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# EURO-LETTER

ILGA-Europe's monthly electronic LGBT political  
and legal news bulletin

ILGA  
EUROPE 

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The seven-year Programme targets all stake holders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large

*For more information see:*

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

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

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# ILGA-EUROPE:

## ILGA-Europe moves to new premises

*by Juris Lavrikovs, ILGA-Europe's Communications manager*

On 6 September 2008, ILGA-Europe moved to new premises in the heart of the 'EU quarter' in Brussels. The move was necessary to accommodate the latest growth of the organisation's staff team in Brussels (two new Programmes officers are starting work with ILGA-Europe later this month) and to ensure sufficient office space for potential expansion in the future 3-5 years.

The new office is located within walking distance of the two main EU institutions ILGA-Europe works closely with - the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as to the offices of allies within the NGO community.

### **Our new address is**

***ILGA-Europe  
rue Belliard straat 12  
B-1040 Brussels  
Belgium***

## **ILGA-Europe launches handbook on monitoring and reporting homophobic and transphobic incidents**

*Source: ILGA-Europe's media release, 10 September 2008*

The aim of this publication is to contribute to increased and better reporting of homophobic and transphobic incidents by providing tools and a methodology to document and report violence motivated by hatred against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in a systematic and factual manner.

This handbook is designed for LGBT and human rights organisations who intend to monitor the occurrence of homophobic and transphobic incidents and violence in order to advocate for legislative changes to increase legal protections from violence motivated by hatred towards LGBT people at national, European and international levels.

The lack of documented facts on homophobic and transphobic violence creates a significant barrier to taking a case against an aggressor and to advocate for legislation combating hate crimes against LGBT people. In turn, the lack of legislation specifically prohibiting violence motivated by hatred towards LGBT people, contributes to legitimising homophobic and transphobic violence and creating an environment of impunity for the individuals committing those hate crimes.

Martin K.I. Christensen, Co-Chair of ILGA-Europe's Executive Board, said:

"We are aware of only 11 countries in Europe\* with explicit reference to sexual orientation in their laws dealing with hate crime and violence. This is definitely unacceptable considering the level of hate crimes against LGBT people committed across Europe.

We hope that our handbook will provide useful practical advice and help to LGBT and other human rights organisations dealing with crimes motivated by hatred on how to document and monitor hate crimes against LGBT people.

Only by compiling solid evidence and proof that attacks on LGBT people have a dangerous and systematic

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nature across Europe can we succeed in changing legislation to recognise homophobic and transphobic sentiments as aggravating factors to be taken into account when dealing with hate crimes and punishing the perpetrators.”

This Handbook is available in PDF format on our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non\\_periodical](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/publications/non_periodical)

If you want to order a printed version please contact [michael@ilga-europe.org](mailto:michael@ilga-europe.org)

\* These countries are: Andorra, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Lithuania, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

## EU Equality Summit 2008

*Source: "For Diversity - Against Discrimination" newsletter, 5 September 2009*

On 29-30 September 2008, the second Equality Summit will take place in the heart of Paris at the *Institut du Monde Arabe*.

Following the first Equality Summit organised under the German presidency at the launch of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, the summit will provide an opportunity for an update on the commitments made during the European Year and in particular in the Council Resolution adopted in November 2007. The summit is co-organised by the European Commission and the French Presidency of the Council.

Bringing together more than 400 high level delegates, it will also give new impetus to the fight against discriminations and the promotion of equality by creating a longer term perspective, the next step of which will be the summit to be organised in 2009 under the Swedish presidency.

ILGA-Europe is also taking part in this summit and Patricia Prendiville, Executive Director, is one of the key note speakers at the summit.



## **Green MEP Buitenweg rapporteur for new anti-discrimination law**

*Source: Press Officer Kathalijne Buitenweg & Joost Lagendijk, 10 September 2008*

Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, handicap, religion and age is not yet outlawed when it comes to offering goods and services in the EU. Yesterday the Civil Liberties committee in the European Parliament decided that Dutch Green MEP Kathalijne Buitenweg will be the rapporteur for a new anti-discrimination law to address this situation.

Buitenweg is very happy to take up this challenge and would like to introduce the new anti-discrimination law within this term.

