



**Operation Blazing Sword** was founded in Florida on June 12, 2016 as a response to the Pulse Nightclub Massacre. It is a grass-roots organization dedicated to helping everyone, but especially queer people, become responsible firearm owners. If you think you may need a firearm for armed self-defense but don't feel comfortable going to a shooting range or a gun store by yourself, seek out any of our 1500 queer-friendly volunteer educators across the United States and at our website ([www.blazingsword.org/instructor-list-page](http://www.blazingsword.org/instructor-list-page)). They will teach you the basics of firearm safety, operation and ownership for no cost and without judgement for your race, faith, gender, politics, biology, sexuality, or manner of dress.

Because Operation Blazing Sword is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, our volunteers are able to claim the expenses incurred in taking a student to the range (range fees, targets, equipment rental, and ammunition expended) as a charitable donation. However, as ammunition can be expensive, it is good manners to offer some compensation, although most of our volunteers will decline.

## OPERATION BLAZING SWORD'S THREE GOALS

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1. To educate *anyone* in the basics of firearms safety and operation, enabling them to make an informed decision regarding whether or not owning a gun is right for them.
2. To demonstrate that gun owners do not hate queer people, and in fact want to enable them to protect themselves from violence.
3. To champion the fact that responsible gun ownership is a human right. All living beings have an inherent right to self-defense, and firearms are the most effective means of self-defense.

## TOGETHER, OPERATION BLAZING SWORD AND PINK PISTOLS PROVIDE FULL-CIRCLE SUPPORT

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Operation Blazing Sword provides the environment and support for educators who wish to provide services and products to members of the queer community, while Pink Pistols provides the environment and support for those same persons. Between them, the queer community is well served in both directions: from the queer person outward, and from self-defense education inward.



## WHY SAY QUEER?

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Both Operation Blazing Sword and Pink Pistols like the word *queer* and give everyone permission to use it, even non-queer people, because LGBTQ is an awkward mouthful of consonants that's difficult to say without practice. Conversely, *queer* is a word that's already known and easy to say, which encourages its use.

To be welcomed, accepted, included, represented, and heard, we need to make it easier for people to talk about us and with us, because the moment they stop, our voices are no longer heard and silence equals death.

Queer is also an umbrella term. The Q already in LGBTQ stands for "*an inclusionary category of the many identities and variations that make up the LGBTQ community.*" Why would we need anything more?

People of a certain generation may have a problem saying *queer* because in their time it was an insult, a word of hate. Operation Blazing Sword and Pink Pistols sympathize with that sentiment and will never force people to use it. However, our organizations strongly believe that it is the duty of certain minorities to reclaim hurtful words and make them words of power.

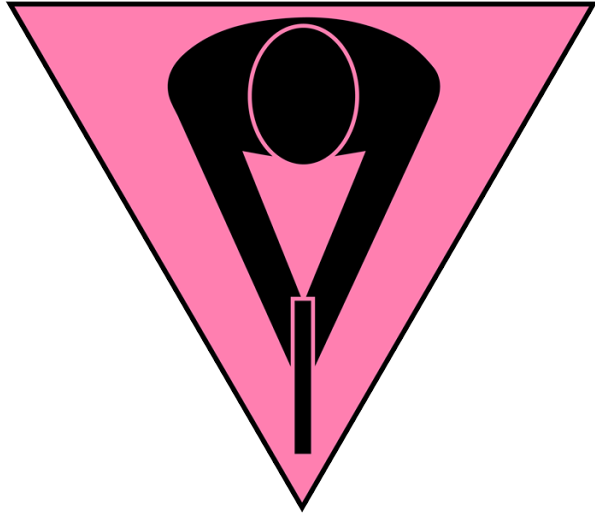
## DONATIONS

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Operation Blazing Sword is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible charity (our EIN is 81-4230880) founded to teach firearms safety to the queer community and others who support them. Operation Blazing Sword and the Pink Pistols provide the two most important phases of self-defense training: education and confidence. A donation of any amount helps us in our mission to teach firearms safety to the queer community.

- PayPal: [www.paypal.me/OpBlazingSword](http://www.paypal.me/OpBlazingSword)
- CashApp: \$OpBlazingSword
- Venmo: @OperationBlazingSword
- Zelle: 3864010386
- Mail a check payable to:  
Operation Blazing Sword  
800 Belle Terre Parkway, Suite 200-302  
Palm Coast, FL 32164

# Armed Queers Don't Get Bashed



# PINK PISTOLS

The Pink Pistols was founded in Boston, Massachusetts in July 2000 to provide a safe environment for members to learn the skills and acquire the knowledge necessary to engage in lawful self-defense of themselves or their loved ones. The Pink Pistols' primary focus is the legal and responsible carry of firearms as defensive tools, but since some jurisdictions make it difficult or even impossible to lawfully carry a firearm, our secondary focus is the advocacy of any form of self-defense in general. The dual mottoes of the Pink Pistols are "Armed Queers Don't Get Bashed" and "Pick On Someone Your Own Caliber".

Pink Pistols chapters across North America endeavor to meet at least once a month for mutual support and safe practice at firearm ranges. Some members of the queer community do not feel comfortable going to gun stores or ranges alone out of concerns that they will be discriminated against or harassed because of their gender or sexuality, and so going to the range with a Pink Pistols chapter

provides emotional support and safety in numbers to help avoid such discomfort.

Some chapters also include social gatherings to help build community cohesion and interpersonal support; frequently, a chapter will combine a social gathering with a trip to the range, such as lunch in a local restaurant, followed by a range practice session. Public social interactions of this nature help to establish and reinforce public perception that the queer community has more in common with the general public than they exhibit in difference. The Pink Pistols always strives to build bridges along lines of similarity.

## THE PINK PISTOLS' MISSION STATEMENT

The Pink Pistols are dedicated to the legal, safe, and responsible use of firearms for self-defense of the queer community. We will no longer allow those who hate and fear gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or polyamorous persons to use us as targets for their rage. **Self-defense is our right. We teach queer people to shoot, and then we teach the world that we have done so.**



## TOGETHER, PINK PISTOLS AND OPERATION BLAZING SWORD PROVIDE FULL-CIRCLE SUPPORT

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