

European conference for rainbow families Cologne 2014









Welcome

Our families - just like our world - have many faces. One of these faces is rainbow families: Couples of mothers and fathers and their children.

We kindly invite all rainbow families to Germany to participate in the third of a series of NELFA aisbl. bi-annual European Conferences for Rainbow Families: Different Families, Same Schools - Bringing the rainbow into the Schools of Europe!

Schools play a central role in the daily life of all families. Children and teenagers learn and test in school what social community can succeed and what society can look like. Modern schools can and should reflect societal diversity enabling students to experience the variety of sexual identities and family life positively.

However, current debates in Germany or France remind us, that even today children growing up in rainbow families in various European countries do not see their families reflected in teaching materials or in daily life at school. Instead, they experience their school as a place of invisibility and insecurity.

What do children being raised in rainbow families experience in European schools today? Which paths are chosen in the various countries to support the visibility and acceptance of rainbow families in education? What can we learn from our neighbouring countries? How can we support each other across countries in fostering diversity in Europe's schools on a long-term basis?

These questions are at the core of the Third European Conference for Rainbow Families.

In addition to the main topic of schools and education, workshops and the panels will focus on current issues and challenges of rainbow families: Definition of parental roles, nurturing the parents couple, preparing children for the straight world, as well as challenges for trans*families and the strained relation between homosexuality and the church.

The conference will bring lesbian mothers, gay fathers and their children from different European countries together and invite them to network with experts as well as exchange personal experiences regarding challenges in school. The conference will be mostly bilingual, in German and English.

Beyond the exchange of information and experience, the conference offers various opportunities for making new friends and for transnational networking. The celebration of the third "International Family Equality Day" during the conference, on May 3 calls for solidarity and equal rights for all family forms.

Parallel to the workshops, there will be a program with a variety of interesting activities for children and teenagers.

We hope you will enjoy the conference!

Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD) Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Politics and Society Forum Network of European LGBT Families' Associations (NELFA aisbl.)

Conference program

Thursday May 01, 2014

09.30 am - 11.00 am A

Arrival & Check-In

11.30 am - 1.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Welcoming speeches

Axel Hochrein, LSVD, federal board member Dr. Lisa Green, NELFA aisbl., board member

Bettina Luise Rürup, Head of the Politics and Society Forum,

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

Greeting of the patron

Manuela Schwesig, Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (tbc)

Opening Plenary

The rights of the children of LGBT families across Europe - discrimination, legal challenges and strategies for change

Lecture

Dr. Loveday Hodson, (LLB, LLM), Faculty of Law, University of Leicester (Great Britain), research on human rights and sexuality, particularly in the field of family law

Round table

Angelo Berbotto (LLM), Solicitor specialized in Children's Law, (Great Britain), Secretary of NELFA aisbl., since 2012

Robert Biedroń, general rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people, member of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

4.00 pm - 4.30 pm

Coffee break

4.30 pm - 6.00 pm

Plenary I

LGBT families and schools - experiences and findings

Kids from LGBT families talk about their experiences

Moderation: Dr. Lisa Green, psychologist & family therapist

Lecture

"School is out?!" a European qualitative study on the experiences of children from LGBT families in schools

A qualitative study in three European countries (Germany, Sweden, Slovenia) on the experiences of children from LGBT families in schools will be presented, including highlighting the similarities and differences arising in the three different socio-economic and legal contexts. This presentation will attempt to relay the voices of the children interviewed, to outline the challenges they face as well as their coping strategies and suggestions for change derived from this research

Ana M. Sobocan, Ph.D., University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work, EU funded project: DAPHNE III. Humboldt University Berlin (Germany), Lund University (Sweden), Faculty of Social Work (Slovenia)

6.30 pm

Dinner

8.00 pm

"Getting to know each other and let's groove"
Moderation: Melanie Ebenfeld & Stefanie Fichter,
GENDER AND EDUCATION & Angelo Berbotto, NELFA aisbl.

