

Annual Report for

2020



2021



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About LGL

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 whilst 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 twenty years of experience in advocacy, awareness-raising and community building.

LGL's team currently consists of 4 Board Members, 6 permanent staff members, as well as 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 part of the issue of democratic and effective protection of human rights for all citizens of the Republic of Lithuania without exception.

LGL's office is located in Vilnius, V. Šopeno str. 1-1. 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) and **TGEU** (The European Transgender Network). 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.it/en and LGL's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/lgl.it.

2020 LGBT RIGHTS OVERVIEW: CHALLENGES AND VICTORIES



2020 was a year of many challenges and inspiring victories for the National LGBT rights organization LGL. Thanks to your encouragement and support, LGL was able to take many important steps aimed at improving the LGBT human rights situation in Lithuania.

This year, LGL has implemented a number of successful projects. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have celebrated the Rainbow Days 2020 festival online. During the national lockdown LGBT-friendly diplomatic representations in Vilnius raised the rainbow flag in commemoration of IDAHOT.

On September 1st LGL launched its emotional support platform for the most vulnerable group within our community - LGBT children and youth. To this date, our volunteers have consulted more than 100 LGBT children and youth for more than 360 hours.

We also opened a new LGBT community center, which will host IT courses for unemployed LGBT youth and youth belonging to other socially vulnerable groups in the near future!

LGL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

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 2020, the most important of which are briefly summarized below.

ACTIVITIES

RAINBOW DAYS 2020



LGL Celebrated IDAHOT with a Social Media Campaign

This year due to global CO-VID-19 pandemic, the National LGBT rights organization LGL implemented a social media campaign to celebrate the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) online. From 7 to 17 May, 2020 LGL posted visuals including messages dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the Baltic Pride in Vilnius and IDAHOT on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The purpose of LGL's social media campaign was to maintain the public visibility of the local LGBT communities in the public sphere; and to raise awareness about so-

cial and legal challenges faced by the members of the local LGBT communities among the policy and decision makers and the general public.

LGL also conducted a very special interview with H. E. Karsten Klepsvik, Ambassador of Norway to Lithuania, who is confident that the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia provided an opportunity to raise awareness on the challenges the LGBTI community is facing during global health and economic crisis.

EMBASSIES IN VILNIUS RAISED THE RAINBOW FLAG IN HONOUR OF IDAHOT



On the 17th of May, 2020 LGBT-friendly embassies in Vilnius raised the rainbow flag to honour the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and biphobia (IDAHOT) and to show their support for the local LGBT community. The rainbow flag decorated the embassies of the United States, Sweden, Germany, Finland, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, Denmark and the French Institute in Lithuania.

The National LGBT rights organisation LGL welcomes the decision of diplomatic representati-

ons in Vilnius to express their support for Lithuania's LGBT community. We hope that the position of embassies will serve as a catalyst for broader discussions about the rights of LGBT people in Lithuania.

May 17th is an important day, as on this day the World Health Organization (WHO) removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses. The day has been commemorated throughout the world since 2004, and in Lithuania since 2007, when LGL organised the Rainbow Days for the first time.

OTHER LGL ACTIVITIES

LGL COMMEMORATED THE PRIDE MONTH TOGETHER WITH THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR

National LGBT rights organization LGL commemorated Pride Month together with the champion of human rights H.E. Ambassador of Sweden Ms. Maria Christina Lundqvist who is going to finish her assignment in Lithuania soon after four intense and fruitful years.

Swedish Embassy supported the Pride Voices Gala event which took place in June, 2019 which was a part of the series of a record-breaking Baltic Pride 2019 events. Baltic Pride festival was also highlighted with the presence of Ann Linde who has entered into office as a Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden in September 2019.



LGL celebrates Swedish example of strong female political leadership and looks forward to future cooperation in the field of LGBTI human rights.

LGL ADVOCATES FOR THE RIGHTS OF LGBT FAMILIES



Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia still have minimal-to-no access to LGBT family rights, therefore 6 LGBT rights organizations operating in the respective countries have joined their long-standing expertise to promote family diversity and improve socio-legal conditions for LGBT families.

