



Luxembourg

FOREIGN POLICY

Prime Minister Xavier Bettel participated in the LGBTI-themed “Free to Be” panel discussion at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

Pride was held online this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlighting the particular vulnerability of LGBTIQ+ people during the pandemic, the Pride slogan was “You are not alone!”. The organisers warned that LGBTIQ+ seniors would become more isolated and lonely during lockdown, and LGBTIQ+ young people may face more hostility and violence at home. Pride Minister Bettel, held a speech during the online event.

HEALTH

In July, the youth section of the Democratic Party called for an absolute ban on conversion therapies.

HOUSING

In July, the town of Esch-sur-Alzette announced it would prohibit shared flats if those cohabiting are not relatives or partners, due to increased sublet prices over the recent years. LGBTIQ+ association Rosa Lëtzebuerg asbl submitted a public letter to the city administration warning that the regulation would forcefully out many same-sex couples. Rosa Lëtzebuerg is also worried that the regulation could be used in an ad hoc and discriminatory manner. Students and those with low income would also be gravely affected. Due to strong opposition against the plan, the city postponed the vote on the issue.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Rosa Lëtzebuerg asbl and CIGALE both moved their activities online and cancelled all its in-person meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rosa Lëtzebuerg reported a 150% increase in the number of people reaching out for support, due to loneliness and related issues during the first lockdown period. Subsequently, it set up a COVID-19 information page.

Rosa Lëtzebuerg also launched an online program called “#StayAtHome - Discover queer culture” in the during the lockdown, featuring live streams and a range of activities to keep up good spirits in the community.

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

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

In July, the parliament building had the colours of the rainbow projected on it for ten days, for the second time. The municipalities of Sanem and Clervaux also joined in for the first time. The European Investment Bank, headquartered in Luxembourg City, did the same action and also raised a rainbow flag.



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