Moderation of the event: Joy Zalzala-Soyka

Joy Zalzala-Soyka is a visionary, a mommy and the founder of Sand Step Coaching, where she coaches people to live their biggest dreams. She also empowers LBT's who have experienced violence and discrimination through her work at LesMigraS/Lesbian Counselling Center Berlin.



Conference program

Friday, May 02, 2014

09.00 am - 11.00 am

Plenary II

LGBT families & schools - Best Practice and new initiatives

Lecture

Approaches to promoting equal rights, safety and visibility in education for LGBT families in Europe

Peter Ryan, Professor of Mental Health at Middlesex University since 2002, and a psychologist and social worker (Great Britain)

Marta Distaso, sociologist, social researcher and consultant in Synergia (Milan, Italy) since 2009 Partner of the Transnational EU-Project RAINBOWHAS

Presentation

Seven Areas of Intervention in the School Community to better meet the needs of LGBT families

Mona Greenbaum, executive director LGBT Family Coalition, familieshomoparentales, Canada

Presentation

Different families, same love. How primary schools contribute to celebrate family diversity and to prevent homophobia.

Lydia Malmedie, PhD Fellow University of Potsdam, Equality and Diversity Consultant with particular expertise in LGBT inclusive education, care and workplaces

Presentation

"Look, here we are!" How LGBT families can help promote equality and safety in schools on their own

Ilaria Trivellato, activist, Rainbow Families of Italy, project manager of EU project "Being an LGBT parent as an experience of democracy and active citizenship"

11.00 am - 11.30 am

Coffee Break

11.30 am - 1.00 pm Parallel panels (A 1-3) / Parallele Workshops (A 4-5)

1.00 pm

Lunch

2.00 pm Cultural program

City Tour through Cologne, ascent of the Cathedral Tower, visit to the Cologne zoo or the theme park "Phantasialand" in Brühl

See extra program

6.30 pm

Dinner

Saturday, May 03, 2014

09.30 am - 11.00 am

Parallel panels (B 1-3) / Parallel workshops (B 4-5)

11.00 am - 11.30 am

Coffee Break

11.30 am - 1.00 pm

Parallel panels (C 1-3) / Parallel workshops (C 4-5)

1.00 pm

Lunch

3.00 pm - 11.00 pm

International Family Equality Day 2014:

Celebration fair at Odysseum

See extra program

Sunday, May 04, 2014

09.30 am - 11.00 am

Final Plenary III

Bringing the rainbow into the schools of Europe - Coalitions and strategies

Panel discussion

- Elke Gärnter, German Education Union (GEW), speaker of the task force LSBTI in GEW (GEW AG LSBTI))
- Tba, International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Student Organization (IGLYO)
- Luís Filipe Loureiro de Amorim, treasurer of NELFA aisbl
- Peter Dankmeijer, Director Global Alliance for LGBT Education (GALE) / Dutch Expertise Centre on Education and Sexual Diversity (EduDivers)

11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Lunch

Closing Ceremony

1.00 pm

4

Parallel panels (A 1-3)

Friday, May 02, 2014 11.30 am to 1.00 pm

A 1 From family diversity to strategies to end homophobia. Training sessions for teachers and future teachers

The LGBT Family Coalition of Quebec, Canada carries out a number of workshops to promote family diversity and the inclusion of LGBT and gender non-conforming youth. These workshops were conceived to help professionals working with youth to be both proactive in their practices and empowered, and if necessary, to intervene when they witness homophobic or heterosexist incidents in primary and secondary school settings. More than 9.000 professionals and future professionals working in school settings have participated in these workshops. Mona Greenbaum will speak about the history of her organization and the elaboration of these workshops. Participants will receive the resource kit that the Coalition distributes in schools and universities throughout Québec.

Mona Greenbaum, Executive Director LGBT Family Coalition, Canada

A 2 Transnational EU-Project "RAINBOWHAS"

The Europe-focused "Rainbow Has research project" addresses the negative stereoty ping and bullying of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students. Treated as acting outside societal 'norms', these students are currently at high risk of early school leaving, under-performance and depression, or even suicide.