Raising awareness for Inclusive Societies to Embrace rainbow families in Europe (R.I.S.E) is project

composed of a variety of activities, specially designed to increase understanding on the every-day challenges and obstacles of an insufficient legal base as well as to respond to social stigma encountered by local LGBT families.

Same-sex couples mostly remain invisible in said societies and face difference in treatment in comparison to their heterosexual counterparts. Such couples have very limited legal guarantees, e.g. they cannot become officially married, form a civil partnership, apply for a joint adoption together, nor enter for a joint guardians of a child.

Rainbow Families do not have an option to officially form a typical family units, thus there is no possibility for them to receive the corresponding social security benefits. Variety of difficulties emerge in an everyday life, making it next to impossible to apply for a financial loan as partners or acquire a joint ownership of an immovable property, among numerous others.

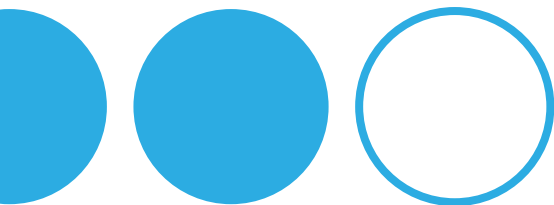
According to Vladimir Simonko, Executive Director of the National LGBT rights organization, viewing family values as the foundation of society is not incompatible with social acceptance of homosexuality. It has already been established by the Constitutional Court of Lithuania that relations between same-sex couples fall within the concept of a family life. Recent *Beizaras and Levickas v. Lithuania* case

recalled yet another principle, derived from ECHR case law: sexual orientation alone may not on its own justify different treatment.

“Nevertheless, same-sex couples are still treated differently under several European countries’ legislations, including that of Lithuania,” said Vladimir Simonko.

R.I.S.E strives to achieve a positive change in terms of a non-discriminatory portrayal of LGBT families among general population and improve awareness on compromised quality of life of LGBT families on a decisionmaker level.

Project is implemented by the National LGBT rights organization LGL (Lithuania), LGBT and their Friends Association Mozaika (Latvia); Love Does Not Exclude Association MNW (Poland), LGBTI Organization BILITIS (Bulgaria), Association ACCEPT (Romania), Iniciatíva Inakost (Slovakia).



LGL SENT A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR THE BELARUSIAN LGBTI COMMUNITY: FREEDOM AND JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL



The National LGBT rights organization LGL would like send a message of support for the Belarusian LGBTI community during these challenging times. The regime of the bloody Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko will not prevail as Belarusian people fearlessly demand free elections despite continuous human rights violations.

LGL has long-time partnership with Belarusian LGBTI human rights organizations such as “Journalists for Tolerance” and “DOTYK”, implementing projects to promote democracy and human rights. In 2018, LGL, together with Belarusian partners, produced a publication “Restricted Expression: Guidelines and Recommendations for LGBT Activists in Hostile Environments”, funded by Lithuania’s Development Cooperation Programme.

In 2017-2018 LGL implemented a project “Sharing Expertise and Fostering LGBT Human Rights in Belarus”, involving civil society stakeholders from Belarus, Norway and Lithuania. The project aimed to promote progress towards democracy and support civic society’s development, particularly emphasizing capacity building in the area of communication, advocacy, engaging young people.

LGL is proud to witness outpouring Lithuanian support for Belarusian civil society. On 18 August, 2020 the Lithuanian parliament, Seimas, adopted a resolution calling for the non-recognition of Belarus’ recent presidential election and sanctions against officials in the neighbouring country. Lithuanian civil society also came up with many positive initiatives like Freedom Chain, peaceful protests, collecting donations for Belarusian people and organizing medical aid for those brutally beaten by Lukashenko’s regime.

Zhyve Belarus!

LGL LAUNCHED AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PLATFORM FOR LGBT STUDENTS WHO FACE BULLYING

SUSIDŪREI SU PATYČIOMIS?

Registruokis emocinės paramos LGBT vaikams ir paaugliams platformoje ir gauk nemokamą konsultaciją.

KARTU ĮVEIKTI PROBLEMAS LENGVIAU!