On the labour market and in the workplace, all kinds of discrimination are forbidden according to European law. However existing legislation does not apply to the areas of goods and services, education, social security and benefits. Individuals who are discriminated on the basis of their sexual orientation, handicap, religion and age are still not protected.

When providing accommodation, supplying loans or mortgages, credit cards, all forms of insurance or simple matters such as car rental, individuals can still face discrimination without legal protection. Discrimination on the basis of sex and race are already prohibited, by means of existing European legislation in these areas.

According to Buitenweg a new anti-discrimination law would not only concern the protection of gays, which has been discussed a lot in the past year. "Discrimination on the basis of age, handicap and religion also needs attention, because it happens on a large scale in the EU. Think for example of individuals of fifty years and older who can not get a loan or mortgage, because the insurance company does not believe that they can pay back the loan. Or people with a handicap that can not get good health insurance. I would like to end these situations by means of new legislation."

In July the European Commission presented the proposals for new equality legislation. That was an enormous step forwards. In the first place the European Commission wanted a directive which would only protect individuals with a handicap. Thanks to the pressure of a majority in the European Parliament, led by Kathalijne Buitenweg, the proposal has been extended to the areas of sexual orientation, religion and age.

The proposals of the European Commission, which will be the basis of Buitenweg's report, still have a number

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of matters which needs concern. For example, Buitenweg would like to delete the exception for special education. "This exception could for example lead to refuse homosexual students courses at a Christian school. Such an exception is unacceptable for me", says Buitenweg.

In 2000 Buitenweg was rapporteur for the legislation to guarantee equal treatment regardless of individuals' race or ethnic background. In 2007 she was rapporteur concerning the impact of this legislation.

The expectation is that the report for the new anti discrimination law will be discussed in the European Parliament at the beginning of 2009.

## Council of Europe: Human Rights Commissioner highlights LGBT issues in his report on Macedonia

### Source:

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1339037&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679#P423\\_94186](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1339037&Site=CommDH&BackColorInternet=FEC65B&BackColorIntranet=FEC65B&BackColorLogged=FFC679#P423_94186)

Mr Thomas Hammarberg, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, highlighted various LGBT issues in a report following his visit to “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, 25 – 29 February 2008.

### **6.4. Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Persons**

**123.** Since same-sex consensual relations were decriminalised and the age of consent was made equal for homosexual and heterosexual sex in 1996, the atmosphere and attitude towards LGBT persons in “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” has improved. However, certain persisting discriminatory attitudes exist at all levels, and legal safeguards are insufficient.

**124.** Legal protections against discrimination remain particularly weak. Currently, there are limited specific legal protection provisions available for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation but not on the basis of gender identity. The Law on Military Service was amended and took out the prohibition for homosexuals to serve. Moreover, a recent amendment to the Law on Work Relations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a welcome positive legislative change albeit with a narrow scope of application. The LGBT community also highlighted that the terminology used in the labour law did not fully correspond with the term “sexual orientation” that is also used by the ECtHR. This discrepancy is creating uncertainty regarding the scope of the protection. Finally, there is no existing law specifically against hate crimes, whereas LGBT persons are one of the most vulnerable targets of such crimes.

**125.** Article 9 of the Constitution guarantees citizens equality to enjoy their freedoms and rights irrespective of a number of grounds. “Sexual orientation”, however, does not appear *expressis verbis* nor is there scope for its interpretation as no “other status” reference exists. This lack of the possibility to identify sexual orientation as ground for discrimination is a distinct shortcoming and results in lacking protection for LGBT persons.

# EUROPE:

**126.** A new comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Law is in the final stages of preparation before being considered by Parliament. The Commissioner was pleased to note during his meeting with the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs that indeed the new law shall include reference to sexual orientation as a recognised ground of discrimination. The Commissioner stresses the importance to ensure the Anti-Discrimination law is as comprehensive as possible, and inclusive to a wide spectrum of persons who may be discriminated against.

**127.** In general the LGBT community appears not to suffer from specific restrictions to their freedom of expression as both individuals and groups. LGBT-focussed NGOs gain regular media exposure of their activities in both print and electronic media. However, the Commissioner has been made aware of instances of apparent discriminatory attitudes towards the LGBT community by local authorities.

**128.** Education is the key to informing and developing a culture of tolerance and inclusiveness. Human rights education programmes should be developed and expanded for Governmental officials including police officers and judicial officials at all levels, and also for school-going students.

