

# EURO-LETTER

Euro-Letter is published by **ILGA-Europe** - the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association with support from the European Community - The European Union against Discrimination.

**Editor:** Juris Lavrikovs

**Contact us:** [euroletter@ilga-europe.org](mailto:euroletter@ilga-europe.org)

**Subscribe to Euro-Letter:** simply send an empty message to [euroletter-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:euroletter-subscribe@yahogroups.com)

**Previous issues:** all previous Euro-Letters in English as well as the German and Portuguese translations from No.76, January 2000 and Greek translation from No 127, January 2006 are available in pdf format on our website: [www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/euro\\_letter](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/euro_letter)

ILGA-Europe is grateful to

- the Lesbian and Gay Liberation Front for the German translations of the Euro-Letter which are also available on their website: [www.lglf.de](http://www.lglf.de);
- Miguel Freitas – for the Portuguese translations;
- Pantelis Ravdas – for the Greek translations.

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

## In this issue:

### ILGA-Europe:

- In memoriam - Vangelis Giannelos
- ILGA-Europe's annual conference, 26-29 October 2006, Sofia
- Please support ILGA-Europe "Angels" scheme to raise money for annual conference scholarships
- Two new ILGA-Europe publications:
  - ♦ LGA-Europe and IGLYO's report on "Social Exclusion of LGBT youth"
  - ♦ ILGA-Europe's Handbook on Observations of Pride Marches
- ILGA-Europe's contribution to the Green Paper on mental health
- ILGA-Europe at EuroPride

### Europe:

- European Parliament's Resolution on racism and homophobia is welcome, timely and needed
- Green light for the European Year of Equal Opportunities 2007!
- European Forum of LGBT Christian Organisations
- Poland: Minister of Educations dismisses official for publishing human rights publications, Council of Europe is concerned
- Latvia: Parliament defies EU & allows sexual orientation discrimination, President disagrees
- Latvia: Gay reverend loses discrimination case
- Norway: Oslo launches homosexuality campaign

### Same-sex families:

- Denmark: Ban on assisted conception for lesbians lifted
- France: Presidential Contender Calls For Gay Marriage

### Freedom of assembly:

- Council of Europe on LGBT rights to free assembly
- Moscow Authorities Fail to Ensure Safety for LGBT Communities
- LGBT Pride Marches took place in Bucharest and Warsaw, the next is Riga

### Hate crime:

- Estonia: New law gives better protection to sexual minorities

### Funding opportunity:

- EU call for proposals: pilot projects on workers' mobility

### Notice board:

- A new tool for LGBT youth organisations
- Rainbow's End - New DVD on LGBT activism in Europe and works of ILGA
- Three job opportunities with GLEN in Ireland

# ILGA-EUROPE:

## In memoriam - Vangelis Giannelos

*by Deborah Lambillote & Riccardo Gottardi ,Co-Chairs of ILGA-Europe Board, 23 May 2006*

It is with great sadness that we have been informed of the death of Vangelis Giannelos.

Vangelis has been involved for a long time, since 1989, with ILGA and ILGA-Europe. He has been a much appreciated international activist for nearly 20 years, representing the interests of the Greek LGBT communities in the World and European context.

We have worked with Vangelis over the years, we have been discussing, we have been campaigning. We have come to know his dedication to the LGBT cause and the passionate endurance with which he faced the challenges in Greek society.

His contribution will be very much missed.

In this sad day, we want to stand beside all who loved and appreciated Vangelis, sharing the grief for his departure. But we also like to think that he has worked for a dream, that of a brighter future for LGBT people, with equality and non-discrimination, a dream that is slowly coming true. It is up to us all to continue the work and make the dream eventually come true.

