



# LUXEMBOURG

## ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

As part of Luxembourg Pride Week, the airline company Luxair presented a rainbow coloured plane in June featuring the Pride Week's design.

## BODILY INTEGRITY

Since last year's discussions on the topic, no developments took place this year around a potential ban on conversion therapies.

## EMPLOYMENT

Inspiring More Sustainability (IMS), a network that campaigns for corporate responsibility in Luxembourg, published a guide for employers on creating workplaces that are inclusive and welcoming of LGBTI people. Prime Minister Xavier Bettel is one those featured in the guide with their personal testimonies.

## EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

A number of Catholic religious leaders in German speaking countries criticised the Pope's latest hostile statements about LGBT people, in what some call a revolution. Luxembourg's clergy did not join these efforts, which was criticised by civil society in an open letter.

Subsequently, there was a meeting between Cardinal Hollerich and Rosa Lëtzebuerg, which resulted in a promise not to penalise priests who bless same-sex partnerships. Joint actions between the diocese and the LGBTIQ+ community are being considered for the first time in 2022.

## FAMILY

The Law on Parenting is undergoing review, which has stirred public debate. The draft amendments grant the right to accessing artificial insemination to different and same-sex couples, and single persons, on an equal basis. However, it only gives automatic parenthood recognition to married heterosexual couples.

There was a lot of public discussion about the proposed Law 7674 this year, which would set out the right to know one's own biological origin, i.e. whose egg and sperm cells one was conceived from. The law would impact rainbow families as it would force gametes donors to reveal their identity once the child, who was conceived with the help of their genetic material, turns 18. Civil society and a number of rainbow families turned to the Ministry of

Justice saying the law is degrading to rainbow families. The law practically bans anonymous gametes donation.

## FOREIGN POLICY

Prime Minister Xavier Bettel stood firmly against the new law in Hungary this year, which bans any discussion of SOGI issues in schools and on primetime television.

In July, Luxembourg declared itself an LGBTIQ+ Freedom Zone, in response to developments in Hungary and Poland.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs participated by funding a 'Luxembourg Truck' at Cologne Pride in the summer. This action took place in the framework of a visit of Luxembourg Pride to Cologne Pride. The host city of Luxembourg Pride is Esch-sur-Alzette, Cologne's sister city.

## FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Pride events took place in person again this year and featured a march, a conference, and art events.

## HEALTH

Civil society continued advocating for no restrictions on blood donations in the case of men who have sex with men (MSM). On 1 January, the local Red Cross put in place a new questionnaire, which allows for blood donation for MSM, but the sample will be 'quarantined' for four months before being used. Rosa Lëtzebuerg has advocated for the easing of restrictions for a decade, and while it welcomed the step, it wants to see more progress.

## HOUSING

In 2020, the city of Esch planned to prohibit shared flats if those cohabiting are not relatives or partners, due to increased sublet prices over the recent years. Civil society warned that this would forcibly out same-sex couples. The wording was changed this year, from the need to prove "emotional connection" to proof of a "common budget". The provision was removed for technical reasons unrelated to the privacy concern of same-sex couples, but civil society is concerned it may be included in a similar regulation in the future.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Rosa Lëtzebuerg continued its online program, '#StayAtHome - Discover queer culture' this year, featuring



live streams, articles, and a range of activities for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The economic crisis caused by the pandemic resulted in LGBTQI+ groups losing sponsors and partners, which has jeopardised their financial stability.

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

Rosa Lëtzebuerg wrote a letter to all municipalities and ministries, asking them to raise rainbow flags during Luxembourg Pride Week. 16 town halls [2020: four] as well as five ministries raised a rainbow flag, namely the ministries of Social Security, Health, National Education, Economy, and of Foreign and European Affairs. The Parliament participated for the third time.

In October, a discussion arose about the status of the right to found a family in the course of the constitutional revision. In an advisory statement, Rosa Lëtzebuerg pleaded to maintain this right as fundamental and furthermore criticised the use of the binary gender model in the revision text, as well as the fact that the different discrimination motives are not explicitly mentioned.

The Pont Adolphe bridge and the water tower in Cessange, which can be seen from the A1 highway, were also lit up in rainbow colours during Pride Week.

## PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Bar Rouge in Luxembourg City, the only exclusively gay bar in the city, did not survive the pandemic. There remain three queer-friendly bars in Esch-sur-Alzette, Differdange and Redange-sur-Attert.



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