#CONTIAMOCI! ITALIAN LGBTQI FAMILIES

SUMMARY REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

When the LGBTI Resource Centre launched this project, there was not any recognition for the LGBTQI Families in Italy. Additionally, the Law on Marriage was not existing, and the draft law on civil unions was still under discussion. The survey's aim was to show evidence of LGBTQI Families and their existence, demonstrating the lack of recognition, which cannot be tolerated, as it constituted a discriminatory element to some families.

In collaboration with Famiglie Arcobaleno and Genitori Rainbow, the LGBTI Resource Centre has therefore launched the project entitled #Contiamoci! for producing data on LGBTQI Families.

How many are these Families? How are they composed? How many of these have children?

During the data collection phase, a significant change happened: the Law on Civil Unions (Law 76/2016) was approved, and more recently, the decrees have been approved, making the law effective.

It is important to highlight that the Civil Unions Act does not erase discrimination. Today, the LGBTQI Families are not fully recognised as Families: their union is not a marriage; partners are not married; parenting is not protected; the adoption is not allowed (except for specific cases approved by the Italian courts, in the months following the survey carried out by the Centre).

Even if a few developments have been made, LGBTQI Families are still discriminated against. Moreover, the children of these Families are still not fully recognised and protected.

The results obtained from #Contiamoci!, can support associations' work, including activists and professionals, who are committed to equal dignity, and equal rights for LGBTQI Families.
The following map shows both civil unions established in Italy and abroad (blue and gray squares) to the 31st January 2017, and those already reserved (orange square) in the capital of regions and autonomous provinces.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Personal Data
- 1741 individual compilations, 1390 families.
- Gender: 57% women, 41,5% men, 0,34% transgender, 0,6% trans (half MtoF and half FtoM). Only a 0,5% does not identity themselves in gender binarism. 1 intergender person has participated in this survey.
- Sexual Orientation: 89,4% of the participants are homosexual, 7% bisexual, 1,6% heterosexual, 1,5% pan-sexual.
- Rage of ages: 38% of 31-40 years old; 29% of 41-50 years old; 21,5% less than 30 years old; 9% of 51-60 years old; 1,7% of 61 e 70 years old; 0,2% over seventy.
- Studies: 18,6% of the participants have a post graduation education; 36% has a Bachelor Degree; 39% got a High School Diploma.

2. Family Composition
55% of the families are made up of women; 43% by men; 2% represents families made up of trans, transgender and not-binary persons.
28,6% of participant families have children. 66 families are made of a LGBTI single parents. 24% are families made of 2 fathers and 2 mothers. Almost 500 children and teenagers have been declared. The sons’ average age is almost 8 years.
3.

Financial Condition
Almost 62% of the sample is employed, which 8.9% are teachers. 20% is an entrepreneur, 1% is retired. 6% are unemployed, 4.3% are still students. 17.8% gets low incomes (less than 800 € monthly); 22% gets high income (over than 2.000 € per months); 60% a medium income.
A focus on trans participants shows that 33% of them are unemployed and 37.5% has a low income.
4. Intimacy and sex
More than 75% of the participant is fully satisfied of the relationship and 58% of the sex with own partner. For almost 90% of the sample, intimacy and sex are discussed within the family, children included. 43% of the families talk very often about politic issues; 33% about religion and 61% of ethics themes.

RECOMMENDATIONS
As the present project has shown, Rainbow Families are a reality in Italy. Although they should be more representative in the political scenario, they are discriminated by the law or de facto circumstances, because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
There is a long road ahead to go: from civil union law to same sex marriage, the only legal institute which could guarantee a full equality for LGBTI people. #Contiamoci! has been figured out to be a pilot project from which we, our partner and main stakeholders have the opportunity to learn more about Italian Rainbow Families. It does not exist a prototype of LGBTI people family, but rather a mosaic of variety stories and livings. Thousands of people who live their everyday lives are waiting for a legal recognition of their status and dignity.
This huge data collection work has meant to be a useful tool for LGBTI NGOs advocacy activities.