## ILGA-Europe's annual conference, 26-29 October 2006, Sofia

*by ILGA-Europe, 14 June 2006*

ILGA-Europe sent out the first mailing for its annual conference. The first mailing includes all the information you need for making a start for your participation in the Sofia conference this October such as registration forms, scholarship application forms, nomination forms for ILGA-Europe and European representatives on ILGA board, delegation forms, questionnaires for those organisations who want to host ILGA-Europe annual conference in 2008. On-line registration for ILGA-Europe annual conference will be opened on 10 July 2006. For further details please visit our website: [www.ilga-europe.org/europe/about\\_us/annual\\_conference](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/about_us/annual_conference).

## **Please support ILGA-Europe "Angels" scheme to raise money for annual conference scholarships**

*by Nigel Warner, Angels Scheme coordinator, 20 June 2006*

Scholarships to ILGA-Europe's annual conferences have long been a very important way of supporting the development of LGBT human rights activism, particularly in Eastern and South Eastern Europe and for the transgender community. But funds for these scholarships are becoming increasingly difficult to find. So last year ILGA-Europe set up a "scholarship angels" scheme to enable supporters - both organisations and individuals -- to contribute a sum of money each year towards the conference scholarship fund. The fund made a great start, with donations for the Paris conference of approximately €6,500. However, we need to continue to expand the Angels scheme - the total cost of scholarships at the Paris conference was approximately €23,000, the difference being funded by donations from IBM and the City of Paris.

This additional funding will, obviously, not be available for the Sofia conference. But the needs remain as great as ever. To give but one example: the struggle to assert the right to freedom of assembly extends right across Central and Eastern Europe, and is a crucial step on the long road to achieving equality of LGBT people in the region. ILGA-Europe's conferences provide a crucial opportunity for leading activists to meet, exchange ideas and learning points, and develop new strategies.

So we urgently need to find more organisations and individuals willing to become ILGA-Europe conference "Angels".

Donors are encouraged to give a fixed sum of money - equivalent to the cost of conference participation, or conference participation and travel. They are told which scholar their money has supported, and are given background information about their organisation and work.

Please support this scheme! Become a scholarship Angel! For full details, visit the ILGA-Europe web site, [www.ilga-europe.org/europe/get\\_involved\\_support\\_us/become\\_a\\_scholarship\\_angel](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/get_involved_support_us/become_a_scholarship_angel)

## Two new ILGA-Europe publications:

- **ILGA-Europe and IGLYO's report on "Social Exclusion of LGBT youth" is out!**

*by Evelyne Paradis, 12 June 2006*

ILGA-Europe and IGLYO's report on the Social Exclusion of LGBT Young people in Europe – the outcome of months of work and the extraordinary contribution of many people, including more than 700 young people from across Europe – is now available on the Web!

Written by PhD Researcher Judit Takács, the report describes how young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people across Europe face discrimination and exclusion in their everyday life. It looks at experiences of estrangement from family, bullying and marginalisation at school, which can lead to such problems as underachievement and school drop-out, low self-esteem and mental ill-health. These in turn have a negative impact on the capacity of young LGBT people to manage the transition from school to work and to become confident and independent adults who can contribute to society.

At the core of this report lie the testimonies from young LGBT people who responded to our call by filling out the questionnaire that was posted online for over three months. These testify to the need of combating discrimination and exclusion of young LGBT people.

This joint report by IGLYO and ILGA-Europe is a response to the need to bring attention to the social exclusion of young LGBT people in Europe and to put the issue on the agenda of national and European policy-makers. Both ILGA-Europe and IGLYO plan to follow-up on the recommendations made in this report with the European institutions and Member States in the coming year.

Report is available at our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non\\_periodical/social\\_exclusion\\_of\\_young\\_lesbian\\_gay\\_bisexual\\_and\\_transgender\\_people\\_lgbt\\_in\\_europe\\_april\\_2006](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non_periodical/social_exclusion_of_young_lesbian_gay_bisexual_and_transgender_people_lgbt_in_europe_april_2006)

- **ILGA-Europe's Handbook on Observations of Pride Marches is out!**

*by ILGA-Europe, 19 June 2006*

Summer means a busy Pride Marches season. During the last couple of years Europe experience some violent protests and attacks on LGBT Pride Marches. To help LGBT activists and organisers of LGBT Pride Marches to better prepare for the monitoring and reporting of human rights violations, ILGA-Europe published a Handbook on Observations of Pride Marches.

