

International Conference on  
Promoting Human Rights for Lesbians and Gays in Ukraine

# "Lesbian and Gay Rights Are Human Rights!"

Kiev, October 4th and 5th, 2008

*Hotel "Bratislava" (1 Malyshka St). Big conference hall (1st floor)*

## Agenda and conference information

*(draft of 19th of September, 2008)*

### *The issues of the conference are:*

- Situation of lesbian and gay people in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- Historical dimension: persecution of homosexuals during Nazi Regime and during Soviet period
- Legal measures to combat discrimination; national and international legal mechanisms
- Human rights education relevant to issues concerning sexual orientation. Strategies for overcoming prejudice
- Homosexuality and religion
- Networking between gay & lesbian groups and organisations of broader civil society

## Information about organisers and donor

### Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation

The Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation for the Human Rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender People was founded in Berlin in June 2007.

The Foundation aims to foster respect for the human rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people, contribute to international human rights advocacy, provide active support to human rights defenders, and to promote awareness-raising and the dismantling of prejudices.

The initiative for the Foundation came from the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD), which also provides organizational support for the project.

### Nash Mir (Our World) Gay and Lesbian Centre

The organisation was founded a decade ago in 1998 in Lugansk in the East of Ukraine.

Nash Mir advocates for equal rights for lesbian and gay people, and strives for full emancipation and inclusion of homosexuals in Ukrainian society. Its activities cover legal aid and information support for gay community, and legal education. Another Nash Mir focus is monitoring the LGBT rights situation, studying specific issues, preparing reports, providing information to mass-media journalists and using other methods to realize its goals.

### Amnesty International in Ukraine

Amnesty International in Ukraine is a part of worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights to be respected and protected for everyone. Amnesty International has more than 2.2 million members and subscribers in more than 150 countries and regions. AI does not support or oppose any government or political system and neither do we necessarily support or oppose the views of the victims / survivors or human rights defenders whose rights we seek to protect.

### The Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future"

The Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" is an expression of the responsibility of the German state, and its industry and society to continue to confront erstwhile National Socialist injustices and to work for understanding between peoples.

The Foundation was established in 2000 to make payments to former forced labourers.

The Foundation supports international projects in the following areas:

- A critical examination of history;
- Working for democracy and human rights;
- Humanitarian commitment to the victims of National Socialism.

The Foundation initiated and gave financial support to the project "International Conference on Promoting Human Rights for Lesbians and Gays in Ukraine" -- to foster emancipation of this community into broader society and improve respect and understanding between peoples.



STIFTUNG  
ERINNERUNG, VERANTWORTUNG  
UND ZUKUNFT

# Agenda of the conference

Day 1: October 4th, 2008, Saturday

**9.00 - 9.30 Registration of participants**

**9.30 - 10.30 Welcome speeches**

- Andrei Maymulakhin, Nash Mir (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Axel Hochrein, Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation (Germany)
- Ralf Possekkel, Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (Berlin, Germany)
- Video-message from the Commissioner of Human Rights for the Council of Europe Mr. Hammarberg
- Dirk Schuebel, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to Ukraine and Belarus
- Greeting message from Mr Wowereit, Lord Mayor of Berlin (reads Klaus Jetz, LSVD Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany)
- Philipp Braun, Co-Secretary of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA World)

**10.30 - 10.45 Coffee break**

**10.45 - 13.15 Situation of Lesbians and Gays in Ukraine and other Central- and Eastern European countries**

Presentations by representatives of Ukrainian lesbian and gay organisations

- Andrei Maymulakhin, Nash Mir (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Veronika Isaeva, Pinkstak (Kharkov, Ukraine)
- Alexandr Chernyavskiy, Gay Alliance - Cherkassy (Cherkassy, Ukraine)
- Maksik Kasyanchuk, Donbass-SocProekt (Donetsk, Ukraine)

Presentations of lesbian and gay activists from Belarus, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Russia

- Robert Biedron, Campaign against Homophobia (Warsaw, Poland)
- Mariya Sabunayeva, LesbiPARTYya (St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Igor Petrov, Russian LGBT Network (St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Svyatoslav Sementsov, Tema (Gomel, Belarus)
- Gyorgyi Kovesi, Labris (Budapest, Hungary)
- Florin Buhuceanu, ACCEPT (Bucharest, Romania)
- Vyacheslav Mulyar and Cristina Gavrilica, GenderDok-M (Kishinev, Moldova)