**129.** There should be a possibility of legal recognition of same sex partnership.

## Slovenia: Two legal decisions on LGBT rights

by Tatjana Greif, SKUC-LL

The **first case of gay asylum** request in Slovenia was closed down in July 2008. In the last two years lesbian section SKUC-LL and the solicitor's office from Ljubljana supported a gay men couple (aged 27 and 33) from Kosovo in their struggle to be granted the asylum on the ground of persecution because of their sexual orientation.

Their application for the asylum in Slovenia, submitted in June 2006, was rejected by the Ministry of the Interior in February 2007. The asylum seekers were ordered to leave Slovenia immediately. Due to procedural mistakes committed by the Ministry during the asylum procedure they brought charges first to the **Administrative Court of Republic of Slovenia** and later on to the **Supreme Court of Republic of Slovenia**. Both court decisions were in favor of the plaintiffs. The Supreme Court ordered in May 2008 to the Ministry of the Interior to restart the whole asylum procedure, according to the existing standards of international protection of asylum seekers. The case was closed down in July 2008 after both asylum seekers left Slovenia. During their stay in Asylum Center in Ljubljana they suffered homophobic harassment and violence of the co residents and the police.

In October 2007 a **lesbian couple** was **treated discriminatory** by the personnel of a bar in Ljubljana. When they kissed each other they were approached by the security person and told to leave the bar at once, because it was a heterosexual bar, and not for lesbians. They reported the incident to the police and submitted the complaint against the security person to the State prosecutor. In June 2008 the State prosecutor recognized the defendant was breaking the **Article 141 of the Penal Code** (equality clause). To the proposal of the State prosecutor the plaintiffs agreed upon the extra-court compromise with the defendant, who is obliged to pay the fine - damages to the victims according to the law.

# EUROPE:

## **50/50 - new campaign by the European Women's Lobby for more women at the top of European politics**

*by EWL, 16 September 2008*

In 2009, Europeans will elect a new European Parliament and a new European Commission will be appointed. These elected and nominated persons are going to shape our future in Europe, and the "50/50 Campaign for Democracy" aims to ensure that women and men are equally represented among them.

Women are currently still under-represented in all European institutions where decisions are made which affect our lives. With the "50/50 Campaign for Democracy", we at the European Women's Lobby want to push for concrete action to increase women's presence in politics.

Campaign's website: [www.5050democracy.eu](http://www.5050democracy.eu)

# LGBT FAMILIES:

## Irish Rail enforce ban on same-sex couples

*Source: Gay Community News, 2 September 2009,  
[www.gcn.ie/feature.aspx?articleid=802&sectionid=14](http://www.gcn.ie/feature.aspx?articleid=802&sectionid=14)*

Irish Rail has advised their staff that same sex couples are not entitled to a married/partner travel pass.

A notice telling ticket checkers not to allow same sex couples with married/partner travel passes to travel, signed by the Manager for Revenue Protection for Irish Rail, was spotted in Dublin's Heuston Station, signed January 27, 2008.

Such travel passes are awarded to people who are married or cohabiting as married.

The notice is in accordance with the Social Welfare Amendment Act 2004 which defines a spouse as a member of the opposite sex. The act was introduced by the then Minister for Social Welfare, Mary Coughlan, after a gay pensioner won a case under the Equal Status Act, allowing himself and his partner to travel under the same pensioner's travel pass.

The Social Welfare Amendment Act, 2004 reversed this ruling and was one of the first pieces of legislation to enshrine discrimination into the Irish legal system.

Blogger, Suzy Byrne, who first reported the sighting of the notice in Heuston Station, telling staff to be on the look-out for older gay and lesbian couples travelling on the same pass has said, "I am emailing Barry Kenny, the head of communications in Irish Rail and seeking a response on how such a document came about. I will be asking about the incidence of gay couples traveling and committing revenue offences against Irish Rail and what training staff have in dealing with the matter."

## Swedish lesbian couple sues over fertility treatment rules

*Source: The Local, 2 September 2009, [www.thelocal.se/14074/](http://www.thelocal.se/14074/)*

The ombudsman against discrimination due to sexual orientation (HomO) is taking the case of a lesbian couple from northern Sweden who claim they don't have equal access to artificial insemination procedures.

