# Conservative criticism escalates over Sesame Street’s Pride Month posts amid divided public opinion



Conservative backlash against Sesame Street has intensified in response to the show's recent Pride Month posts, which aim to celebrate diversity and inclusion. On June 1, the beloved children's programme shared an illustration featuring muppet arms linked together in rainbow colours, accompanied by the message "On our street, everyone is welcome." The post encouraged viewers to love and respect all identities and family structures. While Sesame Street has previously made similar announcements during Pride celebrations, the renewed criticism has drawn considerable attention, particularly on social media platforms like X, formerly known as Twitter.

Critics of the initiative, such as Daily Wire host Michael Knowles, have condemned the show for what they perceive as an inappropriate attempt to promote “sexual agendas” to children. Knowles' comments have garnered significant engagement online, sparking conversations about the appropriateness of LGBTQ+ themes in children’s programming. Additionally, the Heritage Foundation has weighed in on the discourse, questioning the justification for taxpayer funding for PBS, the network that distributes Sesame Street, amidst claims of bias. The White House recently reduced PBS funding, intensifying the scrutiny of its operations.

Interestingly, the reception to Sesame Street’s posts appears to differ markedly between platforms. While the discourse on X has been predominantly negative, featuring calls for boycotts and critical remarks, the Facebook version of the announcement attracted a substantial number of supportive comments. One user’s defence of the show earned around 5,000 likes, highlighting that many children are part of diverse family structures that may include same-sex parents. This variance in reaction indicates a split in public sentiment regarding LGBTQ+ representation in media aimed at young audiences.

Despite the backlash, Sesame Street has continued its commitment to celebrating Pride Month, recently sharing images of the Progress Pride Flag along with messages underscoring the importance of self-expression. These posts further reinforce the show's historical advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights, which has included the introduction of openly queer characters and narratives featuring same-sex parents in recent years. While Sesame Street has yet to formally respond to the current backlash, its consistent messaging reflects a broader cultural push towards inclusivity in children's media, prompting ongoing debate on the role of such programming in shaping societal views on diverse identities.

As Sesame Street pushes forward with its Pride-themed celebrations, the juxtaposition of support and criticism reveals a significant divide in perceptions of children's media and its responsibilities concerning representation and acceptance. This conversation not only reflects contemporary societal values but also underscores the challenges creators face in navigating sensitive topics in a landscape marked by fierce debate and division.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://wng.org/sift/sesame-street-sparks-backlash-with-pride-month-post-1748979195), [[4]](https://www.thepinknews.com/2023/06/13/sesame-street-pride-month-twitter-backlash-boycott/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2023/06/12/defiant-sesame-street-still-celebrating-pride-month-despite-backlash/), [[6]](https://www.comicsands.com/sesame-street-conservatives-pride-month-2661276392.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.foxnews.com/media/sesame-street-prompts-strong-reaction-pride-month-twitter-posts-happy-pride-elmo-loves-you), [[5]](https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2023/06/04/sesame-street-goes-all-in-for-pride-month-happy-pride-elmo-loves-you/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://www.dailywire.com/news/sesame-street-dragged-on-twitter-for-sharing-progress-pride-flag)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://wng.org/sift/sesame-street-sparks-backlash-with-pride-month-post-1748979195> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2023/06/12/defiant-sesame-street-still-celebrating-pride-month-despite-backlash/> - Sesame Street continues its Pride Month celebrations despite backlash over previous posts. The show shared a multi-coloured Progress Pride flag amid smiling flowers, emphasising inclusion and freedom of self-expression. This follows earlier posts featuring actress Ariana DeBose and Elmo, promoting LGBTQIA+ acceptance. Critics, including Daily Wire host Michael Knowles, accuse the show of promoting sexual agendas to children. The Heritage Foundation questions PBS funding, citing perceived bias. Sesame Street has yet to respond to the backlash.
3. <https://www.foxnews.com/media/sesame-street-prompts-strong-reaction-pride-month-twitter-posts-happy-pride-elmo-loves-you> - Sesame Street's Pride Month posts on Twitter have elicited strong reactions. The show featured characters like Elmo and Big Bird in rainbow-themed images, accompanied by messages celebrating diversity and inclusion. While some praised the initiative, others criticised it, questioning the appropriateness of such content for children. The posts also included a video of actress Ariana DeBose and Elmo wishing everyone a happy Pride Month. Sesame Street has not responded to the criticism.
4. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2023/06/13/sesame-street-pride-month-twitter-backlash-boycott/> - Sesame Street's Pride Month support on Twitter has sparked backlash from critics. The show posted a message celebrating inclusion and self-expression, accompanied by a graphic of the Progress Pride Flag. Responses included calls for boycotts and derogatory remarks. However, the Instagram version of the post received more positive feedback. Sesame Street has a history of supporting LGBTQ+ identities, including featuring same-sex parents and introducing openly queer characters in 2021.
5. <https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2023/06/04/sesame-street-goes-all-in-for-pride-month-happy-pride-elmo-loves-you/> - Sesame Street has fully embraced Pride Month with a series of social media posts promoting LGBTQIA+ identities. The first post featured actress Ariana DeBose and Elmo, emphasising that everyone is welcome on Sesame Street. The caption encouraged celebrating LGBTQIA+ people in communities during Pride and every day. The show's use of the 'LGBTQIA+' acronym has been noted for its inclusivity, though some argue it excludes certain identities.
6. <https://www.comicsands.com/sesame-street-conservatives-pride-month-2661276392.html> - Sesame Street's Pride Month posts have faced criticism from conservative commentators. The show shared messages of inclusion and self-expression, accompanied by rainbow-themed graphics. Critics questioned the appropriateness of such content for children and called for boycotts. Sesame Street has a history of supporting LGBTQ+ identities, including featuring same-sex parents and introducing openly queer characters in 2021. The show has yet to respond to the backlash.
7. <https://www.dailywire.com/news/sesame-street-dragged-on-twitter-for-sharing-progress-pride-flag> - Sesame Street's Pride Month post featuring the Progress Pride Flag has been met with criticism on Twitter. The show shared a message celebrating inclusion and self-expression, accompanied by a rainbow-themed graphic. Critics questioned why a children's show would promote such messaging, with some calling for boycotts. Sesame Street has a history of supporting LGBTQ+ identities, including featuring same-sex parents and introducing openly queer characters in 2021. The show has yet to respond to the criticism.