On 1st September, 2020 the National LGBT rights organization LGL launched an emotional support platform for LGBT students who face bullying. The platform was launched on the National day of Science and Knowledge and is also useful for teachers and parents.

“On the occasion of the National Day of Science and Knowledge, it is especially important that every student can pursue education in a safe learning environment without discrimination and bullying,” says Eglė Kuktoraitė, LGL’s Communication Manager, who coordinates the project.

Counseling and emotional support will be provided to registered LGBT children and adolescents. Support for students in difficulty will be provided by trained volunteers with the necessary education and training. Parents and teachers of LGBT children and adolescents will also receive emotional support.

“LGBT young people who experience bullying because of their sexual orientation or gender identity often do not receive the support of their parents or teachers. Therefore, it is especially important that these young people be able to receive emotional support from specialists who have completed special training on LGBT sensitivity,” commented LGL Executive Director Vladimir Simonko.

LGBT young people facing bullying and hardship are invited to register for the consultation at <https://lithuania.livewithoutbullying.com/>. The consultations are provided in Lithuanian.

SWEDISH EXPERT ON BULLYING LED A SEMINAR FOR VOLUNTEERS OF LGL'S EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PLATFORM



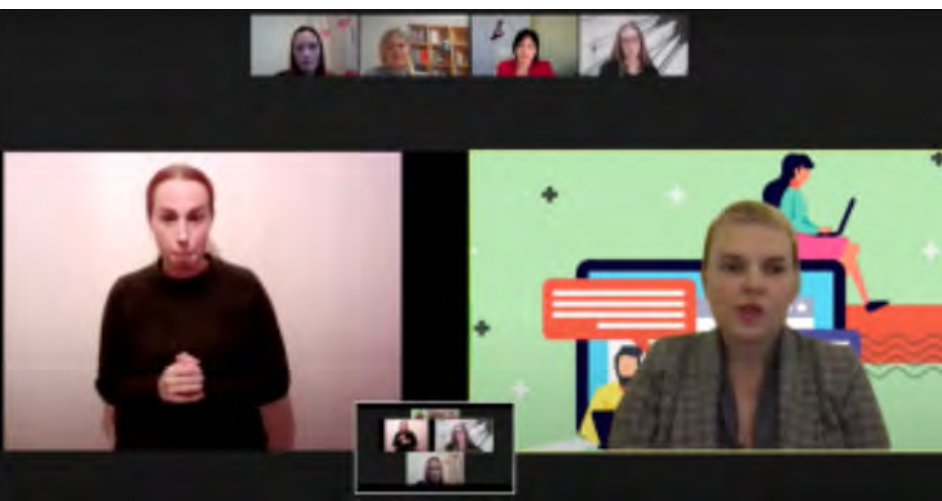
On 1st July, 2020 the National LGBT rights organization LGL together with the Swedish organization Friends organized an online seminar for volunteers of LGL's emotional support platform. During the seminar, Henrik Karlsson, Research and Development Manager at Friends, presented LGL's volunteers' the best practices in dealing with bullying.

Friends' research and development manager Henrik Karlsson presented the situation of LGBTI young people in Sweden, discussed the results of the latest surveys and answered questions from LGL volunteers.

Although the Swedish organization Friends works with all types of bullying, homophobic bullying is always integrated into the perspective of promoting inclusion in schools. Swedish schools must make every effort to ensure that LGBTI students do not suffer discriminatory or degrading treatment.

We kindly thank the Embassy of Sweden in Lithuania for cooperation in organizing the seminar.

LGL PRESENTED ITS EMOTIONAL SUPPORT PLATFORM FOR LGBT CHILDREN DURING THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM



On 10 December, in commemoration of the Human Rights Day, LGL hosted a discussion “Bullying Suffered by LGBT Children and Adolescents and the Possibilities Provided by Emotional Support Platforms and Helplines” during the National Human Rights Forum. During the discussion LGL presented its emotional support platform for LGBT children and youth, their parents and teachers.