There is currently often an unwillingness within schools to address trans/homophobic bullying. Even where teachers do try to protect their students, they need backing from public institutions and families – backing that is not always forthcoming.

We want to help challenge the stereotypes, developing mutual respect, a higher degree of awareness and support within institutions and families. Our approach includes: exchange of best practices and aims at the identification of policy recommendations/ strategies for institutions in the European Union. We offer training seminars for parents, teachers and public servants and develop alliances and lobbying at European level. During this forum, we will present the main results achieved so far in the implementation of Rainbow Has project.

This forum will be held in English without translation

Peter Ryan, Professor of Mental Health at Middlesex University (Great Britain) since 2002, and a psychologist and social worker
Marta Distaso, sociologist, social researcher and consultant in Synergia (Milan, Italy) since 2009 Partner of the Transnational EU-Project RAINBOWHAS

A 3 How to make a school safe for your child

As a parent, you want to check out whether a school is good enough for your child, including how they will deal with sexual diversity. Peter Dankmeijer will give some advice on how to check this out and how to engage in a dialogue with a school when they have no clue about what to do. Dankmeijer will also discuss the role of LGBT parents associations: How can they advocate for schools that are safe for everyone and which include adequate attention to LGBT families and sexual diversity?

Peter Dankmeijer, director of GALE (Global Alliance for LGBT Education) and EduDivers (Dutch Expertise Centre on Education and Sexual Diversity)

Parallel workshops (A 4-5)

Friday, May 02, 2014 11.30 am to 1.00 pm

A 4 Empowering our children to navigate the straight world

Parents carry the responsibility for the well-being of their children. However, prospective parents often find themselves confronted with less than optimal legal and social conditions when planning their families. This often leads to concerns how to best protect their child from homophobia and best prepare their child for heteronormativity. Even though life as a LGBT family turns out to be easier than expected, explaining the family's structure to the environment remains an ongoing issue. Parents are responsible for educating their child's environment. How can we best prepare our children to navigate the waters of heterosexual society? This workshop supports participants in recognizing their competence to be role models for their child. A first step lies in reflecting on our own coping strategies in order to empower our children. In a second step concrete strategies for empowering our children will be developed.

Dr. Lisa Green, psychologist & family therapist Stephanie Gerlach, social worker, author of various books on LGBT families, Munich

A 5 Becoming a parent is not easy, being one even more challenging? - Parental roles in LGBT families

Momma, Mommy, Papa, Daddy – these terms contain expectations, wishes, desires and experiences. The diversity of family has changed perceptions and roles in our society. But what about rainbow families? What are the differences and specific challenges? This workshop will deal with the different perspectives on parenting and will provide a safe place to share your own ideas and experiences.

Constanze Körner, LSVD Berlin-Brandenburg, director of the Centre for LGBT Families Berlin and the project "LGBT families in the LSVD Berlin-Brandenburg"



Parallel panels (B 1-3)

Saturday, May 03, 2014 09.30 am to 11.00 am

B 1 From family diversity to strategies to end homophobia. Training sessions for teachers and future teachers

The LGBT Family Coalition of Quebec, Canada carries out a number of workshops to promote family diversity and the inclusion of LGBT and gender non-conforming youth. These workshops were conceived to help professionals working with youth to be both proactive in their practices and empowered, and if necessary, to intervene when they witness homophobic or heterosexist incidents in primary and secondary school settings. More than 9.000 professionals and future professionals working in school settings have participated in these workshops. Mona Greenbaum will speak about the history of her organization and the elaboration of these workshops. Participants will receive the resource kit that the Coalition distributes in schools and universities throughout Québec. This forum will be held in English without translation

Mona Greenbaum, Executive Director LGBT Family Coalition, Canada

A different color of the rainbow: Trans*people with their partners and children - challenges and desires

Different yet the same: What experiences specific to this family form do trans*rainbow families have? How do children from trans*families experience their environment and how can trans*families in general be supported? These are central questions that will be discussed in the panel. Preliminary answers are provided by a current PhD research project on children with trans*parents and daily-life experiences of a trans*family.

