Intersectionality
within the LGBTIQ Community

International Photo Exhibition 2021

Rainbow
Cities
Network

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About the 2021 RCN Photo Exhibition

The Rainbow Cities Network (RCN), which today includes 34 cities, was established in The Hague in 2013 on occasion of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). The network aims to discuss local approaches in equality and anti-discrimination work for LGBTIQ persons, to learn from each other, and to develop joint strategies with the objective to effectively stop discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer people, and to promote the equal participation of LGBTIQ persons in all areas of society.

As a joint project, the Rainbow Cities have organised a photo exhibition with the title “Intersectionality within the LGBTIQ Community“ on occasion of IDAHOT on 17 May 2021: Twenty cities participate and provide one photo each for the international exhibition.

People who experience their own sexual orientation or gender identity as different from the ones of the majority society often experience feelings of isolation and fear. Getting to know other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex people is important and feels good because we are social beings, we want to belong, and we do not want to be alone. As a group, we often focus on being queer together, being different from the majority society because community as well as distinction create identity.

With the queer community gaining strength, the general progress of society, and the increasingly self-confident presence of new movements, we have learned that the much-desired feeling of belonging to the one group does not exist: For one thing, there is no homogeneous group of people. Even if people are connected by one aspect, which they have in common, such as sexual orientation or gender identity, they are different from each other in other aspects, and in the way in which they experience the one aspect the group has in common. At the same time, we are never just part of one group, but we belong to many different groups.

The never-ending rainbow is an expression and symbol of diversity. Everyone finds room under the rainbow. All identities find a place there. Acknowledging and including them is the strength of our queer community. Let us make an effort to take a closer look. It is not possible to support equality and equal rights for certain people but not for others: So, what is your story? What was your situation in life and what age were you when you came out? Which privileges have you enjoyed? What kind of discrimination have you experienced? Which words and colours have a special meaning for you? What language do you speak, or do you use sign language? Are you queer or simply showing solidarity? Which parts of the puzzle make up your identity? How do you want to and how can you express all aspects of your identity, to be heard and taken seriously? What part of the puzzle are you in our community?

You do not have to be like the others. You can be yourself. You can feel safe and accepted here and enjoy the human warmth that everyone deserves!

