity-t-shirt-404256/), [[4]](https://www.queerwasalwayshere.com/home), [[7]](https://instinctmagazine.com/sebastian-croft-drops-queer-was-always-here-charity-shirt-once-again/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/pride-heartstopper-sebastian-croft-connor-jessup-queer-t-shirt-b1236607.html), [[6]](https://queerwasalwayshere.myshopify.com/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/pride-heartstopper-sebastian-croft-connor-jessup-queer-t-shirt-b1236607.html), [[4]](https://www.queerwasalwayshere.com/home), [[3]](https://www.attitude.co.uk/style/fashion/heartstoppers-sebastian-croft-re-releases-queer-was-always-here-charity-t-shirt-404256/), [[7]](https://instinctmagazine.com/sebastian-croft-drops-queer-was-always-here-charity-shirt-once-again/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.queerwasalwayshere.com/home), [[5]](https://www.letschooselove.org/store/p/choose-love-unisex-t-shirt), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/pride-heartstopper-sebastian-croft-connor-jessup-queer-t-shirt-b1236607.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/pride-heartstopper-sebastian-croft-connor-jessup-queer-t-shirt-b1236607.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/pride-heartstopper-sebastian-croft-connor-jessup-queer-t-shirt-b1236607.html> - In 2025, Sebastian Croft and Connor Jessup, stars of Netflix's 'Heartstopper', sold 'Queer Past' merchandise during London Pride. Their charity, Queer Was Always Here, founded in 2022, began with a T-shirt featuring two kissing dinosaurs, Dylan and Derek, sold in partnership with Choose Love, a charity supporting LGBTQIA+ refugees. The initiative has raised over £250,000, aiding more than 1,700 refugees through organisations like Rainbow Railroad and the Say It Loud Club.
3. <https://www.attitude.co.uk/style/fashion/heartstoppers-sebastian-croft-re-releases-queer-was-always-here-charity-t-shirt-404256/> - Sebastian Croft's 'Queer Was Always Here' charity T-shirt, co-designed with artist Kieran Blakey, was re-released after raising £150,000 for LGBTQ charities Choose Love and Rainbow Railroad. The white T-shirt features two kissing dinosaurs, Dylan and Derek, symbolising the enduring presence of queerness throughout history. The pre-order period for the re-release ended on 14 September 2022.
4. <https://www.queerwasalwayshere.com/home> - Queer Was Always Here (QWAH) is a community dedicated to queer joy, art, and history, founded by actors Sebastian Croft and Connor Jessup. In partnership with Choose Love, QWAH supports LGBTQIA+ refugees and displaced people globally. The initiative began with a T-shirt featuring two kissing dinosaurs, Dylan and Derek, and has since raised nearly £200,000 for organisations aiding LGBTQIA+ refugees.
5. <https://www.letschooselove.org/store/p/choose-love-unisex-t-shirt> - The 'Choose Love' unisex T-shirt is a soft, heavy cotton tee available in various colours and sizes. All proceeds support the Let's Choose Love Mini Grants, which fund grassroots organisations aiding refugees and displaced people. The T-shirt features the 'Choose Love' slogan, promoting a message of compassion and support for those in need.
6. <https://queerwasalwayshere.myshopify.com/> - QWAH's online store offers a range of merchandise, including the 'Queer Past' T-shirt, caps, and jumpers. The 'Queer Past' collection, in collaboration with artist Jack Taylor Lovatt, features designs like the 'Queer Past Tee' and 'Footprint Tee'. All profits support LGBTQIA+ refugees and displaced people through Choose Love.
7. <https://instinctmagazine.com/sebastian-croft-drops-queer-was-always-here-charity-shirt-once-again/> - Sebastian Croft's 'Queer Was Always Here' charity T-shirt, co-designed with artist Kieran Blakey, was re-released after raising £150,000 for LGBTQ charities Choose Love and Rainbow Railroad. The white T-shirt features two kissing dinosaurs, Dylan and Derek, symbolising the enduring presence of queerness throughout history. The pre-order period for the re-release ended on 14 September 2022.