

L G L

NATIONAL
LGBT RIGHTS
ORGANIZATION

Annual Report for

2025





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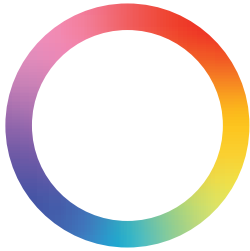




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ABOUT LGL



L G L

N A T I O N A L
L G B T R I G H T S
O R G A N I Z A T I O N

The National lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) human rights organization LGL is the only non-governmental organization in Lithuania exclusively dedicated to representing the interests of the local LGBT community. Having begun operations on December 3rd, 1993, LGL is one of the most mature and stable organizations in the country's civil sector. The fundamental principle behind the organization's activities is independence from any political or financial interests while striving for effective inclusion and social integration of the LGBT community in Lithuania. LGL seeks to achieve consistent LGBT human rights progress, drawing on its thirty years of experience in advocacy, awareness-raising and community building.

Our vision: a respectful, open, and inclusive Lithuanian society that is free of discriminatory homophobic, biphobic and transphobic attitudes.

Our mission: LGL is an advocacy organization dedicated to fighting homophobia and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Through education, support, and representation of the LGBT community, LGL promotes an inclusive social environment for gay men, lesbian women, bisexual and transgender persons.



THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF OUR ORGANIZATION:

- › respect and diversity;
- › equal opportunities for participation in organization activities;
- › voluntary participation;
- › confidentiality of membership;
- › transparency.

GENERAL FIELDS OF ACTIVITY:

- › human rights and equal opportunities;
- › sport and cultural initiatives;
- › health and lifestyle;
- › employment;
- › social inclusion;
- › family rights;
- › empowerment of organization members and encouragement of societal groups to participate in organization activities;
- › organizational competence and capacity building.

LGL's **team** currently consists of 4 Board Members, 6 permanent staff members, 13 members, over 20 volunteers both in Lithuania and abroad. Our team is enthusiastic, dynamic, ever-changing and open to new members, ideas and projects. It is important to emphasize that not only gay individuals are involved in the organization – in addition to the LGBT community, we are proud of our friends and allies who consider LGBT rights an integral part of democratic and effective human rights protection for all citizens of the Republic of Lithuania.

LGL's office is located in Vilnius, Odminių str. 11-4. Here, the LGL team administers and implements projects, organizes meetings, and regularly invites the LGBT community and its allies to various events. LGL's office contains the only LGBT centre in Lithuania with a library of literature related to the organization's activities, where visitors can enjoy free wi-fi and a cup of coffee or tea. The LGBT centre is open to all well-wishing visitors who want to learn more about the organization's activities and the LGBT human rights situation in Lithuania.

LGL is a member of the National Equality and Diversity Forum (NEDF) and the Coalition of Human rights organizations. LGL also answers to international organizations **ILGA** (The International Lesbian and Gay Association), **IGLYO** (The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organization), **EPOA** (The European Pride Organisers Association), **TGEU** (The European Transgender Network) and **INACH** (The International Network Against Cyber Hate). We believe that we can most effectively pursue our goals by seeing LGBT rights as part of a broader human rights discourse, and by actively supporting various initiatives both at the national and international level.

You can find up-to-date information about LGL's activities and current issues faced by the LGBT community at [**www.lgl.lt/en**](http://www.lgl.lt/en) and LGL's Facebook page, [**www.facebook.com/lgl.lt**](https://www.facebook.com/lgl.lt).



LGL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2025

LGL PURSUES THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES THROUGH ITS ACTIVITIES:



PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

PROMOTING EQUALITY IN THE EMPLOYMENT AND PROFESSIONAL SPHERES

PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

**PROMOTING FAMILY RIGHTS, AS WELL AS EQUALITY AND RECOGNITION OF DIVERSE
FAMILY STRUCTURES**

**ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES THAT EDUCATE AND DEVELOP THE
SKILLS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

BUILDING THE SKILLS AND COMPETENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION



In order to implement its strategic plans and achieve the above-mentioned objectives, LGL carried out a range of activities in 2025, the most important of which are briefly summarized below.



ACTIVITIES

BALTIC PRIDE 2025:

**Record-Breaking
March for
Equality Unites
20 000
People**



On June 7, 2025, Vilnius hosted the most significant event of the year for the LGBTQ+ community in Lithuania – the Baltic Pride March for Equality. The main event of the Baltic Pride festival drew an unprecedented 20,000 participants, marking the largest gathering in the history of Lithuania's LGBTQ+ rights movement.