The two women are seeking 50,000 kronor (\$7,700) in compensation from the Västerbotten County Council for treating them differently than childless heterosexual couples when it comes to facilitating artificial insemination.

In its filing with the district court, HomO states that the council's demands for offering county-financed fertility treatment to couples without children are unfair to the lesbian pair.

"Before they inseminate a childless couple they investigate whether the involuntarily childlessness is a result of an illness or lack in one of the organs. A condition for a couple receiving county-financed treatment is the diagnosis of a medical problem," writes HomO.

"But for a lesbian couple the cause of their childlessness is often that they lack a man. Such childlessness is naturally no less involuntary than that which is caused by a disease," said George Svéd from HomO to the Västerbottens Folkblad newspaper.

To be forced to pay for a medical investigation when the answer is obviously pre-determined amounts to unfair treatment, according to HomO.



# FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION AND ASSOCIATION:

## **Bosnia and Herzegovina: “Sarajevo Queer Festival” must be protected**

*Source: media release by Amnesty International, 18 September 2008*

The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina must guarantee a climate free of intimidation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, as they prepare for the first “Sarajevo Queer Festival”, Amnesty International said today. This festival of art and culture, which includes exhibitions, performances, public discussions and films, is planned to take place between 24 and 28 September 2008, and organized by a non-governmental organization called Udruženje Q.

“Gay rights activists will use this festival to take to the public their message for equality before the law and an end to discrimination. However, in the run-up to the festival, certain parts of the media are unleashing a homophobic campaign which further cultivates deeply entrenched prejudices and may incite violence around the event,” said Nicola Duckworth, Europe and Central Asia Programme Director at Amnesty International.

Many publications, including the popular *SAFF* and *Dnevni Avaz*, have used derogatory language in relation to lesbian and gay people. They have called for the organizers of the festival to be lynched, stoned, doused with petrol or expelled from the country. Death threats have been issued on the Internet against individual gay rights activists. Appeals have also been made to the public to disrupt the festival.

“We do not feel safe for ourselves or for our families. Some of us had to find new accommodation because our names and addresses were made publicly known. We are afraid to use public transport or go out alone. Our dogs are our best protection at the moment. We feel isolated,” an activist of Udruženje Q told Amnesty International.

Amnesty International strongly condemns the use of homophobic language by the media and calls for it to recognise its responsibility in fostering a climate of intolerance and to play a constructive role in dismantling prejudices.

“The authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina are obliged to safeguard the rights of lesbian and gay people to gather and express freely their views. They must promptly investigate all cases of direct threats against them and bring the perpetrators to justice,” Nicola Duckworth said.

# FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION AND ASSOCIATION:

Amnesty International calls on the authorities to:

- Ensure the right of everyone to effectively exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly without discrimination;
- Publicly condemn, investigate and prosecute attacks, threats of attacks and other harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people;
- Provide effective and adequate protection to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people who face threats to their lives and safety;
- Ensure that police officers are provided with specific directives and training on their duty to protect the human rights of all individuals without discrimination.

# HATE CRIME & VIOLENCE:

## Wales: Guide for victims of hate crime

Source: BBC, 22 August 2008, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/wales/7575499.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/7575499.stm)

Victims of homophobic hate crime are being encouraged by police and a gay rights group to report attacks on them.

Stonewall Cymru believes attacks on gay, lesbian and bisexual people in Wales are underreported. The gay rights group has worked with North Wales Police to produce a guide for victims of homophobic hate crime. A spokesperson said: "It's essential for victims of homophobic hate crime to understand that criminal justice agencies are there to help them."

The guide is launched at the Inter Change, Old Colwyn, at an event to be attended by North Wales Police Chief Constable Richard Brunstrom and Social Justice Minister Brian Gibbons. The event includes a theatre piece written by Gruffudd Jones based on a true life experience of homophobic hate crime.

Rachel, who has lived in small village near Swansea for the past seven years, said her experience showed people can benefit from reporting hate crime.

She said: "At times I think we're seen as an easy target who can be picked on. I suppose the presumption is that nobody will stick up for us and that we're fair game. To begin with, I didn't go to the police about some of these things. It didn't occur to me there was any law against the name-calling. I didn't think I would get a sympathetic hearing from the police. A lot of my friends who are lesbian and gay told me of negative experiences that they've had when they tried reporting crime. There tends to be this negative idea in the community and it puts people off." She said she had no response from the police one winter when young boys began throwing snowballs with stones in them at her windows. She said: "The same boys came and did 'moonings'. Then, again, they were throwing stones."