Eglė Kuktoraitė, Communications Manager at National LGBT Rights Organization (LGL), Jurgita Smiltė Jasiulionė, psychologist at Children Line and Dr. Edita Žiobienė, Ombudsperson for the Protection of the Rights of the Child of the Republic of Lithuania took part in the discussion. The discussion was moderated by Kristina Aržuolaitienė, journalist and daily editor at 15min.lt. Ambassador of Sweden in Lithuania H.E. Inger Buxton gave a welcoming speech to the participants of the discussion.

For LGBT youths in Lithuania, school can be an unsafe place for many reasons. When pupils feel unsafe or uncomfortable at school, they may be forced to avoid its places or activities where they feel unwanted, or they may decide to not go to school at all. Hostile atmosphere at school affects the LGBT pupils' possibilities to get fully involved in the activities of the school's community. The feeling of inse-

curity can negatively affect the pupils' possibilities to strive good learning results, especially if they avoid school or lessons because of this feeling.

Research conducted by the National LGBT Rights Organization (LGL) shows that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic tendencies dominate in Lithuania's schools. School staff do not know how to appropriately react to these incidents or even contribute to homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying, while the pupils are left to solve this problem without the help from parents or school staff.

In order to solve this problem, LGL and its international partners have created a special platform of emotional support for LGBT children and youths in which well-qualified volunteering psychologists provide emotional support to LGBT pupils who suffer from bullying or other specific problems and to their parents and teachers.

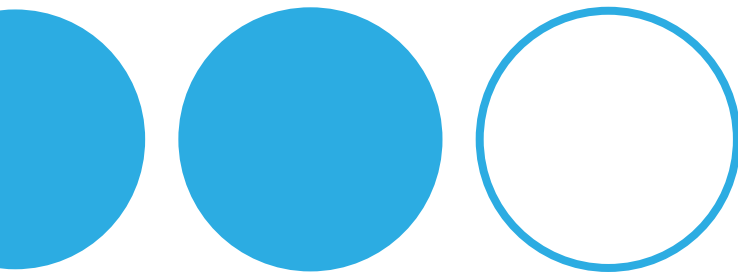
LGL REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH **PARTNERS IN NORWAY**



On September 24-27, representatives of the National LGBT rights organization LGL visited Norway, where they attended meetings with representatives of various Oslo institutions and non-governmental organizations.

LGL representatives met with Rowena B. Teodocio, Head of the Diversity and Integration Division of the Social and Welfare Services Agency of Oslo, Ole Prin-Sand from Oslo Pride Art, Mari Eike Nilsen and Toralv Moe from International Relations Division at Oslo Municipality and former Norwegian Ambassador to Lithuania Karsten Klepsvik and his wife Heidi.

It is hoped that these meetings will lead to closer bilateral cooperation between LGL and the Norwegian authorities and non-governmental organizations.



LGL PROVIDED ADVISORY OPINION IN EC(T)HR CASE BUHUCEANU AND CIOBOTARU V. ROMANIA



After obtaining permission by European Court of the Human Rights (ECtHR) to indirectly participate in the supranational judicial proceedings, National LGBT rights organization LGL submitted the Amicus Curiae brief in the ECtHR case Buhuceanu and Ciobotaru v. Romania, brought by 26 Romanian applicants regarding human rights violations resulting from insufficient same-sex family rights recognition.

Third Party court intervention brief, submitted together with the LGBT and their Friends Association Mozaika (Latvia); Love Does Not Exclu-