From early afternoon, people from across Lithuania and beyond gathered on Barboros Radvilaitės Street – dressed in vibrant colors, full of joy, and ready to amplify the festival's core message: "Free to Be (Yourself)."

At 4 PM, the march began and stretched through Gediminas Avenue, filling the heart of Vilnius with color, celebration, and solidarity. The procession was accompanied by 17 music trucks, each blasting tunes that energized the crowd and transformed the city into a moving celebration of love and equality.

More than just a festive gathering, the event was a powerful statement in support of human rights, inclusion, and visibility. Marchers proudly carried banners, waved flags, and smiled as they walked – showing that Lithuania is ready to embrace greater openness, freedom, and diversity.

In the evening, the celebration continued at White Bridge with a spectacular concert featuring a wide array of performers.

Baltic Pride 2025 confirmed what has become increasingly clear: Lithuania's LGBTQ+ community is stronger, more united, and more visible than ever before. The record-breaking turnout is a testament to the growing support for Pride in Lithuania and the ever-deepening importance of the fight for equality and freedom.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=30956>



THOUSANDS CELEBRATE AT THE BALTIC PRIDE 2025 OPEN-AIR CONCERT IN VILNIUS

On June 7, 2025, the meadow near the White Bridge in Vilnius transformed into a vibrant celebration of equality, inclusion, and freedom as the main Baltic Pride 2025 open-air concert took place. The free event followed the inspiring March for Equality and became one of the most anticipated highlights of the entire festival.

The concert brought together thousands of people – members of the LGBT community, their allies, Vilnius residents, and city guests – all united by a shared commitment to human rights and a joyful spirit of togetherness.

The stage featured an impressive lineup of both Lithuanian and international performers. The audience enjoyed live performances by Leon Somov, Jazzu, Rūta Mur, Rokas Yan, Beatrich, Angelou, Aistė, Goya, and Lion Ceccah. The concert also showcased powerful drag performances by Aura More, Edma, Lolita Zero, LaDiva Live from Belgium, and Catherine D'Oex from Switzerland, among others.

The Baltic Pride 2025 concert was supported by the Vilnius City Municipality, Johnson Matthey, and Swedbank. The event was free and open to all, with the goal of increasing visibility for the LGBT community and promoting equality and inclusion in public spaces.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=31611>

PRIDE VOICES: AN EVENING OF COURAGE, ART, AND TRUE STORIES



On June 5th, 2025 the historic Vilnius Old Theatre transformed into a vibrant and inspiring space where art met activism. The Pride Voices Gala, part of the Baltic Pride 2025 program, brought together performers, activists, and allies in an unforgettable evening dedicated to amplifying LGBTQ+ voices, stories, and creative expression.

The event showcased a diverse lineup of international and local talent. Belgian drag diva and vocal powerhouse LaDiva Live captivated the audience with her energy and vocal brilliance. From Lithuania, the visually striking Edma and the graceful and elegant Aura More represented the local drag scene with pride and authenticity. Swiss performer Catherine d'Oex presented a French musical program interwoven with a strong message of human rights, while Swedish male soprano Viktor Priebe stunned the audience with a voice that transcends traditional musical boundaries.

In addition to artistic performances, Pride Voices offered a platform for powerful personal stories. Lithuanian activist Aurelija Paunksnė Ignotė shared her experiences. Estonian Commissioner for Equal Opportunities, Christian Veske, spoke about regional inclusion and equal rights from a personal and professional perspective. Latvian lawyer and climate justice advocate Evita Gosa discussed the intersection of law, social justice, and LGBTQ+ rights. Lithuanian public figure and creator Dovilė Filmanavičiūtė delivered a heartfelt message on equality, using her voice to inspire and unite.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=30337>

PRIDE FOR PROGRESS: SHAPING TODAY'S INCLUSIVE WORKPLACE – BALTIC PRIDE 2025 CONFERENCE

6 June 2025 marked a pivotal moment for equality and diversity in the workplace as the international Baltic Pride 2025 Conference took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva in Vilnius. The conference, which attracted over 100 participants, successfully united business leaders, policymakers, and LGBTI+ advocates to address challenges and innovations in inclusive employment practices.

Organized by the National LGBTI Rights Organization LGL, the event was part of the broader Baltic Pride 2025 celebrations and came at a time of political shifts and renewed focus on local DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) efforts.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=30532>





PRIDE HOUSE — THE HEART OF BALTIC PRIDE

This summer, Pride House became the beating heart of Baltic Pride—a welcoming, vibrant hub where the LGBTQ+ community and allies came together to connect, express themselves, and celebrate diversity.