Dr. Mona Eulitz and Ulrike Giem-Eulitz, trans*family, two daughters

Jonas Björklund and Silvano Barbieri, medical students at the University Hospital

Hamburg-Eppendorf, www.trans-familien-studie.de.

B 3 EU learning partnership project - Being an LGBT parent as an experience of democracy and active citizenship

The aim of the project and of the partnership is to train LGBT parents to practice active citizenship at the European level, to improve equal rights and dignity for their families in a supranational dimension. The project will help the partner associations and their volunteers to develop a better understanding of civic participation and individual active citizenship in the European context.

The project focuses on three levels of empowerment for LGBT parents: active citizenship, visibility, legal issues.

During this panel we will briefly discuss our "European" experience and show the outputs of the project.

llaria Trivallato, project coordinator, Famiglie arcobaleno (Italy) Isabel Fiadeiro Advirta, board member, ILGA Portugal (Portugal)

Angelo Berbotto, secretary of NELFA aisbl. (GB)

Emmi Pihlajaniemi, president, Sateenkaariperheet (Finland),

Maria von Känel, managing director, Swiss Rainbow Families Association (Switzerland)

Parallel workshops (B 4-5)

Saturday, May 03, 2014 09.30 am to 11.00 am

Being parents while remaining a couple – how to nurture the couple relationship!

The "happy family" is finally complete and the longed for child makes every day become a very special event. Quickly our little "sleep robber" becomes the focus of attention: How can I keep the love for my partner and our relationship alive despite sleep deprivation, a screaming baby or pressure due to living up to expectations regarding parenthood?

This workshop invites all couples to encounter one another as partners and to find the expression of your love that meets the individual language of your loved one – so that the love is not lost in the midst of daily parenthood.

Kornelia Jansen, systemic family counsellor

B 5 Queer doing gender: Typical boy, typical girl?

What is a "typical girl" and a "typical boy"?

What imagery do I associate with a "good mother" and a "good father"?

"Doing gender" means that social concepts of gender are constantly-either consciously or unconsciously-being created and enacted in our daily lives. However, we ask ourselves if this can or should be the same for rainbow.

For example, should my child be taught to be aware of gender? How is this possible?

Do I want my child to have clear gender role models? Or models of diverse genders?

Our goals for this workshop are to increase awareness of our ideas of gender, to evaluate which models we pass on to our children, and to consider opening them to more diverse concepts of gender.

Our aim is to give participants mew impulses by exchanging experience, trading experiences and debating various viewpoints (Previous knowledge is not required).

GENDER AND EDUCATION, Berlin Melanie Ebenfeld, teacher, trainer Stefanie Fichter, B.A. Education Studies, gender trainer



Parallel panels (c 1-3)

Saturday, May 03, 2014 11.30 am to 1.00 pm

C 1 Reclaiming family values - churches, homosexuality & rainbow families

Referring to "family values" was and still is one of the most important strategies used by conservative and Christian groups to legitimize rejection of same-sex couples. The social perception of LGBT families interjects these images. The workshop focuses on values that both church and rainbow families have in common. The starting point is a controversial orientation guide by the German protestant church.

Dr. Michael Brinkschröder, catholic theologist and sociologist from Munich, co-director of the "European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups"

C 2 Project "School of diversity - School without homophobia"

The coordinator presents a German anti-discrimination campaign of LGBT-groups against homophobic and transphobic bullying in schools. In North Rhine-Westfalia the ministry of education is collaborator and supporter of the school project since 2012.

Frank G. Pohl, country coordinator for "School of Diversity"

C 3 Different Families, same love.

