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ILGA-EUROPE

ILGA-Europe's 15th Anniversary: Nicolas Jonathan Beger

Read the fourth article in the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of ILGA-Europe - this time as an interview with former volunteer and board member, Nicolas Jonathan Beger.

[Read the article here.](#)

Commissioner Reding meets LGBT activists

On 17 May, the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO), Viviane Reding, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, meet with ILGA-Europe's secretariat and representatives of ILGA-Europe memberships and LGBTI communities.

[Read more about the meeting here.](#)

Exhibition about same-sex families in the heart of the European Commission

Between 10 and 20 May, ILGA-Europe was hosting its 'Different Families, Same Love' exhibition in the main building of the European Commission in Brussels, the Berlaymont.

[Read more about the exhibition at the Berlaymont here.](#)

Launch of Rainbow Europe Map & Index 2011

Every year on IDAHO, ILGA-Europe looks at progress made by European countries towards respecting human rights and ensuring full legal equality of lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people (LGBT) by publishing Rainbow Europe Map and Index.

[Read more about the map and index here.](#)

EU study visit and Strategic Litigation Training for LGBT human rights defenders from the Western Balkans and Turkey

On 10-14 May 2011, ILGA-Europe organised a study visit to EU institutions and a training on Strategic Litigations for 9 LGBT human rights defenders from the Western Balkans and Turkey.

[Read more and find pictures of the study visit and the training here](#)

EUROPE

Looking back on IDAHO 2011: who said what and what did ILGA-Europe do?

This year's marking of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) was the so far most extensive from a European level point of view and from ILGA-Europe. There was a lot of buzz, events and statements – so here is a collection of who said what and what ILGA-Europe did.

[Read more about IDAHO 2011 on a European level here.](#)

Turkey: Attempt to censor LGBTI related websites from authorities

Turkish authorities recently sent a list of banned words to website hosting companies requesting that domain names to be removed. The list included words such as gay, homosexual, bisexual, lesbian, transvestite as they are considered to be obscene.

[Read more here about the Turkish authorities attempt to censor websites](#)

France: End of the independent equality body, HALDE

The independent equality body was closed down by the French government, which has been strongly criticised by many national LGBTI organisations in France.

[Read more about the closure of HALDE here.](#)

UNITED NATIONS

High Commissioner for Human Rights in a video statement on hate crimes

Navi Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaks on hate crimes against lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people in a video statement.

[See the video statement here.](#)

New material on LGBT issues

A new brochure carries extracts from many of the strong statements on the subject made by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and other senior United Nations officials, as

well as by the United Nations treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and other United Nations agencies.

[Download the brochure here.](#)

LGBTI FAMILIES

Launch of video 'Legal Jungle: same-sex families trapped between EU countries'

On 17 May, ILGA-Europe launched a 10-minutes video "Legal jungle: same-sex families trapped between EU countries" which highlights the key problems and discrimination same-sex families and their children experience due to the lack of mutual recognition of civil status of their families.

[See the video here.](#)

The Court of Justice of the European Union: married and registered partners must enjoy the same pension rights

On 10 May 2011, the Court of Justice of the European Union delivered its judgment in a case which dealt with the issue of whether lower supplementary retirement pension for registered same-sex partners compared to married partners constituted unequal treatment.

[Read more about the judgment here.](#)

Summary on seminar on free movement of same-sex families in the EU

On Tuesday 3 May, the Intergroup of the European Parliament on LGBT Rights, ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament and ILGA-Europe organised a public seminar on the free movement of same-sex families in the EU.

[Read the summary on the website of the LGBT Intergroup here.](#)

Latvia: ILGA-Europe calls on Latvian president and parliament to support proposed same-sex registered partnership law

Mozaika, Alliance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans People and Their Friends, announced its proposal for registered partnership for same-sex couples. The proposal package contains draft law on registered partnership plus amendments to 20 existing laws. ILGA-Europe expressed its support for this proposal and sent letter of encouragement to Latvian president and Latvian parliament calling to support this legislative proposal.

[Read the letter from ILGA-Europe here](#)

Estonia: Justice Chancellor calls for same-sex partnership law

The Justice Chancellor of Estonia stated that the current legal framework does not ensure adequate protection of the rights of de-facto cohabitation partners, and is thus contrary to the constitution. In his view, the law needs to be changed to cover areas such as property ownership and legal succession.

[Read more about the development in Estonia here.](#)

HATE & VIOLENCE

ILGA-Europe welcomes the European Commission's proposal on better protection of crime victims

On 18 May 2011, the European Commission proposed a package of legislative measures to strengthen victims' rights in the European Union including a proposal for a new directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime which would improve the existing Framework Decision on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings.

[Read more about the proposal here.](#)

Hungary: adoption of stricter hate crimes legislation

The Hungarian Parliament adopts an amendment to the Criminal Code that penalises intimidating behavior towards ethnic, racial, religious groups or other groups of the society. The amendment was introduced to protect the Roma community from extreme right wing groups, but the general language of the legislation makes it possible to prosecute homophobic behavior as well.

[Read more about the stricter hate crime legislation in Hungary here.](#)

TRANS ISSUES

EU Commission says it is important to support trans rights

The EU Commission answered a written request from members of the European Parliament. In her response Commissioner Reding highlights the significance to take up issues transgender people are facing.

[Read more on the website of Transgender Europe here.](#)

Lithuania: National equality body draws a line between "LGB" and "T"

According to the Lithuanian ombudsman, issues regarding lesbian, gay and bisexuals should be treated separately from the problems of trans people as "Transsexuality is a disease".

[Read the criticism of this statement from the Lithuanian Gay League here.](#)

Malta: Constitutional Court fails to recognise the gender of a trans woman

The Court did not recognise the right of the post-operative transgender woman to have her affirmed gender identity recognised by law adopting the narrowest possible interpretation of gender based solely on biological criteria.

[Read more about the judgment here.](#)

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Russia: Clashes and arrests as LGBT activists rally in Moscow despite ban

LGBT activists from Russia, Europe, and the United States had planned two events near the Kremlin despite a vow by the authorities to arrest anyone who showed up after approval was denied by the city for a rally. After clashes with counter demonstrators, some 34 people were detained, including LGBT activists and their opponents.

[Read more about the events at Moscow Pride here.](#)

Russia: first sanctioned public IDAHO action

The first sanctioned public action of LGBT community took place in St. Petersburg. 150 activists and supporters of the LGBT organisation Coming Out celebrated International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

[Read more about the action here.](#)

Montenegro: Podgorica Pride postponed after attack on IDAHO event

The organisers of Podgorica Pride, planned to take place on the 31 May, has decided postponed the Pride event after an attack during a public event in connection with IDAHO 2011.

[Read more about the decision here.](#)

NOTICE BOARD

Call for nominations - Women Inspiring Europe

The European Institute for Gender is calling for nominations to their "Women Inspiring Europe" Calendar. The institute aims to give visibility and pay homage to some of Europe's most remarkable women, through highlighting their achievements and success stories.

Deadline for nominations is 10 June 2011.

[Read more about the call here.](#)

Call for entries - Pride Photo Award 2011

Pride Photo Award invites photographers to submit photographs to their contest about imaging sexual and gender diversity. Deadline for entries is 30 June 2011.

[Read more about the contest here](#)

Viral video competition on diversity in the European Union

The European Parliament invites all EU citizens to produce a brief and entertaining viral video on the subject "Diversity in Europe". The deadline for submissions is 31 July 2011.

[Read more about the competition here.](#)



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