From June 2 to 8, Pride House opened its doors to hundreds of visitors, creating a space that felt like home: one where self-expression thrived, community flourished, and everyone was free to be themselves. With a rich program of creative workshops, thoughtful discussions, performances, and interactive activities, Pride House offered something meaningful for every queer person and ally.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=30704>



ECHOES OF THE HEART: A NIGHT WITH CATHERINE D'OEX

On the eve of the Baltic Pride March for Equality, the remarkable Catherine D'Oex enchanted audiences with her soulful interpretations of classic French chanson. From the raw emotion of Édith Piaf to the timeless elegance of Charles Aznavour, each performance was a moving tribute to love, memory, and pride.

The evening was further illuminated by the unforgettable performances of Aura More, Edma, and La Diva Live, who added their unique charm and energy to the night.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=30666>

BALTIC PRIDE 2025 WEEK OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED WITH RECEPTION AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY

On the evening of June 3rd, 2025 the British Ambassador to Lithuania, Liz Boyles, hosted a special reception at the British Embassy Garden in Vilnius to officially open Baltic Pride 2025 week. The event brought together members of the LGBTQ+ community, civil society leaders, diplomatic representatives, business partners, and human rights defenders in a celebration of diversity, inclusion, and solidarity.

The reception marked not only the beginning of a week of pride events across Vilnius but also served as a powerful reminder of the importance of visibility, support, and collective action in advancing equality and human rights.

A key moment during the evening was the presentation of the Baltic Pride Awards – an initiative recognizing companies that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Lithuania. These businesses were honoured for their leadership in promoting inclusive workplaces and their public advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights. Their contributions continue to set an important example of how the private sector can play an active role in building a more open and respectful society.

<https://www.lgl.lt/naujienos/baltic-pride-2025-savaite-oficialiai-pradeta-priemimu-britu-ambasadoje/>



ILGA-EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ILGA-Europe Annual Conference: A Historic Evening at the Palace of the Grand Dukes

On 22 October 2025, the Opening Reception of the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference took place at the National Museum—Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. This special evening brought together LGBTQ+ leaders, activists, and allies from across Europe to mark the beginning of an important week of discussion, connection, and action for equality.

As co-hosts, LGL is honoured to welcome the ILGA-Europe family to Vilnius and to contribute to a space where human rights defenders can celebrate progress, build solidarity, and continue shaping a more just future for our communities. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the reception possible and to all who continue

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32395>





ILGA-EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE: NATIONAL PANEL AND PRESS CONFERENCE

At the 2025 ILGA-Europe Annual Conference, LGL co-hosted two key events spotlighting a turning point for LGBT family rights in Lithuania.

Following the Constitutional Court's ruling that the lack of partnership regulation violates the Constitution—and the Vilnius District Court's historic registration of a same-sex couple—politicians can no longer delay action. With amendments to the Civil Code now ready for parliamentary debate, the focus has shifted from whether to regulate partnership to how.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32546>

ADVANCING EQUALITY: LGL AND PARTNERS MEET WITH SEIMAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIR LAURYNAS ŠEDVYDIS

On 23 October 2025, during the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference, representatives of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL, the Tolerant Youth Association, and Freedom to Marry Global met with Laurynas Šedvydis, Chair of the Seimas Committee on Human Rights, to discuss the prospects for legal recognition of same-sex partnerships in Lithuania.

The discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring equality before the law for all residents of Lithuania and strengthening human rights protection in line with European human rights standards. Participants shared insights on possible legal solutions that could help secure recognition and social protection for same-sex couples.

The meeting was constructive and marked an important step toward fostering a more open dialogue between civil society and lawmakers on human rights issues.

<https://www.lgl.lt/naujienos/lygybes-stiprinimas-lgl-ir-partneriai-susitiko-su-seimo-zmogaus-teisiu-komiteto-pirmininku-laurynu-sedvydziu/>



STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: LGL MEETS WITH FRENCH SPECIAL ENVOY FOR LGBT+ RIGHTS



On 24 October 2025, during the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference, representatives of LGL met with Jean-Marc Berthon, Ambassador on secondment and Special Envoy for LGBT+ Rights, to discuss the situation of LGBT+ rights and the lived realities of LGBT+ people in Lithuania.

The conference once again proved to be an important space for dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of experiences among activists and diplomats committed to advancing equality.