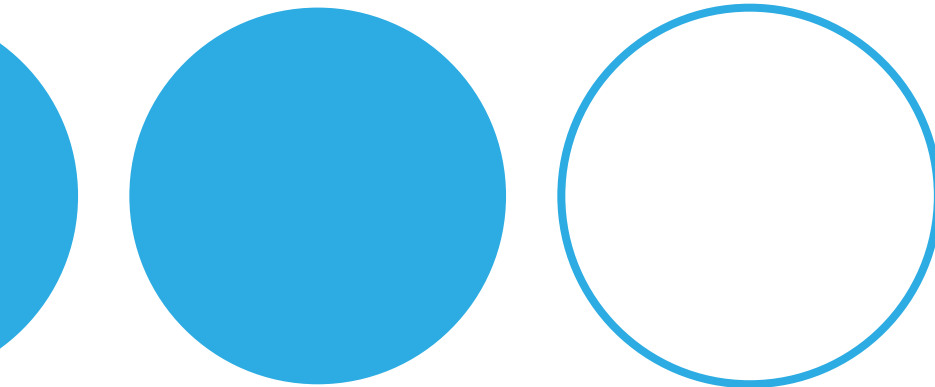
de Association MNW (Poland), Iniciativa Inakost (Slovakia), LGBTI Organization BILITIS (Bulgaria) and in cooperation with White & Case LLP (Brussels) , explores the similarities between legal and social environments and its practical impact on LGBT families in the remaining EU Member States with very limited to no LGBT family rights recognition.

The document argued that a prominent lack of legal protection results in flagrant discrimination against a significant part of the population and breaches their fundamental rights protected under the European Convention of Human Rights.

Amicus also made a reference to Vallianatos and Others v. Greece, in which ECtHR found violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR). In this case the Court stated that the ECHR is a living instrument to be interpreted in present-day conditions while noting that Lithuania and Greece remain the only countries under ECHR mechanism to reserve the existing partnership institute exclusively to different-sex couples.

In case further permission will be granted by the ECtHR, LGL will proceed with submitting results of the extensive research on practical legal and social daily life challenges faced by same-sex couples in the last EU Member States with virtually no regulations concerning the status same-sex relationships.

This Court intervention brief was prepared strictly on pro bono basis in cooperation of CSO experts and legal professionals. No European Union funding was used for its preparation and/or dissemination purposes taking into account that no European Union funding should go to advocacy directly aiming to change the national legislation on a person's status, including the definition of marriage, or to litigation targeting that legislation.



PROJECTS

Promoting LGBT human rights in Lithuania by Ensuring Sustainability of the National LGBT Rights Organization



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

Duration: March 2019 – March 2021

Financial supporter: Open Society Foundations

The project seeks to promote LGBT human rights in Lithuania by ensuring sustainability of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL through strategically tailored awareness raising, advocacy and community building activities. The main goal of the project is to promote LGBT human rights in Lithuania by ensuring sustainability of the National LGBT Rights Organization LGL through strategically tailored awareness raising, advocacy and community building activities.

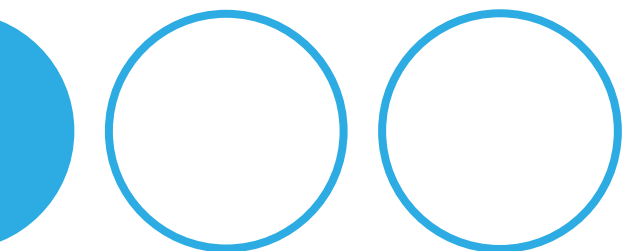
Change in Business, Public sector and the Public – New Standards of Reducing Discrimination



Duration: May 2017 – April 2020

Financial supporter: European Social Fund Agency

The project will be implemented together with the Office of Equal Opportunities Ombudsperson and the Human Rights Monitoring Institute. The National Equality and Diversity Forum members will also be involved in project's activities. The main goal of the project is to combat discrimination in the labour market on the grounds of the Equal Opportunities Law by systemically raising business and public sectors and society's awareness in human rights area.



Speak Out: Tackling anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime

SAFE.T.O.BE BY **SPEAK OUT**
PROJECT



Projektas finansuojamas
Europos Sąjungos
Tiesių, lygybės ir
pilietybės programos
lėšomis

Duration: January 2019 – January 2021

Financial supporter: Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

Project “Speak Out: Tackling anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime” aims to build the capacity of law enforcement on countering anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime, while respecting victims’ rights and needs, by building strong networks, promoting best practices and developing a toolkit as a basis for law enforcement trainings. Project activities will also raise awareness on anti-LGBT hate speech and on freedom of expression, empower LGBT communities to develop narratives to counter online hate speech and to encourage and facilitate reporting. The project will also aim to stimulate the application of restorative justice and rehabilitation services in anti-LGBT hate speech and hate crime by sharing knowledge and best practices and by strengthening cooperation with police and justice officers, mediation services, and other stakeholders.

Direction Employment

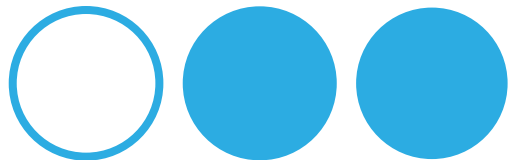
“DIRECTION EMPLOYMENT”

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway grants grants

Duration: October 2018 – March 2022

Financial supporter: EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Youth Employment

The project will unleash the potential of NEET youth, suffering from multiple discrimination (i.e. Roma, LGBTI, refugees, single mothers, disabled) by applying an experimental model for youth education, based on progressive pedagogy, integral and gamified methodologies. It will contribute to promoting the values of diversity and inclusion in the labor market concerning race/ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and global and digital citizenship.



Raising awareness for Inclusive Societies to Embrace rainbow families in Europe (R.I.S.E.)



Duration: September 2019 – September 2021

Financial supporter: Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

The Raising awareness for Inclusive Societies to Embrace rainbow families in Europe (R.I.S.E.) project, has emerged from partners' drive to challenge de facto recognition of LGBT families' rights in Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia through promoting diversity and improving social acceptance of LGBT families and to ensure the full enjoyment of the right of freedom of movement within the EU of LGBT citizens by increasing civic understanding on consequences of existing national legislation in socio-economic conditions and quality of life of same sex couples. According to various international surveys, the legal/institutional framework and the social climate towards fundamental human rights for LGBT individuals in LT, LV, PL, RO, BG and SK, remain to be highly problematic. All the 6 countries are ranked below 30 out of 49 European nations in terms of civil and political rights for LGBT* people (i.e. the last six countries EU countries for respect of human rights and full equality) in the ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map 2017.

CHOICE: Promoting School Environments Inclusive of Diversity based on SOGI



Duration: July 2019 – July 2021

Financial supporter: Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

The project seeks to contribute to the promotion of inclusive schools and the prevention & combating of intolerance on the grounds of gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation and/or sex characteristics in BG, GR, LT & RO. It aims to enhance the capacities of secondary school professionals to support diversity & creation of inclusive school environments; facilitate the reporting of incidents of violence & intolerance on the grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), and enable victims & bystanders (and possibly perpetrators) to access support services; and raise awareness of school community & wider public about SOGI related discrimination/bullying/violence in the school environment.



DIVERSITY-CHILDHOOD: Changing social attitudes towards gender diversity in children across Europe



Duration: October 2019 – October 2021

Financial supporter: Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

The project seeks to make a needs assessment in a participative way on needs produced by gender-based violence in childhood, focusing on LGBTI and gender non-conforming children. It aims to map the good practices regarding attention in the intersection between gender, sexuality and childhood in 5 key spheres: school, health, family, public spaces and media; to design working methods and practical tools for professionals and children; to implement innovative actions which allow for the unfolding of new inclusive intervention proposals, as well as evaluating their impact; to promote interagency and multidisciplinary cooperation between public bodies, NGOs and other relevant agencies working with children and gender-based violence; to increase professional, personal, peer groups and proximity environment abilities to favour the well-being of LGBT and gender non-conforming children through training of trainers; to raise awareness on diversity in gender expression as well as gender-based violence in childhood with impact throughout the whole life cycle.

PUBLICATIONS

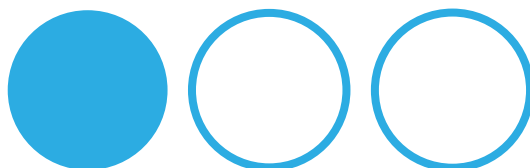
Safe to Be: Handbook



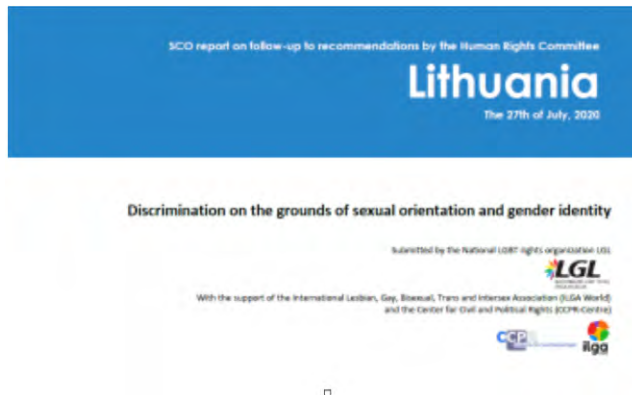
LGL, together with its international partners, prepared and published a handbook on restorative justice.

