



Press Release

Munich is planning a cooperation with Kyiv!

The LGBT associations of the city are considering founding a partnership. Cooperation aims to help improve human rights situation.

Munich and Kyiv are working together. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities of the two cities seek to coordinate their activities and support each other. A contact-group is forming which will establish of a cooperation as part of the city-partnership.

Munich, 1st Octobre 2012 - In Munich it was the same as always. At the gay pride parade, thousands of visitors lined the streets as lesbians, gays, bi- and transsexuals from the entire city marched for gay rights in Eastern Europe with the motto "Fight for Global Rights" - accompanied, of course, by a party atmosphere.

In Kyiv, however, their pride parade did not take place. The organizers decided it would be too dangerous because hundreds of aggressive opponents had gathered in the streets to insult and attack the approximately 150 participants. In fact, two of the protagonists were attacked during the events and beaten severely enough to require hospitalization. The gay pride parade would have been the first in Kyiv.

That should change next year, and that is why Munich and Kyiv are cooperating. As part of the existing partnership of the two cities, the LGBT organizations seek to network with each other and create a partnership to strengthen each other. It is planned to continuously exchange experiences, information and expertise.

This began at this year's pride weekend in Munich. In June, the city of Munich sent a delegation to observe the pride parade in the Ukrainian capital that included city councilwoman Lydia Dietrich (Green Party) and Sascha Hübner, a psychologist from the Counseling Service of the Munich Gay Communication and Culture Center „Sub“. Three representatives from Kyiv attended the Munich Pride Parade.

"A partnership can function if it's brought to life", says counselor Sascha Hübner. Something similar exists already between Montreal and Riga in Latvia and also between Hamburg and St. Petersburg. The details of the partnership have not yet been worked out. The lesbian counseling center LeTRa and the Sub are currently examining the possibilities and their resources for centrally coordinating activities.

Over the next few weeks, a task-force with representatives from various groups will be formed to take charge of the networking between Munich and Kyiv. The so-called "Szenestammtisch", an informal communication group in which all the LGBT institutions in Munich participate, will play an important role since the goal is to bring together as many interested people as possible and establish a broad foundation for the partnership. The town council of Munich - Munich is twin city of Kyiv - will support this cooperation on a official political level.

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