The meeting provided an opportunity to present the current challenges faced by the local LGBT+ community, share insights, and highlight the progress we strive to achieve despite ongoing obstacles. The exchange also offered a platform for a deeper discussion about the upcoming Lithuanian Pride 2026 and the vital role of international solidarity in promoting human rights across the Baltic region.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32607>



RAINBOW FAMILIES AT THE ILGA-EUROPE CONFERENCE: RESEARCH, RESILIENCE, RECOGNITION

At this year's ILGA-Europe Annual Conference, the National LGBT rights organisation LGL presented insights from the newly released transnational desk research report "Mapping Realities of Rainbow Families: Challenges and Needs." The session, Rainbow Families: Stories of Resilience and Advocacy, brought together activists, researchers, and advocates from across Europe to discuss the lived realities of rainbow families and the urgent need for legal recognition and protection.

Moderated by Daniel Martinović (Rainbow Families Croatia / NELFA), the panel featured Eglė Kuktoraitė (LGL, Lithuania), Hinni Aarninsalo (Sateenkaariperheet ry, Finland), and Dominique Boren (APGL, France). Together, they explored common challenges faced by rainbow families in diverse social and legal contexts, from the Baltic and Nordic countries to Ukraine and beyond.

The discussion highlighted key findings from the research: widespread legal uncertainty, lack of family recognition, and persistent social prejudice, alongside powerful examples of resilience, solidarity, and advocacy. Panelists underscored the importance of cross-border collaboration and community-led initiatives in advancing equality and visibility for all families.

The event served as a vital space for sharing experiences, fostering mutual learning, and strengthening European solidarity in the ongoing fight for family rights and inclusion.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32573>

ILGA-EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE CONCLUDES WITH CLOSING GALA DINNER

The ILGA-Europe Annual Conference came to a joyful close on 25 October 2025 with a lively gala dinner that perfectly captured the spirit of celebration and community. Set against the scenic backdrop of Vilnius, the evening brought participants together to relax, reconnect, and reflect on several inspiring days of dialogue, solidarity, and shared purpose.

Guests were welcomed with refreshing drinks before gathering for a buffet-style dinner in a beautifully restored historic venue. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, music, and pride as local drag artists Edma and Aura More lit up the stage with captivating performances. DJ Gyvatnešis kept the dance floor alive with an energetic set that carried the celebration late into the night.

The “celebration” dress code encouraged creativity and self-expression, with guests showing up in everything from elegant evening wear to playful, bold looks — a true reflection of the diversity and confidence that define the ILGA-Europe community.

One of the evening’s most meaningful moments came when LGL and TYA, co-hosts of the 2025 ILGA-Europe Annual Conference in Vilnius, passed the torch. As the night drew to a close, the sense of connection, pride, and celebration filled the room — a fitting finale to an inspiring week in Vilnius and a heartfelt send-off as the ILGA-Europe community looks ahead to meeting again in Dublin.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32611>





BI+ EQUAL CONFERENCE AND FOUNDING GENERAL MEETING HELD IN VILNIUS

From 20 to 22 October 2025, Vilnius hosted the Bi+ Equal Conference and Founding General Meeting — a vibrant, inspiring, and historic gathering for the Bi+ community across Europe. The three-day event brought together activists, community leaders, and allies for panels, workshops, discussions, and social activities dedicated to advancing Bi+ visibility, inclusion, and rights.

National LGBT rights organization LGL was proud to assist the organisers in making this important event a success. Our team supported participants with their visa applications, ensuring that everyone could take part in

this landmark gathering. Through our involvement, we helped create a welcoming and inclusive space for participants to exchange ideas and shape the future of the Bi+ movement.

As a special gift to all participants, LGL offered an LGBT-themed walking tour of Vilnius, guided by Tomas Grėlis. The tour provided a unique opportunity to explore the city through the lens of its queer history and culture, highlighting stories of resilience, creativity, and community that continue to shape Vilnius today.

“Hosting the Bi+ Equal Conference in Vilnius is a powerful reminder that our movement is growing, united, and impossible to ignore. At LGL, we believe that every step toward visibility is a step toward equality, and we are proud to stand with our Bi+ community in shaping a future where everyone can live openly and with dignity. This gathering proves that when we come together, we create real change — not only for today, but for generations to come,” said Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of LGL.

The Founding General Meeting marked an important milestone for Bi+ Equal, establishing the organisation’s governance and strategic direction. The atmosphere throughout the conference reflected both celebration and commitment — a true testament to the strength and diversity of the Bi+ community.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32356>

LGL TOOK PART AT THE NORDIC PRIDE CONFERENCE IN FAROE ISLANDSE

Representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL participated at the Nordic Pride Conference held in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands, on 14-16 February, 2025. The conference focused on promoting LGBTQIA+ rights and inclusivity across the Nordic region.