This publication has been designed for people and organisations who are thinking of monitoring human

rights abuses occurring during Pride marches. The human rights monitoring technique described here is the observation of marches by independent observers.

The handbook looks at different aspects of observing Pride marches. It explains briefly the principles of human rights monitoring. It lists relevant human rights instruments which can be invoked when a Pride march is banned or violent. Then it gives some practical advice and tools on human rights monitoring through observation of Pride marches. Once the factual information is collected it is important to gather the information in a report and to send it to the relevant human rights organisation. Information is given on organisations that monitor the implementations of human rights standards and how to approach them. Finally it looks into the possibility of taking case before courts at national and international level and the challenges attached to this approach.

This document can be used in conjunction with the toolkit on how to organise pride in a difficult environment which is available on our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non\\_periodical/handbook\\_on\\_observations\\_of\\_pride\\_marches\\_june\\_2006](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non_periodical/handbook_on_observations_of_pride_marches_june_2006)

## **ILGA-Europe's contribution to the Green Paper on mental health**

*by Evelyne Paradis, 9 June 2006*

ILGA-Europe responded to the public consultation launched by the European Commission on a proposal for an EU strategy to promote mental health. We contributed to the consultation on **Green Paper on mental health** by highlighting the importance of discrimination as a determinant of mental health.

ILGA-Europe's contribution was intended to stress the connection between discrimination and mental health through a brief overview of the impact of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity on the mental health of LGBT people. In addition to responding to questions raised by the Commission in the green paper from the perspective of promoting equality for, and combating discrimination against LGBT people, this written contribution also presented existing research on the forms of discrimination and exclusion that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people do face and which may negatively impact their mental health

Other members of the Social Platform have responded to the public consultation. **Mental Health Europe** has invited its members and other organisations active in the field of mental health to have their say on this Green Paper. Its response is available at: [www.mhe-sme.org/en/publication\\_4.htm](http://www.mhe-sme.org/en/publication_4.htm). The **European Older People's Platform (AGE)** has also recently published its reaction to the Green Paper at: [www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/AGE\\_Response\\_GP\\_Mental\\_Health\\_Final.pdf](http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/AGE_Response_GP_Mental_Health_Final.pdf)

## ILGA-Europe at EuroPride

*by ILGA-Europe, 19, June 2006*

This year EuroPride takes place in London. ILGA-Europe takes part in the EuroPride by co-organising a conference a conference "Organising a Pride in Hostile Environment" on 30 June 2006:

[www.pridelondon.org/conference](http://www.pridelondon.org/conference).

The aim of the conference is to provide practical support to LGBT activists who organise or plan to organise a Pride event in a hostile environment, whether in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, or elsewhere in Europe.

To this end it will build on the successes achieved so far by sharing the lessons gained and by exploring the ways that European institutions and international solidarity can contribute to further advances. It will also share positive learning from the UK, with workshops on "Pride and policing" and "Pride and diversity".

To make this know-how available to a wider audience a toolkit on organising Pride in a hostile environment will be published after the conference.

ILGA-Europe will also be taking part at the EuroPride March, so if you are in London, look up for ILGA-Europe banner and join us!

## EUROPE:

### **EP's Resolution on racism and homophobia is welcome, timely and needed**

*by ILGA-Europe, 16 June 2006*

On 15 June 2006, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the increase of racist and homophobic violence in Europe. ILGA-Europe welcomes this resolution and joins the European Parliament's call to the Finnish presidency to intensify work on the 2001 Council Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia and to explicitly extend it to homophobic, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic and other types of offences motivated by phobia or hatred based on ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, religion or other irrational grounds.