### 'Arson attack'

"They put some handfuls of potential flammable rubbish through the letterbox. The local secondary school was burnt to the ground not very far from where we were living and it made me very frightened at that time that we might be at risk of an arson attack. It was at that point that I involved the hate crime officers. From that point on, I felt as if the service we were receiving from the police improved enormously. The fire service came and assess the fire safety of the house and the police started to take us more seriously, really and to pursue the culprits more effectively. A number of Asbos<sup>1</sup> were issued. It has sent out a very strong clear signal to the young people in the community. We're treated with much more respect these days."

<sup>1</sup> Anti social behaviour orders – Euroletter

# HATE CRIME & VIOLENCE:

## **Hungary: Justice Ministry to submit new hate crime amendments**

*Source: [www.politics.hu](http://www.politics.hu), 1 September 2009*

The Justice Ministry has proposed amendments to a series of public order and public safety laws that should be able to put a lid on hate crimes, minister Tibor Draskovics told the media on Friday.

Draskovics said he hoped to submit the amendments to parliament this autumn. He noted that current laws have not given authorities the clout needed to prosecute people who threaten others. Under the amended laws, he said, groups that prevent other people from legal assembly - by blocking their paths - can be sentenced to three years in prison. If they try to halt a legal assembly through threats or violent actions, they can be sentenced to five years and if they just plan such actions - through email or Internet campaigns, for instance - the sentence can be two years.

Under another amended law, any group that gathers in a public place and intimidates others, for instance through the commands given by the group leader, the uniforms worn and the formation of the group will be deemed to have committed an act of vandalism, which will be sanctioned appropriately.

The laws governing assembly come on the heels of Internet-organized far-right moves to upset a gay pride parade that included throwing rocks at marchers and assaulting police. The ones on intimidation follow marches intended to frighten the Roma population and the use of anti-Semitic slogans and uniforms reminiscent of the Holocaust that have created unease among Jewish residents.

Other amended laws will make it possible to sanction threats made through the mail - such as the sending of harmless white powders - as well as to consider repeat offenders recidivists.

# HATE CRIME & VIOLENCE:

## ILGA-Europe joins a petition against extremism in Europe

*by Juris Lavrikovs, ILGA-Europe's Communications manager*

On 4 September 2008, LGBT Rights Intergroup of the European Parliament hosted its meeting on a subject of freedom of assembly for LGBT people in Europe in 2008. Members of the European Parliament and representatives of non-governmental organisations, including ILGA-Europe, shared their experiences from various problematic Pride events last summer. ILGA-Europe delivered its evaluation of the situation regarding the freedom of assembly for LGBT people in Europe for the last 4 years and provided a number of suggestions for improvements and necessary advocacy/lobbying actions.

During the Intergroup meeting, Katalin Levai, a Hungarian socialist MEP, who was attacked last summer at Budapest Pride, launched a petition against extremism in Europe which was also signed by ILGA-Europe.

### Text of the petition:

#### **Petition against the extreme right**

#### **Acting together against violence, intolerance and hatred**

The European Union was established as a result of political necessity. Thanks to it, Europe has had lived without war for over fifty years, yet there is still no peace among the peoples of some social and ethnic groups. There is no peace in our society.

Many Pride Festivals in Europe were attacked by extreme right groups this summer which resulted in several injuries. We are witnessing unjust actions against gay and lesbian people in different countries. In recent years, violence, homophobia and xenophobia have all increased, Nazi ideas have reappeared and we can witness violence every day on our streets threatening the European values and our common future. This situation demands, that we European politicians begin a movement and draw up a Charter against violence, extremism, hatred and intolerance.

We condemn all kinds of violence. We can not allow the formation of extreme organisations that want to practice their own idea of "justice". We reject the rebirth of fascist ideas, the prejudice against all kinds of minorities and we strongly reject all forms of racism.

# HATE CRIME & VIOLENCE:

Every person is entitled to all rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. We should do everything to preserve the personal freedom of European citizens and ensure equal chances for everybody in life.

According to these principles and inspired by the ideas of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, we call upon all politicians and all other reasonable people, to start to work side by side with us in protecting our freedoms, our human rights, promoting equality and tolerance. We must act together against violence and intimidation with the help of legislation and also by setting a good example in our everyday lives.

