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ILGA-EUROPE

ILGA-Europe's 15th Anniversary: Joke Swiebel

Read the fifth article in the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of ILGA-Europe - this time a contribution from Joke Swiebel, Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party (1999-2004) and Chair of the EP Intergroup on LGBT Rights.

[Read the testimony here.](#)

EUROPE

LGBTI Mediterranean Solidarity and Network conference in Athens, Greece

On 27 May 2011, the ILGA-Europe Solidarity and Network conference took place in Athens, Greece. Activists from LGBTI organisations in Malta, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Cyprus participated.

[Read the article about the conference by Konstantina Kosmidou from OLKE here.](#)

Justice in the Balkans Conference, 27-30 May, 2011

On 27-30 May, Justice in the Balkans: Equality for Sexual Minorities, the second regional academic conference took place in Belgrade. Two staff members of ILGA-Europe were invited to speak at the conference.

[Read more and see pictures from the conference here.](#)

Opinion poll points to discrimination in Montenegro

More than half of respondents in a recent poll in Montenegro say they don't want drug addicts, homosexuals, or people with AIDS living in their neighborhood.

[Read more about the poll in Montenegro here.](#)

Hungarian government moves against abortion

The new Hungarian Constitution poses a grave threat to women's sexual and reproductive rights, as it opens up the possibility of a tightening of the procedure in Hungary regarding access to abortion and is also likely to call into question the legality of other fertility and contraception methods and services.

[Read the joint press release from European Women's Lobby and IPPF here.](#)

UNITED NATIONS

Historic development in United Nations: first ever resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity

On 17 June 2011, the United Nations' Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. This is the first of its kind.

[Read more about the groundbreaking resolution here.](#)

LGBTI FAMILIES

ILGA-Europe's podcast on mutual recognition of same-sex families in the EU

The 3rd edition of The Equality Pod was recorded at the European Parliament and this time we examine the issue of mutual recognition (or the lack of it, to be more precise) of same-sex families among EU countries.

[Listen to the edition here.](#)

Liechtenstein referendum on same-sex partnership recognition: 69% in favor

Voters in Liechtenstein backed up overwhelmingly a law on registered partnership for same-sex couples in a referendum held Sunday 19 June 2011. The Parliament in Liechtenstein adopted earlier this year unanimously the law, but a submission of signatures was put forward to hold a referendum to change the decision.

[Read more about the developments in Liechtenstein here.](#)

New Family Code adopted in Slovenia: no marriage for same-sex partners

The Slovenian Parliament adopted a new Family Code, with 43 votes in favor and 38 against. The new Family Code is however a compromise with right wing opposition and it brings only limited rights to same-sex couples.

[Read more about the new Family Code in Slovenia here.](#)

Estonian opinion makers sign manifesto calling for same-sex partnership recognition

A manifesto supporting the equality in Estonia has been signed by 41 opinion makers ranging from ministers to film directors.

[Read about the manifesto here.](#)

HATE & VIOLENCE

Hate speech against LGBTQ people in Armenia

An ultra-nationalist right-wing youth NGO has been distributing posters claiming “the Armenian nation to say “No” to homosexuality and erotic websites”. IGLYO, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer Youth and Student Organisation, has condemned the hate speech in a statement.

[Read the statement from IGLYO here.](#)

TRANS ISSUES

Joint report on gender discrimination in employment and access to goods and services from ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe

This joint contribution is being submitted to the European Commission in view of the review of the implementation of Directive 2004/113/EC “in line with the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice on gender identity and gender discrimination” during 2011; and the review of Directive 2006/54/EC during 2012 as indicated in the *Actions to implement the Strategy for Equality between Women and Men 2010-2015*.

[Read and download the full report here](#)

EDUCATION

Ireland’s first course for primary teachers on homophobic bullying

Educate Together and BeLonG To Youth Services from Ireland announced the first ever in-service course for Primary Teachers on addressing homophobic bullying in primary schools.

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

ASYLUM & IMMIGRATION

NGO coalition calls for new EU asylum agency to end discrimination in connection with World Refugee Day

On the 20 June 2011, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) took charge of supporting the asylum processes of the EU. The current discriminatory and incoherent provision of protection across the EU and the lack of expertise on gender/sexual orientation/gender identity-related persecutions are putting individuals at risk.

[Read the call from the coalition of NGOs here.](#)

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

ILGA-Europe condemns violence and inadequate police actions at Split Pride

On 11 June 2011, the very first pride event in Split, Croatia, took place. ILGA-Europe’s representatives took part in the event which turned violent and demonstrated inability and unwillingness of the police forces to ensure safety and to prevent violence.

[Read more about the pride event in Split here.](#)

ILGA-Europe at EuroPride 2011 in Rome, Italy

On 11 June 2011, ILGA-Europe board members and staff participated to show their support. The EuroPride march was a big success, and ILGA-Europe was very visible and attracted significant attention with its flags, banners, signs in Italian/English calling for equality and human rights for everyone, a giant version of the latest Rainbow Europe Map. ILGA-Europe was moreover also given the opportunity to speak on the main stage after the performance of pop star Lady Gaga who delivered a strong speech supporting the equality for LGBTI people.

[Read the media release in prior of the event here](#) and [watch the speech from Lady Gaga here](#).

Podgorica Pride replaced by a Conference on LGBT Rights, Freedom of Expression and Assembly

Podgorica Pride, which was planned to take place on the 31 May 2011, was postponed. Following the incidents during the IDAHO day event and the failure of the police to ensure the safety of the participant of the event, LGBT Forum Progress, the organiser of Podgorica Pride postponed the Pride, replacing it with a Conference on LGBT Rights, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Assembly and/or Sexual Structural Stigma in Montenegro.

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

Pride events in Sofia, Budapest and Zagreb took place as planned

Despite obstacles and threats, all of the three Pride events went on as planned without major incidents. ILGA-Europe wrote an open letter to the Bulgarian Prime Minister and the Mayor of Sofia urging them to rearrange the timing and the route of a nationalists' march scheduled for the same day/time as Sofia Pride March and close to its route. The Bulgarian authorities followed the request not to allow the nationalists' march at the same time/date with Sofia Pride. ILGA-Europe's representatives participated in Budapest Pride march and addressed its participants. Zagreb Pride took place just week after the violence in Split and therefore attracted additional attention. It went smoothly and was the largest Zagreb Pride ever.

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

Austrian activists arrested in Hungary in connection with Budapest Pride

Two Austrian LGBT activists were put in custody overnight at the weekend after a group of locals accused the two men of having attacked them – however the Austrians claim that the local group attacked them with pepper spray. Police arrested the two men and they are now facing charges for disobedience.

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

EMPLOYMENT

LGBT trade union conference in Rome, Italy

At the occasion of the Europride in Rome, a LGBT trade union conference took place. The conference was attended by representatives of trade unions from all over Europe and by many Italian participants and was an important occasion to discuss about the role of trade unions in bargaining LGBT rights and the cooperation with other NGOs. The organiser was CGIL, an Italian trade union, in partnership with ETUC and ILGA-Europe.

[Find the programme of the conference here](#).

NOTICE BOARD

European Women's Lobby launches a campaign against prostitution

The European Women's Lobby launches its campaign to put an end to prostitution with video clip calling

for a change of perspective.

[Check out the campaign video here.](#)

Job opportunity - Communications Officer at Social Platform, Brussels

Social Platform, Platform of European Social NGOs based in Brussels, is looking for a Communications Officer. Note the deadline for applications: 24 June 17.00 ECT.

[Read about the job opportunity here.](#)

Job opportunity – Director of Communications at IGLHRC, New York, USA

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) is looking for a Director of Communications.

[Read about the job opportunity here.](#)



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