



## Invitation: Amnesty-Workshop-Conference at Europride June 4th 2009

(internal for Amnesty International activists and invited Guests)

Dear Amnesty Friends

### **ACT OUT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS.**

This year's Europride in Zurich is approaching fast. Preceding the Parade at Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>, a large number of social, cultural, political and academic events have been organized, some of them by the Swiss section of Amnesty International.

We would like to invite you to the workshop-conference on Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2009. All activists in your group are welcome at this event. On the same day in the evening, an ambassador from the Swiss Foreign Ministry will give a speech on human rights in foreign policy. A social program on Friday, the Europride village on Friday Evening and a "yellow" parade on Saturday will complete this Europride program.

We would be happy to welcome you to Zurich and are sure that Europride gives us an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and discuss questions concerning our engagement. A small, dedicated team has put up the workshop program which still allows for some flexibility. Thus, we are open for your questions, remarks and contributions. Do not hesitate to get back to us and contact us at [europride@queeramnesty.ch](mailto:europride@queeramnesty.ch).

### **What can you expect?**

Thursday June 4th, 10:00-17:00: Gathering in a Community Center in the "Bäckeranlage", a centrally located Park, near the Zurich Amnesty membership office. The form of a workshop-conference, like in Stockholm last year, gives space to a number of presentations followed by discussions. This includes a presentation from Amnesty Moldova, discussions on cooperation, a presentation of Peace Brigade International, a comparative study about 'gaylib' in Germany and USA. We encourage you to add demands or own proposals.

Thursday June 4th, 19:00-21:00: Human Rights of LGBTs in Swiss Foreign Policy. in English by Ambassador Thomas Greminger, Head of the Political Division IV (Human Security), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Followed by a discussion and an apéro.

Friday June 5th during the day: Additional workshop if demanded. Social program with options city tour (history, architecture, culture, LGBT), tour on our "mountain" (by train and cablecar) or boat trip on the lake.

Friday June 5th from 17:00: official opening of Europride Village, stretching along the river from the city hall to the lake. With stands, music, party and anything you need.

Saturday June 6th from 13:00: Gathering of Amnesty people in the Arboretum park and participation with the yellow-block in the Parade: **ACT OUT FOR EQUAL RIGHTS**. The main talks will be given by Daniel Cohn-Bendit (European politician), Corin Mauch (city council of Zurich) and Mihaela Copot (Amnesty activist from Moldova).



## Practical affairs:

**Cost:** we ask you to pay a moderate **registration fee of 45 CHF (30€; 1 CHF≈0.66€)** for the conference. This includes lunch, (simple) dinner, coffee breaks and the apéro as well as all the conference material. Payment to the following account:

Amnesty International Switzerland, LGBT-Group: IBAN: CH48 0900 0000 8264 5780 9. BIC: POFICHBEXXX.

**Accommodation:** Zurich is a rather expensive city, like Copenhagen or Stockholm. We have made reservations from Thu-Sun for a limited number of 2-bed (55 CHF/bed/night) and 4-bed rooms (45 CHF) and dorm beds (34 CHF) in the centrally located city backpackers. Single rooms are available, too (ca 75 CHF), but we have not reserved any. Arriving a day earlier is recommended and possible. Some private beds are additionally offered by Amnesty activists (usually NOT in the city center).

**Zurich transit:** Zurich has a well organized public transit system with dense network of trams, busses, trains and even cablecars and boats. You can purchase 24-hours-tickets for the city zone everywhere (8 CHF). After midnight, a supplement of 5 CHF applies. City center, lake and conference venue are within walking distance.

**Arriving in Zurich:** We recommend not to come by car. You can reach Zurich main station by more than 100 international trains. From the airport, frequent intercity and suburban trains bring you to the center in 10 minutes. Single tickets are 6.20 CHF. 24-hours cards (including all the city of Zurich) are 12.40 CHF.

**Night Life:** About 10 gay bars are found only one to five minutes walking form the city backpackers. The clubs are further out. During Europride, more things are going on, of course.

**Registration:** Please register by email, include your full name, your Amnesty section and let us know what kind of accommodation you need and if you have any other special needs. If you like to present a paper, host a discussion or give other input regarding the program, let us know as fast as possible. Mailto:

[europride@queeramnesty.ch](mailto:europride@queeramnesty.ch).

**A City Map** with all the locations will be provided with the final program. A draft map is found on our website.

**Queeramnesty** is the Swiss Amnesty International LGBT-group, fighting human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Europride 2009 in Zurich gives us a good opportunity to participate in the cultural, political and social program.

Contact: [europride@queeramnesty.ch](mailto:europride@queeramnesty.ch)

**Wanted:** We still are looking for somebody,

- who could give a short input and host a discussion on “look back to Stockholm - where are we now”
- who can give a brief report from Riga
- who could give input on the decriminalization issue (Love, Hate and the Law, ...).



**Preliminary Conference Program 4. June 2009 10:00 – 17:00**

<b>Title / Subject</b>	<b>Who</b>
09:00 – 10:00 Registration and breakfast	
• Welcome by Amnesty International Swiss Section	Daniel Graf
• Cooperation between LGBT groups within Amnesty International	Hans Markus Herren
• Guest Presentation Peace Brigade International	pbi, Lisa Huber
• Guest Presentation “GAYMIGS” group in Zurich: Help to self help	Wolfram Müller
• Queer Refugees	Simone Preiswerk
• International Solidarity – sexual diversity	
• The LGBT-HR-Situation in Moldavia	Mihaela Copot
• Presentation of the Participants by country	Each country 5 min.
• How to Continue, Warsovia	All
• Decriminalization	
• “GayLib” & Human Rights, comparative study USA / Germany	Jonathan Gibbs
• Lunch break	Bodo
• Two coffee breaks	Bodo
• Look Back to Stockholm, what have we reached in the meantime	
• Brief Report from Riga	
Simple Dinner at 17:00	
At 19:00 (public): Human Rights of LGBTs in the Swiss Foreign Policy	Ambassador Thomas Greminger
At 20:30 (ca): apéro.	
Continuation of Discussions on Friday (social program!) is possible.	

**What else is going on?** General info at <http://europride09.eu>

From Amnesty International:

- Exhibition on Hijras in India at Restaurant Café Zähringer
- Queer Refugees, Conference on Asylum and Migration (in German), Thu, 28 May 2009. Same location (Community Center Bäckeranlage) Info: [nicolas@queeramnesty.ch](mailto:nicolas@queeramnesty.ch)
- Amnesty International Stand in the Europride Village (Fri-Sat)
- See our website: <http://queeramnesty.ch>

With our warmest regards

Hannes Schüle and Tobias Mäder, conference organizers  
Stella Jegher, women and LGBT coordinator Amnesty Switzerland  
Hans Markus Herren, group speaker of Queeramnesty, board member Amnesty Switzerland