This exhibition shows LGBTIQ people and, at the same time, more, so much more…



Photo: Georg Wilke

Wolfgang Wilhelm, Vienna
Curator of the exhibition

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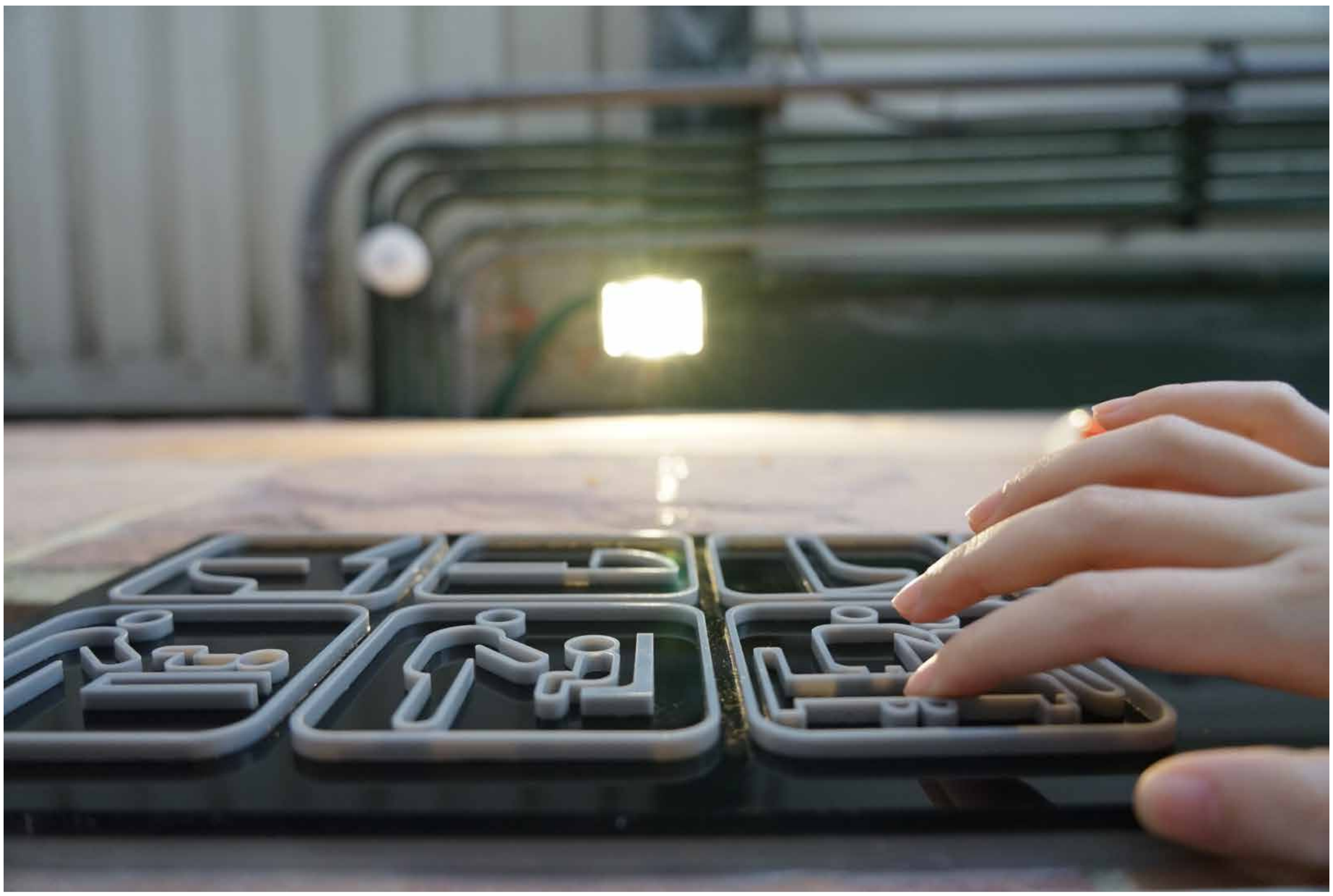
NEW TAIPEI CITY

Feel the warmth you deserve

by Yanrong Lu



The first-ever gender-friendly restroom in the New Taipei City Hall welcomes the LGBT community and everyone in need. The stalls in the restroom are not differentiated by gender, but by equipment and function. Whether the user is a transgender, physically challenged person, or a physically challenged transgender with a caregiver, it offers real access to a private and safe ‘rest.’

This is the first among the six municipal governments in Taiwan to construct one of its kind, and it cannot be done without the joint efforts from various departments in the New Taipei City Government.

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FRANKFURT AM MAIN

Never ending rainbow

by Heike Lyding



For pride season the LGBTIQ members of city council come together and paint this central roundabout into a rainbow.

The City of Frankfurt wants all their inhabitants to live without discrimination and take part in an open and equal dialogue.
The Coordination Unit for LGBTIQ topics stimulates an intersectional perspective, for example the inclusion of migrant LGBTIQ people in community events or the inclusion of Trans* perspectives in the development of municipal forms.

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BERNE

In every situation a different coming out

by Danielle Liniger



Tabea Rai is a woman, lesbian and queer, a person of colour, an activist, a member of Berne's city parliament and a drag king. She says: "I have the privilege to live in a highly tolerant environment in an open city. Nevertheless, I experience that the different facets of my identity and personality cause irritation among those around me and sometimes lead to discrimination."

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BRUSSELS

Including you – the right to belong

by Wen-Chi Su (he/him)



The Brussels-Capital Region harbours diverse and intersectional LGBTQIA+ communities, which contribute to a rich cultural life.

Intersectionality isn't just a theme, but a way to approach the complexity of the lived realities of the majority of the LGBTQIA+ population, including the discriminations and inequalities they face.

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MUNICH

Awareness equals Sharing equals Awareness

by Frank Zuber



For this year's entry we collaborated with Queer*Yourope (Instagram: @queeryourope), a Munich organization, that supports young queer BPOCs with experiences of discrimination because of race, gender, and sexual identity. We asked them to creatively express their messages on intersectionality within the LGBTIQ* community.