# CAPACITY BUILDING:

## **New publication: “End of the Rainbow: Increasing the sustainability of LGBT organisations through social enterprise”**

*by Lee Davis, NESST*

End of the Rainbow, to which ILGA-Europe was a contributor, introduces social enterprise as an opportunity for some LGBT organisations to diversify their funding base, contribute to their financial sustainability and increase their social impact. The publication examines the growing interest in LGBT social enterprise around the world and the wide range of social enterprise models that LGBT organisations are undertaking. It also explores the experiences and lessons learned by LGBT organisations, as well as challenges they face, in developing and managing social enterprises. Finally, End of the Rainbow recommends some ways that LGBT social enterprise can be fostered and supported in order to realise its full potential.

End of the Rainbow is produced by Non-profit Enterprise and Self-sustainability Team (NESST). A full description of the publication is available at: [www.nesst.org/endoftherainbow\\_000.asp](http://www.nesst.org/endoftherainbow_000.asp)

The publication is available for download in PDF at: [www.nesst.org/documents/EndoftheRainbow.pdf](http://www.nesst.org/documents/EndoftheRainbow.pdf)

It is also available on CD (for postage and packing cost only). Please contact [nesst@nesst.org](mailto:nesst@nesst.org) for the CD version.

# NOTICE BOARD:

## Go Visible Award to be presented to LGBT organisation this November in Vienna

*Source: Ulrike Lunacek*

Right after ILGA-Europe's annual conference, ILGA World conference is taking place in Vienna. During ILGA World conference Ulrike Lunacek, openly lesbian member of the Austrian parliament is going to present her award for creation a new and sustainable LGBT organisation or existing organisation that has done significant step forward.

**Award: 3.000** Euro will be awarded every two years, around the time of the ILGA World Conference. In 2008 the ILGA World Conference will be held in Vienna, and the GO Visible Award will be presented in this framework on Nov. 5th 2008 at a reception, most probably at the Bruno Kreisky Forum in Vienna

**Selection process:** candidates will be selected by an international jury panel in the month before the award ceremony. The jury is composed by recognised human rights activists, professionals and opinion leaders. The jury will be a volunteer body and its composition is object to change if necessary or desired.

**Selection criteria:** an LGBTI group that has

- had steady and regular activities over the last 1-1,5 years
- had local/regional/national/transnational impact in the media (preferably mainstream, but movement media is, according to circumstances, also viable)
- done creative and inspiring activities
- a strong focus on the empowerment women

The GO Visible award is initiated and donated b Ulrike Lunacek, Member of Parliament in Austria and Co-Spokesperson of the European Green Party

During the first period the initiative will be administered by MP Lunacek and her office.

**Deadline: September 30th 2008**

**Contact:** [govisible@gruene.at](mailto:govisible@gruene.at)

**Information to be presented:** 1-2 page reasoning why this group should be awarded

Photo/ video/ media-material of activities and activists

Reference to web-presentation/ web-media-reporting

References and supporting organisations



# NOTICE BOARD:

## **30th International Human Rights Training Program (IHRTP) Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec, Canada, June 14 – July 3rd, 2009**

*Source: International Centre for Human Rights Education*

The goal of the IHRTP is to strengthen the capacity of human rights organisations to undertake human rights education efforts (e.g., training, awareness campaigns, information dissemination, and advocacy) aimed at building a global culture of human rights.

The IHRTP is an intermediate-level program focusing on international human rights standards, current human rights issues and human rights education strategies. The exploration of human rights principles and instruments, ongoing critical reflection and inquiry, as well as extensive sharing of experiences allows participants to strengthen their capacity to engage in effective human rights education leading to social change.

Please note that the deadline for receiving international applications is November 21st, 2008 and that only the 2008 Application Forms will be accepted.

Further information: [www.equitas.org](http://www.equitas.org)

# NOTICE BOARD:

## World Outgames Reminder

*Source: Outgames 2009*

The registration for World Outgames Human Rights Conference is open...but a deadline is approaching!

If you are interested in submitting a workshop proposal or in having a 20% reduction in your registration fees please go to [www.copenhagen2009.org](http://www.copenhagen2009.org) and submit your proposal and register before 30th September!