This Handbook is a compilation of expert essays and country chapters on history, policies, practices and procedures that have shaped and are being used in the field of restorative justice. It will guide you through the evolution of the topic and give you insight of current situations in different countries. It focuses more specifically on the possibilities and challenges that restorative justice approaches have and can have in case of LGBTI hate crimes.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and intersex (LGBTI) people experience discrimination, harassment and violence in different areas of life. These phenomena but also our social environments that do not value human diversity may lead to hate crimes that are criminal offenses against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against victims real or perceived identity. Hate crimes are special types of crimes, they cause feelings of vulnerability, anxiety, anger, and shame but also spread fear and anger throughout communities. So the question is: how do we address the problems of hate crime and other bias based human conflicts in ways that productively incorporate the values of diversity, respect, accountability, and ultimately reconciliation?



Alternative Report to the UN Human Rights Committee



In 2018 United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee made recommendations CCPR/C/LTU/CO/4 to Lithuania to improve the situation of LGBTI people. Along with recommendations made to Belize, Bulgaria, Honduras, Mongolia and Sudan, these recommendations were considered by the Committee as urgent.

In accordance to the official deadline and procedure, national LGBT rights organization LGL submitted an alternative report on the 27th of July, 2020. While the deadline for the state report submission was the same, at the present moment it appears that Lithuania's publication might have been delayed.

Alternative report submitted together with the ILGA World and Center for Civil and Political Rights examines the State's level of implementation of Committee's recommendations. While the document noted certain constructive institutional developments, negative tendencies are overwhelming: radical political forces continue to use discriminatory, anti-LGBT rhetoric, same-sex couples, having no access to legal and social guarantees, continue to live in legal void and often choose to maintain secrecy of their relationship. Discriminatory interpretation of the infamous provisions laid-down in the Law on Protection of Minors Against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information continue to pose issues when it comes to mainstreaming LGBT topics in the media. Transgender individuals remain particularly vulnerable since the administrative procedure which would guarantee an easy access to Legal Gender Recognition still has not been introduced by the State, leaving a less cost-efficient and time consuming option of bringing a case before the court.

Report findings suggest that Lithuania, not ensuring an effective protection of its LGBT citizens from social, legal and institutional discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity, has not fully implemented the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Committee, thus simultaneously failing to fulfill its international obligations.

This confirms the existence of alarming tendencies of institutional indifference and inefficiency, which, among other things, contributes to the deterioration of the demographic situation: the so-called brain drain phenomena and some of

the highest high suicide rates in the world being the most prominent examples of indirect consequences of low LGBT acceptance in Lithuania.

According to the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) LGBTI survey (released in May, 2020), Lithuanian respondents admitted always (14 %) or almost always (20 %) feeling downhearted or depressed. Moreover, 55 % of Lithuanian respondents personally felt discriminated against in 8 areas of life due to their LGBTI identity. These rates are among the highest in all EU Member States.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and expenditures

in 2020

REMAINING PROJECT FUNDS (2019-12-31)	139.473 €	
Income	€	%
European Commission	91.389 €	47
European Social Fund Agency (Lithuania)	35.024 €	18
EEE and Norway Grants	32.705 €	17
Open Society Foundations	26.221 €	14
Other supporters	7.535 €	4
Yearly income:	192.873 €	100
Expenditures	€	%
Salaries (gross)	104.508 €	54
LGBT centre expenses	29.252 €	15
Project implementation	59.404 €	31
Yearly expenditures:	193.164 €	100
Remaining project funds (2020-12-31)	139.183 €	