

RAINBOW FAMILIES: TOWARDS LEGAL, SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL EQUALITY

5 June 2026 | 09:30–15:00
Vilnius City Municipality, Conference Hall

The International Lithuanian Pride Conference will bring together experts, policymakers, researchers and community representatives from the Nordic and Baltic countries, as well as Ukraine, to examine both the differences and the shared challenges faced by rainbow families across the region.

The event will explore how legal inequality, fragmented parental recognition systems, heteronormative education and healthcare structures, persistent stigma and the lack of reliable data shape the everyday realities, safety and well-being of rainbow families.

Through comparative perspectives, evidence-based discussions and contributions from international partners, the conference will seek to identify regional needs, strengthen cross-border cooperation, and formulate practical, child-centred recommendations. Its aim is to support the development of sustainable, inclusive and family-affirming policies that ensure every child and every family can live with dignity, safety and equality.

The conference will be moderated by communication expert IEVA DIRMAITĖ.

09:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

10:00–10:15 | OPENING REMARKS

- **RASA RAČIENĖ**, Chair of the Vilnius City Municipality Human Rights Commission
- **PETTER DOTTERUD ANTHUN**, Deputy Head of Department/Gender Equality, International Cooperation, Natural Resources & Culture, Nordic Council of Ministers
- **VLADIMIR SIMONKO**, Executive Director of the National LGBT rights organization LGL

10:15–10:30

SESSION I

Presentation of the International Report

“Mapping Realities of Rainbow Families: Challenges and Needs”

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Overview of challenges faced by rainbow families in the Nordic-Baltic region and Ukraine
- Legal gaps vs. lived realities
- Institutional heteronormativity, stigma and lack of data
- Primary recommendations for public institutions, educators and policymakers
(Q&A included)

EGLĖ KUKTORAITĖ, Communications Manager of the National LGBT rights organization LGL

10:30–11:15

SESSION II

Partner Insights: Realities of Rainbow Families Across the Region

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS:

- **MONIKA ANTANAITYTĖ**, National LGBT rights organization LGL (Lithuania)
- **ANDREA RÓI**, Samtökin '78 (Iceland)
- **JUNE STOLTENBERG**, „LGBT+ Danmark“ (Denmark)
- **KHRYSTYNA HARMASH**, Kharkiv Pride (Ukraine)

SESSION FOCUS:

- Country-by-country updates on the situation of rainbow families
- Key challenges in education, healthcare, social services and legal frameworks
- Experiences of rainbow families during war and crisis (Ukraine)
- Good practices: empowering families, community resilience, anti-violence strategies
- What rainbow families need from policymakers, educators and civil society
- Building a sustainable Nordic-Baltic cooperation network

11:15–11:45

KEYNOTE SPEECH

KRISTER KARTTUNEN, Rainbowfamilies Finland

“Building Queer Families: Legal Pathways and Community Support in Finland”

11:45–12:30 **SESSION III**

Policy Dialogue: Ensuring Safety, Dignity and Equal Opportunities for Rainbow Families

PARTICIPANTS:

- **LAURYNAS ŠEDVYDIS**, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights
- **DAINIUS ŽALIMAS**, Member of the European Parliament
- **VYTAUTAS MITALAS**, Chair of the Freedom Party
- **SIMONAS GENTVILAS**, Member of the Seimas, the Liberals' Movement

THEMES:

- Evidence-based policy recommendations from the project
- Strengthening protection systems for LGBTIQ children
- Integrating rainbow families into national child well-being strategies
- Improving access to education, healthcare and social services

12:30–13:15 **Lunch**

13:15–14:00 **SESSION IV**

Addressing Domestic Violence Against LBT Women and Non-Binary People

PARTICIPANTS:

- **EGLĖ KUKTORAITĖ**, LGL
- **GIULIJA ČEKAUSKAITĖ**, Public Institution “Valandėlė sau”
- **DAIVA BARANAUSKĖ**, Foundation FRIDA
- **JŪRATĖ ŠEDUIKIENĖ**, “Women’s Information Center”

SESSION FOCUS:

- Overview of violence affecting LBT women and non-binary individuals in intimate and domestic environments
- Forms and dynamics of violence within LBT and non-binary relationships
- Barriers to accessing support services and challenges in seeking help
- Gaps in legal protection and institutional response mechanisms
- Prevention strategies and strengthening community-based support

(Moderated discussion + Q&A)

14:00–14:45 SESSION V

LGBTQ+ Inclusive Workplaces Supporting Rainbow Families

PARTICIPANTS:

- **FRANCISCO MARTINEZ-GARCIA**, Moody's Chief Inclusion Officer & Head of People Rewards
- **AGNE KARNILE**, Danske Bank Employee Experience Manager
- **JULIJA MARKELIŪNĖ**, Diversity, equity & inclusion lead, Telia
- **NATALIJA ANDREIČIUK**, Chief People & Culture Officer, Lithuanian Airports

DISCUSSION FOCUS:

- Corporate inclusion policies that support rainbow families
- Equal benefits, parental leave, healthcare and psychological safety
- Role of Employee Resource Groups in visibility and support
- How workplaces contribute to broader societal acceptance
- Business as a partner in combating stigma

(Moderated discussion + Q&A)

14:45–15:00 CLOSING SESSION

- Summary of key conference messages
- Invitation to visit the Role Model Photo Exhibition



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