We all need to check our privileges and to listen to what people are telling us about their experiences – we all need to share our privileges.

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LINZ

Under the rainbow

by Daniel Teubenbacher



The historical backdrop of Linz Hauptplatz and the aspiring and cosmopolitan people show the clash between tradition and progress.

“Under the rainbow” symbolises that despite the sectionality within the community in Linz, everyone is united under one flag.

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LEUVEN

Everyone belongs, no matter who you fall in love with or who you are

by Karin Vandevelde



UniQue, the Leuven rainbow house calls itself an open house for sexual orientation and gender identity. Under the roof of the Leuven rainbow house live 24 organizations that each have their own sub-workings. intersectionality and diversity are reflected in the collaboration and meeting of the rainbow family in Leuven.

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HAMBURG

Mah Diwan

by Hazan Kahrizi



The graphic of the queer refugee group Mah Diwan consists of two parts: The Persian word Mah means Moon/LGBTIQ, the blue colour stands for freedom and trust in Iran and Afghanistan. The Arabic word Divan describes a place of exchange and is written in green, which symbolizes the beginning of new life in Iraq, Egypt and Syria. The paths represent different ways of life, pink stands for diversity. The paths intersect in the Mah Diwan as a sign of a safe place.

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VIENNA

Diversity enriches our community too

by Florian Wibmer



Intersectionality is diversity in its truest sense. Intersectionality should be experienced and can, for example, also be expressed in Austrian Sign Language. While hearing dog Cora is doing her job, Manfred und Florian are looking forward to the Vienna Pride!

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MEXICO CITY

Muxes receiving their birth certificate which recognizes their gender identity

by COPRED



In Mexico, the third gender is called “muxe” in the Zapotec indigenous communities. The “muxes” do not identify with the traditional gender roles and they do not want to be defined. Two muxes appear in this photo receiving their birth certificate in Mexico City where their gender identity is recognized.