**13.15 - 14.15 Lunch**

**14.15 - 15.15 Forms of Persecution and Resistance**

Persecution and violation of human rights of homosexuals during the Soviet period: criminal law, forms of persecution, homosexuality in post-Soviet sciences

- Yuriy Soldatenko, victim of Art. 122 of Criminal Code during Soviet times (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Alexandre Zarembo, Kuras Institute of Ethnic and Political Studies of the NAS of Ukraine (Kiev, Ukraine)

Dealing with the history of persecution of Homosexuals during National Socialism in Germany

- Axel Hochrein, Board member of LSVD (Germany)

**15.15 - 18.15 Legal and Political Context**

Assessment of situation of lesbian and gay people in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries -- in reference to legal, political, and moral standards. Documents of international institutions (Council of Europe, European Union, UN, OSCE).

**Human Rights for Lesbians and Gays on a Ukrainian level**

- Arkadiy Buschenko, Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (Kharkov, Ukraine)
- Zoryan Kis', All-Ukrainian Network of PLWH (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Oleg Alekhin, LiGA (Nikolaev, Ukraine)

**16.00 - 16.15      Coffee break**

**16.15 - 18.15      Legal and Political Context (continuation)**

**Human Rights for Lesbians and Gays on a European level**

- Legal developments for Lesbians and Gays in the Member States of the Council of Europe - decisions of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and the UN Human Rights Committee, Kees Waaldijk, University of Leiden (Leiden, Netherlands)
- Report on work for the Council of Europe in support of Lesbian and Gay rights, Nigel Warner, ILGA-Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
- Improvement of human rights situation for Lesbians and Gays in Ukraine effected by the work of the Commissioner of Human Rights for the Council of Europe, Dennis van der Veur, Office of Mr. Hammarberg (Strasbourg, France)
- Report on work for the Intergroup of the European Parliament and its relevance for the Central and Eastern European countries, Michael Cashman, Member of the European Parliament (invited)

**Human Rights for Lesbians and Gays on an International level**

- LGBT Rights as Human Rights and the Yogyakarta Principles, Dimitrina Petrova, The Equal Rights Trust, signer of the Yogyakarta Principles (London, U.K.)
- LGBT Rights as Human Rights, Lobbying work directed to the UN, John Fisher, Allied Rainbow Communities - International (Geneva, Switzerland) (invited)

**18.45 - 21.00      "Cocktail Party"**

**Day 2: October 5th, 2008, Sunday**

**9.00 - 11.00      Strategies and Alliance Partners**

Discussion about developing cooperation between Lesbian & Gay community and wider society, human rights and other NGOs, representatives of culture. Education and raising awareness among various layers of the society. Homosexuals and Church.

- Vadim Vasjutinskiy, Institute of Social and Political Psychology of Academy of Pedagogical Science of Ukraine (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Alexandre Vojtenko, "Nova Doba" All-Ukrainian Association of Teachers of History & Social Disciplines (Ukraine)
- Viktoria Sukovataya, Kharkov National University (Kharkov, Ukraine)
- Gyorgyi Kovesi, Labris (Budapest, Hungary)
- Anatoliy Yarema, Producer of 1+1 International TV Channel (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Olga Vesnyanka, "Molodist" Kiev International Film Festival (Kiev, Ukraine)
- Florin Buhuceanu, ACCEPT (Bucharest, Romania)

**11.00 - 11.15      Coffee break**

**11.15 - 12.50      Perspectives and Outlook**

Round Table Discussion with active contribution of the audience: representatives of civil society, scholars, politicians, activists of Lesbian & Gay communities discuss the consequences of the Conference. Resolution of the Conference.

Among others:

- Volker Beck, Member of German Parliament, Committee of Human Rights in the German Parliament (Berlin, Germany)

**12.50 - 13.00      Conclusions & closure of the conference**

Working languages of the Conference are Russian and English.  
Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Exhibition in the conference hall is presented by Insight Organization (Kiev, Ukraine).  
Photo exhibition is entitled "Queer Look".