During the conference, LGL delegates engaged in various workshops, sharing insights from their experiences advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights in Lithuania. They highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and the exchange of best practices to advance equality and acceptance.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=29786>





PARTICIPANTS OF NGO BRUNCH IN ŠIAULIAI WERE INVITED TO ATTEND BALTIC PRIDE 2025

On 20 March 2025 the National LGBT rights organization LGL, together with NGOs Blue Moon and Human Resources Monitoring and Development Office, organized an informal advocacy meeting in Šiauliai – an NGO brunch to discuss the upcoming Baltic Pride 2025 festival. Representatives from local NGOs and businesses participated in the event.

Strategies for more effective mobilization of support for LGBTIQ rights, promotion of NGO cooperation and networking expansion were discussed during the meeting. The participants shared experiences, and discussed challenges and opportunities that are relevant to the LGBTIQ community in the Šiauliai region.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=29902>



MORE THAN WORDS: INSTITUTIONS JOIN FORCES TO ADVANCE LGBTI RIGHTS IN LITHUANIA

On May 30, 2025 the Office of the Seimas Ombudspersons became a hub of collaboration, hosting an interinstitutional discussion focused on protecting the rights of LGBTI individuals. The event was initiated by LGL, Lithuania's national LGBT rights organization, and brought together representatives from government bodies, NGOs, and civil society.

The discussion opened with remarks by Dr. Erika Leonaitė, Head of the Seimas Ombudspersons' Office, who emphasized that human rights must be upheld for all people—without exception. Monika Antanaitytė, Project Manager and Legal Expert at LGL, presented the latest ILGA-Europe "Rainbow Map" findings, highlighting both progress and persisting challenges in Lithuania.

The main topics covered included the interim results of the 2024–2026 Equal Opportunities Action Plan, the situation of transgender individuals, and the need to counter hate speech and hate crimes. The participants underscored that only strong interinstitutional cooperation can effectively tackle discrimination and ensure a safe environment for everyone.

Throughout the event, speakers shared best practices, voiced concerns, and explored actionable solutions to strengthen human rights protections. This discussion marked a meaningful step forward toward a more inclusive and respectful society.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=30106lgbti-teisiu-stiprinimui-lietuvoje/>

NEW PROJECT “TRANSCENDING BARRIERS” LAUNCHED AT UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA

A new international project focused on strengthening transgender rights across Europe has officially begun with a kick-off meeting held February 20-21 at the University of Brescia, Italy.

The “Transcending Barriers” initiative brings together academic and NGO partners from Italy, Spain, France, Bulgaria, and Lithuania to work collaboratively toward equality for transgender individuals in Europe.

The project aims to increase professional knowledge and understanding of transgender issues while ensuring better access to services for transgender people. Participants emphasized the importance of continuing collaborative efforts to achieve equal rights.

This initiative represents an important step forward in addressing transgender rights at a European level through multi-country cooperation and expertise sharing.

<https://www.lgl.it/en/?p=29847>



LGL PARTICIPATED IN THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECT “CLICK” IN GIRONA

On June 20–21, 2025, Eglè Kuktoraitė, Communication Manager at the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL, took part in the kick-off meeting of the international project “CLICK”, which took place in Girona, Spain. This meeting marks an important start to a new international initiative aimed at improving the well-being of LGBTIQ children, reducing the violence they face, and promoting inclusive environments through close cooperation between families, educators, and policymakers.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32247>





LGL PARTICIPATES IN IGLYO'S “PROUD PUPILS” CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA

On 25–27 June 2025, the international “Proud Pupils” conference took place in Barcelona, focusing on LGBTQI inclusion in education. The event brought together representatives of youth, human rights, and educational organizations from across Europe. LGL was represented by Communications Manager Eglè Kuktoraitė, who contributed to discussions on creating safe and supportive environments for LGBTQI students.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32250>

FROM ATHENS TO VILNIUS: ENACT PROJECT STRENGTHENS HATE CRIME RESPONSE

A series of workshops across six European countries has brought together diverse stakeholders to tackle one of society's most pressing challenges: supporting victims of anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes. The ENACT project (Enhancing the capacity of civil society organizations to support victims of anti-LGBTQI hate crimes) recently completed national workshops in Italy, Spain, Hungary, Greece, Lithuania, and Slovenia, culminating in a transnational gathering in Athens.