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GENEVA

Being diverse, being yourself

by Irina Popa & Chatty Ecoffey

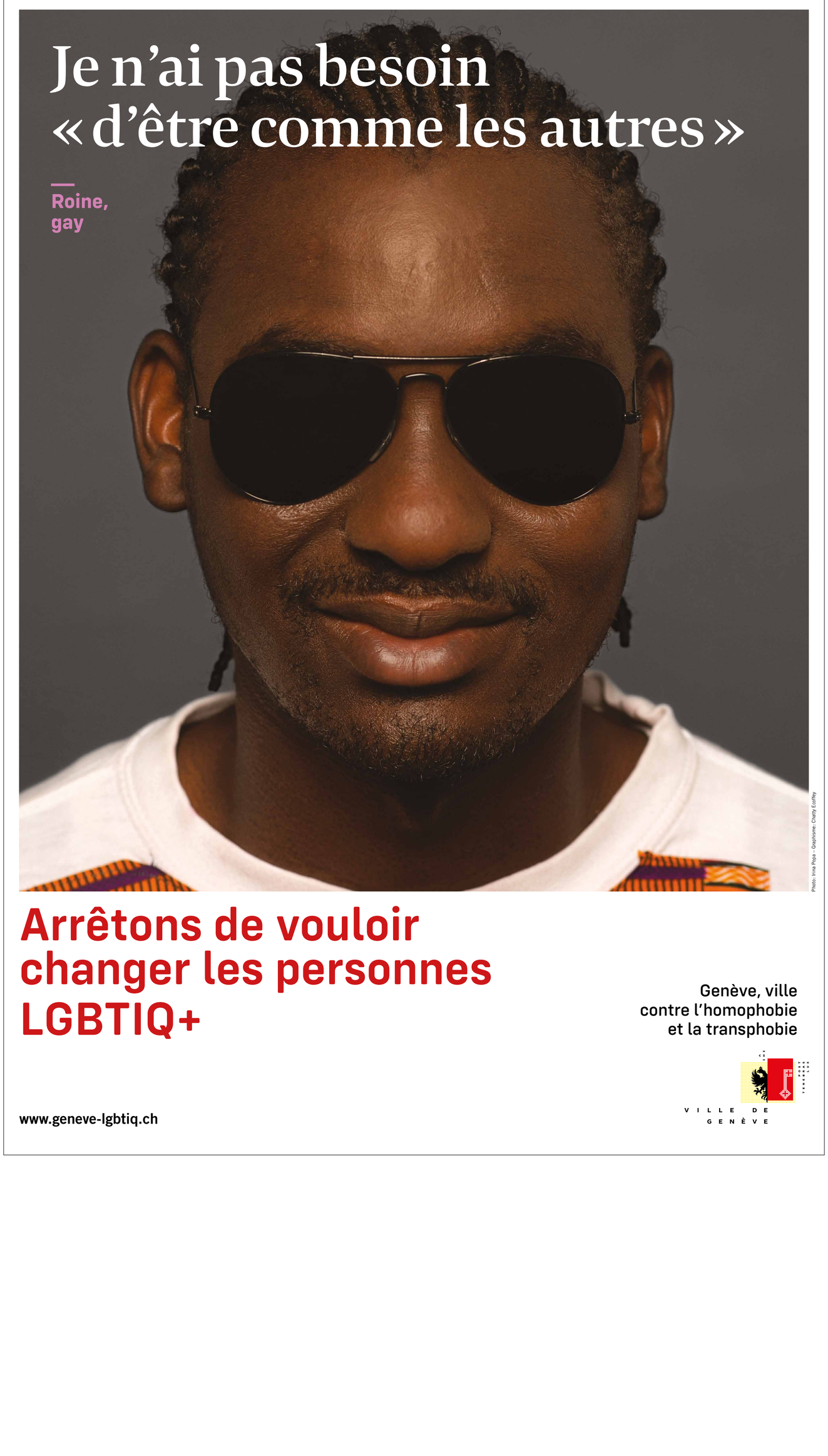

Photo: Irina Popa – Graphisme: Chatty Ecoffey

The City of Geneva's annual awareness raising campaign looks to reflect intersectionality within the LGBTIQ+ community. In 2020, the campaign denounced "conversion therapies" and featured Roine, who had to flee Cameroon, where a "therapist" had told him that his visual disability was a result of his sexual orientation and that he should pray to be „normal". In Switzerland, Roine still deals with multiple forms of discrimination as a black, refugee, blind and gay man. On this poster, Roine claims that he doesn't want to and shouldn't have to „be like others", to be himself.

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TAIPEI

Intersectionality connects uniqueness

by Sky Chris & Taiwan Tongzhi



Everyone can feel comfortable here, whether you are men or women, gay or straight, cisgender or transgender, indigenous people, or immigrants, rich or poor, younger or elderly people, with or without disabilities, with the same or different religious beliefs. We believe that intersectionality connects uniqueness.

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HEIDELBERG

LGBTIQ & much more

by Theresa Sick & Minvydas Bisigirskas



The project gave voice to marginalised members of the LGBTIQ community via video interviews and shed light on their experiences, wishes and demands in and towards the community.

The project was realised by PLUS Rhein-Neckar e.V. and supported by the City of Heidelberg, Office for Equal Opportunities and Mosaik Deutschland e.V. as part of the federal program “Live Democracy!” of the Federal Ministry for Families, Seniors, Women and Youth.

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LJUBLJANA

Pride Parade in Ljubljana

by Nik Rovan



“We recognize that we exist not only as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people; we exist not only as individuals with marginalized sexual and gender identities .... We exist as individuals within a tapestry of intertwined identities and positions ... As such, we exist and remain only interwoven with other people, social groups and social structures, all of which leave traces and inscriptions in and on our bodies.”
(Nina Perger, Pride parade 2018)

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BERLIN

Our Stories
by El Boum



This image is part of “Our Stories” – a poster series about LGBTIQ activists worldwide which was developed by a senate-funded project supporting migrant self-organisations tackling topics of sexual and gender diversity.

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CORK

Allies for Equality: Dave Roche (1963–2017) & Breda O'Donoghue

by Jim Coughlan



Cork's 2017 Annual LGBTI+ Awareness Week included a Culture night to mark the Irish State's 2017 recognition of Traveller Ethnicity hosted by Dave Roche, LGBTI+ InterAgency Group member & Coordinator Cork Gay Project and Breda O'Donoghue, Director Traveller Visibility Group.