Full text of ILGA-Europe media statement, text of the resolution, results of the voting at the European Parliament and other relevant information available at our website: [www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/european\\_parliament\\_adopts\\_new\\_resolution\\_on\\_racism\\_homophobia](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/european_parliament_adopts_new_resolution_on_racism_homophobia)



## Green light for the European Year of Equal Opportunities 2007!

*by Evelyne Paradis, 9 June 2006*

The Council and the Parliament have recently and officially designated 2007 as 'European Year of Equal Opportunities for All'. The objectives of this Year are:

- to make people in the EU more aware of their rights not to be discriminated against
- to promote equal opportunities in various areas, from healthcare to the workplace
- to show how diversity makes the EU stronger.

The activities undertaken during the Year will focus on the discrimination some individuals suffer owing to their race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, gender, sexual orientation or disability, all of which are grounds for discrimination that may be addressed at European level. The year will have four themes: rights, representation, recognition and respect, with a total budget of EUR 15 million.

Most activities will be coordinated nationally to ensure that they take place as locally as possible. The EUR 7.6 million dedicated to national, local and regional activities will be matched by co-financing from national public and private sources.

At the EU level, the year's budget will be spent on, inter alia, an EU-wide information campaign, new Eurobarometer surveys on discrimination and attitudes towards it, as well as the first ever Equality Summit gathering together ministers, equality bodies, civil society and social partners. (Source: EC)

ILGA-Europe believes that this Year can provide a unique opportunity for members to network at national level with other NGOs working for equality. We also plan to make the most of this Year to produce awareness-raising tools which can be used by members at national level.

For more information about what we are doing during the European Year of Equal Opportunities, do not hesitate to contact me at [evelyne@ilga-europe.org](mailto:evelyne@ilga-europe.org)

Further information about the Year can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/equality2007/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/equality2007/index_en.htm)

and on ILGA-Europe's website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns\\_projects/2007\\_european\\_year\\_of\\_equal\\_opportunities](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/2007_european_year_of_equal_opportunities)

## European Forum of LGBT Christian Organisations

*by Juris Lavrikovs, 7 June 2006*

On 25-28 May 2006, the European Forum of Lesbian and Gay Groups gathered for its annual conference in Riga, Latvia. The Forum brought together around 80 participants from all over Europe. The participants of the Forum discussed various theological issues, the Forum's strategy, shared their experiences in challenging homophobia within the Church.

The Forum's theme was a family and the participants had a chance to listen to a number of lectures on marriage and family in the Christian tradition, homoparents after hetero marriage v homo children in hetero families, Christian and psychological perspective of children in same-sex families. The Forum also organised a special training for the participants of the Forum's pilot project to train activists in Easter Europe on theological debate around sexuality.

The Forum serves also as its General Assembly and one of the Forum's decisions was to join ILGA and to apply for a consultative status with the United Nations. ILGA-Europe took part in the Forum and organised a presentation about its aims, activities and encouraged the Forum's member to join the organisations.

The participants of the Forum also took part in an ecumenical service at the Riga St. Saviour's Anglican parish, Sunday service at the venue and every evening they were truly spoiled by a diverse social programme and activities.

More information about the Forum: [www.geocities.com/pammccuk](http://www.geocities.com/pammccuk)

## **Poland: Minister of Educations dismisses official for publishing human rights publications, Council of Europe is concerned**

*by ILGA-Europe, 14 July 2006*

The Polish Minister of Education Mr. Roman Giertych, officially dismissed The Director of Polish In-Service Teachers Training Centre for the publication of "Compass: a manual on human rights education with young people". In the letter of dismissal it is clearly stated that the only reason was to be involved in publishing the manual. The minister says:

"This Manual speaks about issues of the homosexual relations as being equal to the matrimonial relations between woman and man. The contents included in this Manual accept thesis that the prohibition of matrimonial homosexual relations and the adoption of children by homosexual couples may constitute an element of discrimination. Such contents are in contradiction to the core curriculum for general education; therefore they can not be, by any means, presented as methodological resources for teacher."