<https://www.lgl.it/en/?p=32271>





LGL REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATES IN INACH ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

On 25–26 September 2025, Eglè Kuktoraitè, Communication Manager at the National LGBT rights organization LGL, took part in the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) events held in Sofia, Bulgaria, hosted by INACH member Multi Kulti Collective.

<https://www.lgl.it/en/?p=32344>



HISTORIC MEETING: LGBTIQ ACTIVISTS AND PRIME MINISTER DISCUSS PATH FORWARD FOR PARTNERSHIP RIGHTS

On 28 October 2025 Vladimir Simonko and Monika Antanaitytė from LGL together with other LGBTIQ civil society activists met with Prime Minister Inga Ruginienė to discuss partnership regulation issues. This is the first such meeting at the Government level in Lithuanian history.

We are grateful for the Prime Minister's clear position on LGBTIQ human rights issues. During the meeting, we presented arguments for clear, consistent, high-quality legal regulation that addresses real problems.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32634>

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

On 10 December 2025, during the National Human Rights Forum, the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL held a discussion titled “Protection of Transgender People: Legal Uncertainty and Growing Trends of Societal Radicalization.”

Participants discussed the increasing radicalization among young people, the political instrumentalization of trans issues, and the long-standing legal gap that continues to leave transgender individuals in uncertainty—even 17 years after the ECtHR ruling.

Data from international organizations TGEU and ILGA-Europe show a growing restriction of rights across Europe, making the protection of transgender people an important test for democracy.

The discussion was moderated by LGL lawyer Monika Antanaitytė. Participants included Lina Januškevičiūtė, director and educator at the NGO “Diversity Education House,” Ajus Jurgaitis, chair of “Trans Authonomy,” Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson Birutė Sabatauskaitė, and Finnish teacher and transgender rights activist Rae Reinvall.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32688demesys-translyciu-asmenu-teisems/>





EMPOWERING CHANGE: JOINT ODIHR—LGL TRAINING ENHANCES SUPPORT FOR HATE CRIME VICTIMS

On 11–12 December 2025, a joint “ENACT” project training on responding to hate crimes for law enforcement officers and civil society representatives took place in Vilnius. The event was organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in cooperation with the Lithuanian Police and the National LGBT rights organization LGL.

Throughout the two-day programme, participants strengthened their knowledge of the hate crime framework, bias indicators, individual needs assessments, and sensitive and respectful treatment of hate crime victims. The training included practical case analyses, an overview of the national legal framework, and discussions on effective models for inter-institutional cooperation.

The aim of the event was to enhance collaboration between police and civil society organizations in order to improve the identification, investigation, and prevention of hate crimes, as well as to ensure accessible support and protection for victims. Participants also examined existing institutional challenges and explored strategies for improving referral mechanisms and cooperation in practice.

LGL extends its appreciation to all partners and participants for their constructive engagement and contribution to strengthening the system of support for hate crime victims in Lithuania.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32731>



LGL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES IN HIGH-LEVEL EU EVENT ON CIVIL SOCIETY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

On 10 December 2025, Human Rights Day, the Executive Director of the Lithuanian Gay League (LGL), Vladimir Simonko, participated as a speaker in the high-level event “Celebrating Civil Society: Courage and Creativity”, hosted by the Mission of Norway to the European Union with the support of the EEA and Norway Grants.

<https://www.lgl.lt/en/?p=32776>



PROJECTS

Enhancing the capacity of civil society organisations to support victims of anti-LGBTQI hate crimes (ENACT)



Enhancing the capacity of civil
society organisations to support
victims of anti-LGBTQI hate crimes

Durations: April 2024 – March 2026

Financial supporter: Europe Union Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme.

This project aims to enable civil society organizations to establish mechanisms of cooperation with public authorities to enhance the support to victims of anti-LGBTIQ hate crimes and the combat against revictimization through an intersectional approach. The project pretends to strengthen the role of social organizations in protecting, ensuring, and raising awareness on victims' rights.

Pride as a Platform for Strengthening Nordic – Baltic Cooperation



**Nordic Council of Ministers
Office in Lithuania**

Durations: August 2024 – July 2025

Financial supporter: Nordic Council of Ministers

The project “Pride as a Platform for Strengthening Nordic – Baltic Cooperation” seeks to expand the capacity of NGOs in the Baltic States by sharing experience and knowledge with a Nordic partner, consolidating public support for the rights of the local LGBT communities and fostering impactful collaboration between NGOs, using pride as a platform for strengthening Nordic – Baltic cooperation

Baltic Pride 2025 – a platform for LGBTIQ human rights advocacy



Durations: September 2024 –August 2025

Financial supporter: European Commission through the Open Lithuania Foundation program "Verta!".

The project "Baltic Pride 2025 – a platform for LGBTIQ human rights advocacy" aims to utilize the platform provided by the Baltic Pride 2025 festival to promote the equality of LGBTIQ persons, to empower members of the LGBTIQ community to represent their interests, to encourage solidarity and NGO networking for the purpose of LGBTIQ inclusion in cooperation with communities in the regions. The project will also provide an opportunity to increase public awareness of the importance of equality and solidarity of LGBTIQ persons, monitor LGBTIQ human rights standards and raise the competence of representatives of state institutions.

Connecting the Dots: Enhancing the employability of NEETs from the LGBTI communities in Bulgaria and Lithuania



**Finansuoja
Europos Sąjunga**

Duration: November 2024 – November 2026

Financial supporter: ESF+ Social Innovation+ Initiative.

LGBTI youth in Bulgaria and Lithuania face persistent discrimination and bullying in their teenage years resulting in school drop outs, low self-esteem, lack of motivation to continue post-secondary education, fear from potential harassment at the workplace, and underutilization of state-subsidized youth activation programs. The project “Connecting the Dots” aims to develop an integrated employability model for young people not in employment, education, or training (NEETs) from the LGBTI communities, which has two main pillars: strengthening young people’s employability skills and building a support network that will facilitate their first entry or re-entry into the labor market.

National Mentorship Program in LGBTQI Inclusive Education



Duration: January 2025 – July 2025

Financial supporter: European Union

On 3-7 June 2025 Baltic Pride returned to Vilnius, providing an opportunity for IGLYO members LGL and Tolerant Youth Association to collaborate on advocacy actions to strengthen policy and legal measures to protect LGBTQI children and youth from discrimination at school.

Pride House: Human Rights Education for Young People by Young People



Duration: March 2025 – September 2025

Financial supporter: Council of Europe through the European Youth Foundation

The project “Pride House: Human Rights Education for Young People by Young People” sought to establish a welcoming and diverse environment for individuals in the LGBTIQ community to come together to socialize and grow positively in a safe setting that fosters connection and learning among peers, rather than relying on traditional methods of education or advocacy alone.

A Growing Annual Pride for the Financial Sustainability and Institutional Strengthening of LGL



Lietuvos Respublikos
socialinės apsaugos
ir darbo ministerija

Duration: January 2025 – December 2026

Financial supporter: Ministry of Social Security and Labour

The project "A Growing Annual Pride for the Financial Sustainability and Institutional Strengthening of LGL" aims to strengthen the financial sustainability of the national LGBT rights organization LGL, ensure strategic development, develop volunteer activities, and engage in public policy processes through the organization of annual Pride events.

Connecting families, educators and policymakers to combat violence and improve the well-being of LGBTIQ children in the Nordic-Baltic region



Duration: June 2025 – September 2026

Financial supporter: Nordic Council of Ministers

LGBTIQ children and their families in the Nordic and Baltic regions and Ukraine continue to face stigma, discrimination, and violence. Despite progress in some areas, gaps remain in legal protections, societal acceptance, and support systems. This project seeks to address these challenges by uniting families, educators, and policymakers to foster understanding, collaboration, and policy change. The primary objectives are to enhance awareness of the realities faced by rainbow families, strengthen support networks, and promote inclusive representation to combat discrimination.

The All In: The Game of Inclusion (LGBTQ+)



Duration: September 2025 – February 2027

Financial supporter: European Union Erasmus+ Programme

The All In: The Game of Inclusion (LGBTQ+) is designed to advance trans inclusion, empower youth, and promote sustainable practices that foster awareness and civic engagement. By addressing systemic barriers, challenging stereotypes, and strengthening community networks, ALL-IN aligns with EU priorities of inclusion, diversity, active citizenship, and civic participation. Through its collaborative approach, the project aims to create meaningful and lasting societal change.

CLICK: Connecting families, educators and policymakers to combat violence and improve the well-being of LGBTIQ children through an intersectional approach



Duration: June 2025 – May 2027

Financial supporter: European Union

The CLICK project, coordinated by the University of Girona and implemented together with 6 partner organizations, including LGL, is directed at connecting families and educators to combat violence and improve the well-being of LGBTIQ children by placing the children's interests in the center and working together. In this line, the objective of the CLICK project is to improve the well-being of LGBTIQ children through a comprehensive approach at education that connects education settings and rainbow families.

ACTIVEAID / Access to Care and Employment for Trans and Intersex Individuals: Creating Conditions for Equality



Igyvendinimo laikotarpis: October 2024 – November 2026

Financial supporter: European Union

The ACTIVEAID project, coordinated by Asociación SOMOS LGTB+ de Aragón and implemented together with 8 partner organizations, including LGL, aims to create inclusive access to health care services and employment opportunities for trans and intersex individuals.

Vilnius City Municipality 2025–2027 International Festivals Triennial Funding Project



Duration: January 2025 – December 2027

Financial supporter: Vilnius City Municipality

The goal of the Baltic Pride festival, which returned to Vilnius for the sixth time in 2025, was to promote the visibility of the LGBT community, the protection of human rights and cultural diversity. In June 2026 and 2027, LGL will organize the Lithuanian Pride festival in Vilnius, which was first organized in 2024.

Transcending Barriers: Promoting Trans Inclusion in the Workplace



Duration: February 2025 – January 2027

Financial supporter: European Union

The project “Transcending Barriers: Promoting Trans Inclusion in the Workplace”, coordinated by the University of Brescia and implemented together with 7 partner organizations including LGL, aims to fight discrimination and inequality experienced by transgender people in employment.



PUBLICATIONS

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE ASSOCIATION LGL FOR 2026–2030



Building on more than thirty years of experience in advocacy, awareness raising, and community empowerment, the new strategic plan of the association LGL has been prepared for 2026–2030.

The strategy has been developed in light of the changing political and social environment, as well as new challenges and opportunities. During this period, particular attention will be given to safeguarding freedom of assembly and expression, eliminating discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and expanding “Pride” events as one of the main strategic directions. We invite you to explore the goals of the coming five years, as well as plans on how to achieve them.

Strategic Plan of the Association LGL for 2026–2030

THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, CREATIVITY, AND CONNECTION



During the Baltic Pride 2025, the festival was enriched by the Pride House initiative – a series of workshops, discussions, performances, and other events

created by young queer people for young queer people. Hundreds of visitors experienced the program and took part in creating a space that felt like home: one where self-expression thrived, community flourished, and everyone was free to be themselves.

We are proud to continue the legacy of this community success, and present the Pride House Toolkit! In this guide, you will find valuable knowledge collected during the Pride House events. The workshop guides, collection of best practices, and additional resources provided in this toolkit will undoubtedly aid anyone seeking to advance their LGBTQIA+ advocacy, regardless of prior experience in education or activism.

We hope that the Pride House toolkit will broaden and sustain the reach of the Pride House initiative, and will ensure that the knowledge garnered from the events during Baltic Pride 2025 continues to foster change that resonates throughout broader society.

<http://www.lgl.it/en/files/PRIDE-HOUSE-TOOLKIT.pdf>



MAPPING REALITIES OF RAINBOW FAMILIES: CHALLENGES AND NEEDS. A TRANSNATIONAL DESK RESEARCH REPORT



A new international report prepared by the National LGBT rights organization LGL, “Mapping Realities of Rainbow Families: Challenges and Needs. A Transnational Desk Research Report,” provides an in-depth analysis of the experiences of different rainbow families — those consisting of same-sex couples, LGBTQ+ parents, and their children — across the Nordic–Baltic region and Ukraine.

The research reveals significant differences between the countries studied. Denmark, Iceland, and Estonia have achieved major legal advancements, yet institutional and cultural barriers persist. In Lithuania and Ukraine, legal recognition remains stalled due to resistance. Across all contexts, rainbow families face common issues — legal invisibility, heteronormative attitudes within institutions, social stigma, and a lack of systematic data.

The report emphasizes that legal equality does not always translate into equality in everyday life. True inclusion requires changes not only in legislation but also in education, healthcare, and societal attitudes — so that every family can be recognized and supported.

<http://www.lgl.lt/en/files/Mapping-realities.pdf>

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2025

Remaining project funds (2024-12-31)	271.961 €
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INCOME	€	%
European Union	135.804 €	26
Council of Europe (European Youth Foundation)	16.000 €	3
Support from foundations and businesses	159.587 €	31
Ministry of Social Security and Labour of the Republic of Lithuania	20.338 €	4
NGO Fund	39.605 €	8
Vilnius City Municipality	87.000 €	17
Nordic Council of Ministers	57.089 €	11
ANNUAL INCOME:	515.423 €	100
TRANSFERS TO PARTNERS:	78.717 €	

EXPENSES	€	%
Payroll fund (including taxes)	167.993 €	36
LGBT Center expenses	16.513 €	3
Project activities	287.593 €	61
ANNUAL EXPENSES:	472.099 €	100
Remaining project funds (31-12-2025)	202.058 €	