Dave welcomed the collaboration between LGBTI+ Awareness Week and TVG, saying it is not possible to support little bits of equality, we need to achieve equality for all. Breda recognised the longstanding links between LGBTI+ and Traveller NGOs in Cork supporting our diverse and intersecting identities.

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MANNHEIM

If love is the answer, you're home

by Alexander Kästel



Many people of the LGBTI community with religious beliefs feel the obligation to choose one side or the other. In the City of Mannheim, there is a good example of how this conflict can be resolved. For several years, the protestant church *Citygemeinde Hafen-Konkordien* has organised a blessing service for queer people and couples on Valentine's Day. This inclusive message of equality, intersectionality and love resonates not only in the church itself but also within the urban society.

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ROTTERDAM

Dare to listen and learn

by Roos Klijn



The photo shows speakers Eli Express, Vince van Rossum, and Juan Arango Silva after the talk in Kunsthal Rotterdam about being non-binary during Rotterdam Pride Conference 2020. A beautiful and inspiring conversation about gender, expression and intersectionality ensued.

We strive to build a platform for all queer voices to be heard and taken seriously. The beauty of our community is lifting each other up, and making space for stories to be told, regardless of one's position in society.

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COLOGNE

Intersectionality is my strength

by Adam Parrott



Anbid Zaman (25) human rights defender, born in Bangladesh, living in Cologne, Germany since 2016, had to leave home to save his life: “Instead of feeling paralysed, I take strength from my lived experiences of joy and challenges of my intersectional life being a gay, genderfluid, migrant, person of colour and faith!”

Anbid has dedicated his life to LGBTIQ+ rights. He envisions Europe as a #FreedomZone for all to live, love, grow and contribute to society freely, having intersectionality at its centre.

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SÃO PAULO

Light and shadow: Transcidadania project photographic essay

by Piti Reali



Raquely, 25, had ended an abusive relationship and was very thin, unemployed, and hopeless when she came to the Laura Vermont LGBTI Citizenship Center. Through the Transcidadania (Transcitizenship) program, she was able to issue documents with her social name and to graduate in Human Resources at Faculdade da Zona Leste.

“The program gave me new friendships and I had a fresh start”, she points out. Today she is happy and works as a receptionist at the Descomplica SP, a municipal public service in São Paulo.

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References

No. 1, New Taipei City
„Feel the warmth you deserve“ by Yanrong Lu

No. 2, Frankfurt am Main
„Never ending rainbow“ by Heike Lyding

No. 3, Berne
„In every situation a different coming out“
by Danielle Liniger

No. 4, Brussels
„Including you – the right to belong“ by Wen-Chi Su

No. 5, Munich
„Awareness equals Sharing equals Awareness“
by Frank Zuber

No. 6, Linz
„Under the rainbow“ by Daniel Teubenbacher

No. 7, Leuven
„Everyone belongs, no matter who you fall in love with or who you are“ by Karin Vandevelde

No. 8, Hamburg
„Mah Diwan“ by Hazan Kahrizi

No. 9, Vienna
„Diversity enriches our community too“
by Florian Wibmer

No. 10, Mexico City
„Muxes receiving their birth certificate which recognizes their gender identity” by Council to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination in Mexico City, COPRED

No. 11, Geneva
„Being diverse, being yourself“
by Irina Popa & Chatty Ecoffey

No. 12, Taipei
„Intersectionality connects uniqueness“
by Sky Chris & Taiwan Tongzhi

No. 13, Heidelberg
„LGBTIQ & much more“
by Theresa Sick & Minvydas Bisigirskas

No. 14, Ljubljana
„Pride Parade in Ljubljana“ by Nik Rovan

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„Our Stories“ by El Boum

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No. 17, Mannheim
„If love is the answer, you’re home“
by Alexander Kästel

No. 18, Rotterdam
„Dare to listen and learn“ by Roos Klijn

No. 19, Cologne
„Intersectionality is my strength“ by Adam Parrott

No. 20, São Paulo
„Light and shadow: Transcidadania project photographic essay” by Piti Reali

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