Further information, statement of the General Secretary of the Council of Europe and ILGA-Europe's letter sent to the Polish authorities at our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/general\\_secretary\\_of\\_council\\_of\\_europe\\_concerned\\_with\\_the\\_dismissal\\_of\\_polish\\_official](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/general_secretary_of_council_of_europe_concerned_with_the_dismissal_of_polish_official)

## Latvia: Parliament defies EU & allows sexual orientation discrimination, President disagrees

by ILGA-Europe 22 June 2006

On 15 June 2006, the Latvian Parliament rejected a proposal to include sexual orientation in the Labour Law. Latvia is the only member state of the European Union which still refuses to explicitly ban sexual orientation discrimination in employment as required by the EU Employment Equality Directive.

On 21 June 2006, Vaira Vike Freiberga, the President of Latvia, announced she is not signing the parliamentary decision into law and send it back to the parliament for re-consideration.

Further details, translation of the statement of the President of Latvia plus ILGA-Europe's media release on this story at our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country\\_by\\_country/latvia/president\\_of\\_latvia\\_does\\_not\\_sign\\_amendment\\_to\\_labour\\_law](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country_by_country/latvia/president_of_latvia_does_not_sign_amendment_to_labour_law)

## Latvia: Gay reverend loses discrimination case

Source: *The Baltic Times*, 8 June 2006, [www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/15644](http://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/15644)

Reverend Maris Sants lost a discrimination case against the Riga Culture High School today, after the Riga Regional Court sided with the school. Sants had charged the high school of discrimination based on sexual orientation, arguing that he was denied a teaching position because he is gay. The reverend was hoping to teach religious history.

After the court announced its decision, Sants told the press that he was displeased with the outcome and would most likely file an appeal. But before doing so, he needed to see the judgement's full text and consult his lawyer, the reverend added. Attacks on homosexuals are continuing, he said, if only verbally for now. "There is discrimination all around," Sants added.

A procedural appeal can be made to the Supreme Court within 30 days from June 22, when the full text of the judgement will be available. Last year, a district court partly satisfied Sants' claim and ordered the school to pay him compensation of 2,000 lats (2,845 euros). The school filed an appeal with the regional court.

The Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church dismissed Sants in March 2002, after he publicly admitted to being homosexual.

## Norway: Oslo launches homosexuality campaign

Source: *Aftenposten*, 2 June 2006,

[www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1338565.ece](http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1338565.ece)

Oslo city council leader Erling Lae has a new 40-point campaign to end discrimination against homosexuals in sport, schools, day care centers, and among immigrants in the capital.

"Superficially there is a lot of tolerance towards homosexuals and lesbians. On the surface it is easy to underestimate the negative attitudes that still exist. Even if one can become city council leader and homosexual, it isn't necessary easy to be a ninth grader at (Oslo school) Ila," Lae said.

Along with city education councilor Torger Ødegaard, Lae wants to set Norwegian precedents for gay equality.

"And we challenge the government to do the same. We are not waiting to see if an equal marriage law comes or not," Lae said.

Ødegaard wants to use post-education funding to inform teachers about homosexuality and ensure that school libraries also have gay literature on their shelves. Day care centers will be taught how to meet same-sex parents.

The city will also demand that sporting organisations that receive major funding work actively to fight all forms of discrimination.

"Oslo also has an additional challenge. Thirty-five percent of the population has an immigrant background. In some of these communities the issue of homosexuality is taboo, non-existent and filthy," Lae said, adding that he would like to see high-profile gay immigrant role models.

Christian Møllerop from The Norwegian National Association of Lesbian and Gay Liberation (LLH) is extremely pleased with the initiatives.

"We are rather surprised that the plan is so comprehensive. And we are glad that sports clubs have to actively work against homophobia to get support.

Sport has been good to show racism the red card, but has not done the same for homophobia," Møllerop said.

# SAME-SEX FAMILIES:

## Denmark: Ban on assisted conception for lesbians lifted

*by Søren laursen, LBL, the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians, 4 June 2006*

From January 1, 2007 lesbians and single women have the same access to fertility treatment as other women. The law on assisted conception has become neutral to sexual orientation. Nine years of criminalisation has come to an end.

In 1997 Denmark got its law on assisted conception. Before there were no legal regulations. Before the law was passed a ban on assisted conception for lesbians and single women was added. Since then removal or weakening of the ban has been attempted several times. May 24 was the ninth attempt, and with a majority of a single vote – 53-52 – the proposal was surprisingly passed.

This was during the second parliamentary hearing of a law proposal on the revision of the law on assisted conception. For the third hearing there were two new proposals: one was to reintroduce the ban, the second was to deprive lesbians and single women access to funding for fertility treatment in the public health care. Both fell.

Passing of the law was a crisis for the Danish liberal-conservative government. The original proposal for a law revision came from the minister of health. The opposition proposed to include a lifting of the ban, which was strongly opposed by the conservatives. Several members of the liberal party, however, decided to vote in favour of it. The prime minister and the vice-prime minister had several meetings on the subject, and for the final passing of the law proposal, the whole government voted neutral, neither yes nor no.

The Danish law on assisted conception rules only the doctors, but not e.g. midwives. Because of this midwife Nina Stork was able at the second anniversary of the law to make an insemination clinic open to lesbians and single women. However infertile lesbians had no possibility for treatment.

## France: Presidential Contender Calls For Gay Marriage

Source: [www.365gay.com](http://www.365gay.com), 20 June 2006

The leading contender for the Socialist Party nomination to run for President in 2007 has come out in favour of same-sex marriage.

"Opening up marriage to same-sex couples is needed in the name of equality, visibility and respect," Segolene Royal tells the LGBT publication Tetu in this week's edition. She said that if her party forms the next government she will introduce a gay marriage bill.

"It is essential that everybody has equal rights and dignities and the chance to express themselves freely." Royal also told the publication that same-sex couples should be allowed to adopt.

President Jacques Chirac's ruling conservative UMP party opposes both gay marriage and adoption and only begrudgingly agreed several years ago to grant limited rights to gay and lesbian couples.

The French public opinion appears to be with Royal. A poll released earlier this month shows that about 60 percent of the population favours same-sex marriage.

# FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY:

## Council of Europe on LGBT rights to free assembly

*by Maxim Anmeghichean, 2 June 2006*

During its session on May 30 – June 1st the CLRA passed a motion for a resolution on freedom of assembly for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The motion has received the majority support from the Congress, with few votes against.

Full text of the motion is available at our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/the\\_congress\\_of\\_local\\_and\\_regional\\_authorities\\_of\\_the\\_council\\_of\\_europe\\_to\\_investigate\\_freedom\\_of\\_assembly\\_for\\_lgbt\\_people/text\\_of\\_the\\_motion\\_for\\_a\\_resolution\\_of\\_lgbt\\_rights\\_to\\_free\\_assembly](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/the_congress_of_local_and_regional_authorities_of_the_council_of_europe_to_investigate_freedom_of_assembly_for_lgbt_people/text_of_the_motion_for_a_resolution_of_lgbt_rights_to_free_assembly)

**Terry Davis**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe delivered a speech at The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, and spoke of LGBT people and their right to free assembly, more information and full text of his speech is on our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/terry\\_davis\\_secretary\\_general\\_of\\_the\\_council\\_of\\_europe\\_speaks\\_of\\_lgbt\\_rights](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/terry_davis_secretary_general_of_the_council_of_europe_speaks_of_lgbt_rights)



## Moscow Authorities Fail to Ensure Safety for LGBT Communities

*by ILGA-Europe, 31 May 2006*

On the eve of Russia accepting its presidency of the Council of Europe, on 27 May 2006 Moscow authorities have dispersed a peaceful demonstration in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights and failed to ensure the safety of its participants. The events resulted in violence by Russian Orthodox extremists and neo-Nazi groups against LGBT people and their supporters. Earlier this month the mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov had refused to authorise a gay parade. "We will not even consider this matter" he said in an interview to a Russian radio station one day before the event.

ILGA-Europe expresses its deep concern with the recent events in Moscow and reminds the Russian authorities that freedom of assembly is a basic human right, guaranteed by Article 31 of the Russian Constitution and Article 11 of the European Convention for Human Rights. ILGA-Europe is also concerned by the role Russian politicians and faith organisations have played in inciting violence and hatred towards LGBT people.

Full text of the ILGA-Europe media release as well as more information on the Moscow pride including ILGA-Europe detailed account of events in Moscow at our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/moscow\\_pride\\_27\\_may\\_2006](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/moscow_pride_27_may_2006)

## LGBT Pride Marched took place in Bucharest and Warsaw, the next is Riga

*by ILGA-Europe, 15 June 2006*

On 3 June 2006, the second LGBT pride March took place in **Bucharest**. The March was officially sanctioned, but met with protest actions from some Orthodox representatives and hooligans. More information on our website: [www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/second\\_lgbt\\_pride\\_march\\_takes\\_place\\_in\\_bucharest](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/second_lgbt_pride_march_takes_place_in_bucharest).

On 10 June 2006, the first officially allowed Equality March took place in **Warsaw**. The Polish police provided proper protection to the participants of the March. More information on the Warsaw March on our website: [www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/today\\_pride\\_march\\_takes\\_places\\_in\\_warsaw](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/today_pride_march_takes_places_in_warsaw).

Bucharest and Warsaw are among those European cities, which experienced official bans on the Marches and/or were met with fierce protests and opposition from fundamentalist Christians, ultra nationalists and conservatives. Next 'problematic' European capital to host LGBT Pride March, which last year experienced similar problems, is **Riga**. Public debate around the LGBT Pride March in this country is heating up, some politicians already stated they are against "those skunk marching through the capital", those opposing the Pride March are collecting signatures with a view to initiate a national referendum to ban Pride March in Latvia, the officials from the Riga City Council has not yet delivered their decision whether to allow Pride March this year. More information about the Latvian LGBT Pride: [www.mozaika.lv](http://www.mozaika.lv).

# HATE CRIME:

## **Estonia: New law gives better protection to sexual minorities**

*Source: Baltic News Service, 15 June 2006, [www.bns.lv](http://www.bns.lv)*

A package of amendments the Estonian parliament passed on Wednesday gave better protection to sexual minorities.

The law, passed with votes 62-18 in the 101-member house, amended among other things Article 151 of the Penal Code which deals with incitement of hatred.

The new wording of the article provides for a fine or detention as punishment for acts publicly inciting to hatred, violence or discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, color, sex, language, origin, religion, sexual orientation, political opinion, financial or social status.

The previous law did not contain a reference to sexual orientation.

If such an act causes a person's death or damage to health, a pecuniary punishment or a prison sentence of up to three years can be imposed on the culprit.

The law further changed the Penal Code article dealing with equality.

Under the amended law, unlawful restriction of a person's rights and giving unlawful advantages to a person on the basis of their sexual orientation are punishable. The punishment ranges from a fine to a jail sentence of up to a year.

The corresponding amendment was submitted by MP Jaak Allik from the People's Union. Allik told BNS that in his capacity as head of the Estonian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe he has dealt with many documents which stress the necessity of protecting people who are being persecuted because of their sexual orientation.

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

## EU call for proposals: pilot projects on workers' mobility

*by Evelyne Paradis, 12 June 2006*

The Commission recently launched this call for proposals for co-funding of a limited number of pilot projects **on workers' mobility**. In particular, the projects should be aimed at:

- ◆ developing and testing innovative instruments in strategic areas in order to facilitate workers' mobility and removal of existing obstacles (e.g. **support for families and dual career couples, enforcement of social protection rights and housing policies**, specific tools for temporary/seasonal mobile workers, recognition of acquired competencies and qualifications and management of return to the country of origin [...], etc).
- ◆ transfer between sectors, regions and countries or mainstream existing successful mobility instruments and practices [...]

Given the persisting obstacles to the free movement of same-sex couples and families, this call for proposals might provide an opportunity to put forward a project on the issue of freedom of movement for LGBT people in the EU.

The deadline for submission of tenders is **17 July 2006**. Preference is given to projects organised at **transnational level**.

For more information, follow this link:

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders\\_en.cfm?id=505](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/tenders/tenders_en.cfm?id=505)

## NOTICE BOARD:

### A new tool for LGBT youth organisations

*by Evelyne Paradis, 12 June 2006*

The SALTO Youth Resource Centres recently published *Over the Rainbow*, a practical booklet to help LGBT youth organisations to take the jump from national to international youth projects.

Produced by the SALTO Inclusion network, this booklet includes information on finding partner organisations, project funding and tips and tricks on how to deal with specific LesBiGay issues that arise on a project abroad. It is based on the SALTO "TC Rainbow" youth worker training course (2005).

The booklet is available online at <http://www.salto-youth.net/OverTheRainbow/>

**SALTO-YOUTH.net** is a network of 8 Resource Centres working on European priority areas within the youth field. It provides youth work and training resources and organises training and contact-making activities to support organisations and National Agencies within the frame of the European Commission's YOUTH programme and beyond.

### Rainbow's End - New DVD on LGBT activism in Europe and works of ILGA

With the advent of same sex marriage, homosexuals have achieved near-equality in much of Europe. Everything seems rosy, so why should they keep on fighting? RAINBOW'S END is a revealing and entertaining multinational journey from the centre to the borders of Europe. It also shows exciting footage of the gay and lesbian manifestations in Warsaw and Cracow (Poland). Touching personal stories and social, religious and political insights. From street activism to the highest political scene at the United Nations in Geneva (Switzerland). A must see and a starting point for the most relevant discussions about the future of lesbian, gay and transgender people within Europe and throughout the world. PLUS: bonus material include footage of the violently attacked Gay pride march in Riga (Latvia) and the speeches regarding LGBT rights held in front of the EU Commission on Human Rights and a TV-spot to support the work of ILGA. This is a film by Jochen Hick & Christian Jentzsch.

Further information about the DVD and order form will be available at ILGA website shortly: [www.ilga.org](http://www.ilga.org)

## Three job opportunities with GLEN in Ireland

by GLEN, 19 June 2006

GLEN is currently recruiting for the following positions:

- **Director of Education Policy Change**

Develop and implement strategies within the education sector to make education services safe and inclusive learning environments for lesbian, gay and bisexual students. Drive change through interlinked strategies such as research and needs assessment, influencing education and related policy, consensus building among stakeholders, developing resources and promoting service excellence.

- **Director of Communications**

Develop and implement a communications strategy appropriate to an organisation that has ongoing involvement with Government, government departments and statutory bodies on high profile social policy matters, has regular contact with the media, and has ongoing communication with a range of stakeholders. Additionally take a lead on lobbying and advocacy initiatives, aimed at influencing policy decisions at senior levels.

- **Director of Strategy – Mental Health**

Implement strategies to improve the mental health and well being of lesbian, gay and bisexual people. Negotiate with all stakeholders to develop and deliver innovative responses and programmes; to ensure that existing services are appropriate and accessible; and to support lesbian and gay organisations that are focused on service delivery.

Further details, job descriptions, personal specifications at: [www.glen.ie/jobs.html](http://www.glen.ie/jobs.html)