A resources to help primary schools celebrate family diversity to prevent homophobic bullying

Stonewall's DVD for primary school staff, Celebrating Difference, provides very practical tips on how to create environments where diversity is celebrated and where all families are welcome. Actions range from stocking the right books to teacher training and are relevant well beyond the UK context. Lydia Malmedie led the primary school campaign and production of this resource for Stonewall when she worked there as Education Officer. Participants will get an idea of what inclusive primary schools look like and will learn some of the arguments they can use to demand for change.

This forum will be held in English without translation

Lydia Malmedie, PhD fellow at the University of Potsdam, equality and diversity consultant with particular expertise in LGBT inclusive education, care and workplaces

Parallel workshops (C 4-5)

Saturday, May 03, 2014 11.30 am to 1.00 pm

C 4 Empowering our children to navigate the straight world.

Parents carry the responsibility for the well-being of their children. However, prospective parents often find themselves confronted with less than optimal legal and social conditions when planning their families. This often leads to concerns how to best protect their child from homophobia and best prepare their child for heteronormativity. Even though life as a LGBT family turns out to be easier than expected, explaining the family's structure to the environment remains an ongoing issue. Parents are responsible for educating their child's environment. How can we best prepare our children to navigate the waters of heterosexual society? This workshop supports participants in recognizing their competence to be role models for their child. A first step lies in reflecting on our own coping strategies in order to empower our children. In a second step concrete strategies for empowering our children will be developed.

Dr. Lisa Green, psychologist & family therapist Stephanie Gerlach, social worker, author of various books on LGBT Families

C 5 We are family - That goes without saying?!

LGBT families often have to explain themselves in everyday life, in order to become visible as a family. How is the visibility in your country? How "regular" does the life as a family feel? In what way do you deal with the daily coming out as a family and what experiences have you had with it? Were there stumbling blocks? Which strategies can make life easier for your family?

Michaela Herbertz-Floßdorf, freelance trainer, author of "Rainbow Families - becoming and being", co-author of the Cologne study on LGBT families: "We are parents!"



Children and Youth program

Rainbow kids and teen land

During the lectures, workshops and panels there will be an age-appropriate program for children and teens, which will be guided by a professional team of multilingual teachers and child caretakers.

A lot of fun, games and exciting activities will be waiting for tots, kids and teens: Arts and crafts, cozy corners for the tots, photography and a circus fun for kids; exciting theatre workshops and sports tournaments for teens. These are just some of the highlights!

Workshop for kids and teenagers "COME AND SING" with Suli Puschban

The workshop: come and sing, dance with us, find a tune, sing for love! Sing with Suli and her guitar, dance, move and write a song for yourself, everything is possible: The closing ceremony on Sunday will offer the stage for this special performance!

Suli Puschban is a musician, songwriter for children's songs, singer/songwriter and part of the comedy-duo DIE FLIEDSCHN. She has been composing songs for many years and sings and plays songs with heart and power, solo or with the Band of Good Hope. She is the rockstar for children and at her concerts, people sing, dance and rock along.

The Workshop will be for children aged 5 to 9 on Friday, and for teens ages 10+ on Saturday, always from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The spaces are limited.





Official Registration Form

"Different Families-Same Schools" European Conference for Rainbow Families 2014 1st to 4th of May 2014

Please send this registration form to:

LSVD Sue Winter P.O. 10 34 14 50474 Cologne Germany

Fax: 0049 221 925961-11,

Email: family@lsvd.de or online via www.nelfa.lsvd.de

If i	more than	two adults.	please fill out a	n additional	registration form:
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Section A: Panel / Workshop (A 1-5) No. ____ Name: ___ _____ No. ____ Name: _____ Section B: Panel / Workshop (B 1-5) No. ____ Name: __ No. _____ Name: ___ Section C: Panel / Workshop (C 1-5) No. _____ Name: ______ No. ____ Name: _____ Preferences - cultural program: Please choose one of the following the options. We will try to meet the preferences as good as possible. Option 1: City Walking Tour of Cologne & Cathedral _____ Children Name: _____ Parents Name: ___ Children Name: ___ _____ Children Name: __ Option 2: Zoo of Cologne _____ Children Name: __ Parents Name: __ Children Name: _____ Children Name: ____ First Preference - Option 3: Phantasialand (Brühl) Parents Name: _____ Children Name: ____ Children Name: _____ _____ Children Name: _____ In case the seats for *Phantasialand* are taken, I choose: Alternative 1: City Walking Tour of Cologne & Cathedral Parents Name: _____ Children Name: ____ Children Name: _____ _____ Children Name: ____ Alternative 2: Zoo of Cologne Parents Name: _____ Children Name: ____ _____ Children Name: _____ Children Name: _____ Information regarding the participation fee Participation fee per person: Adults 110,- Euro Children and teenagers (from age 4) 35,- Euro Children under age 4 free The participation fee includes accommodation and board during the seminar, the sightseeing program and the family celebration as well as the day care for children. Travel expenses cannot be refunded. The seats for the conference are limited. The registrations will be noted in the order they arrive in with an equal country related access code. You will receive a registration confirmation and a request for transaction of the participation fee. Only after the participation fee is transferred, the registration is regarded as confirmed. Hereby I register bindingly for the family conference with the above named amount of persons _____ signature: __

Preferences - Workshops: adults

Logistical and Organisational Information

CONFERENCE VENUE

DJH Youth Hostel Cologne-Riehl An der Schanz 14 50735 Cologne

http://www.jugendherberge.de/Jugendherbergen/Koeln-Riehl451/Portraet

The youth hostel has several single and double rooms as well as a large number of multiple-bed rooms, predominantly with bunk beds. All rooms have bathrooms. Pets are not allowed. The youth hostel also has a number of wheelchair accessible rooms. Please contact us for information on accessibility during conference.

HOW TO GET THERE

Arrival by public transport:

Coming from **Cologne central station**, take the underground line no.18 (U18: direction "Thielenbruch"), get off at stop "Boltensternstrasse". Five-minute walk from here to the conference venue.

Coming from the airport Cologne/Bonn, take the suburban train no. 13 (S13) or the regional train no. 8 (R8) to Cologne central station. From here, take the underground line no.18 (U18: direction "Thielenbruch"), get off at stop "Boltensternstrasse".

It is a five-minute walk from here to the conference venue.

Please refer to http://goo.gl/ndvMEM for more information on the walk from Boltensternstrasse to the conference venue.

Parking:

There is free parking available for 150 cars and 6 buses.

ORGANISERS

Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD)
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Politics and Society Forum
In cooperation with the Network of European LGBT Families' Associations (NELFA aisbl.)
With support of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth (BMFSFJ)

CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

German-English translation is provided during most of the conference.

REGISTRATION

For details concerning the registration process please refer to the enclosed registration form and www.nelfa.lsvd.de

REGISTRATION FEE

110 Euros per adult,

35 Euros for each child or youth over 4 years,

children under 4 years are free of charge.

The registration fee covers accommodation and conference meals as well as the cultural program, the IFED celebration and the children and youth program. Travel costs are not part of the registration fee and have to be paid individually.

Logistical and Organisational Information

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM

The children and youth program is offered during the following conference time:



Thursday: 1.45 pm to 6.45 pm Friday: 8.45 am to 1.15 pm Saturday: 9.15 am to 1.15 pm Sunday: 9.15 am to 1.15 pm

CONCEPT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Dr. Elke Jansen, Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD) Franziska Korn and Susan Javad, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) In cooperation with the Board of Network of European LGBT Families' Associations (NELFA aisbl.)

ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT PERSONS

Dr. Elke Jansen, Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD) elke.jansen@lsvd.de

Stephanie Tröder, Stephanie Tröder Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung **Stephanie.Troeder**@fes.de

Layout: mmydesign, Köln

Fotos: Isabell Zipfel, Berlin; Marie-Andée Fallu, Kassel

Short-term changes in program are possible.

Current information under www.nelfa.lsvd.de

Funded by



Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth