

MANIFESTO POLITICO

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA PRIDE

PRIDE TRIVENETO 2017



WHAT IS PRIDE?

June 28th, 1969 is marked in the history of mankind as the symbolic beginning of the modern liberation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual movement (subsequently known as the LGBTQIA). The LGBTQIA community, tired of the systematic violence it had suffered for centuries in silence, took to the streets to clash with the New York police. Fear left us being replaced by pride, the pride of being who we are, the pride of being in the light of day fighting for our rights and those of others.

When we talk about the LGBTQIA community, we usually talk about lesbians (women who experience sexual and romantic attraction to other women), gays (men who experience sexual and romantic attraction for other men), bisexuals (people who feel sexual and romantic attraction for people of two or more kinds), transgenders (people who identify with a gender other than the one assigned at birth), queers (people whose sexual orientation and/or gender identity is not within the binary categories created by the dominant culture), intersexual (people born with sexual characteristics that do not fit into the typical binary notions of male or female body) and asexual (people who do not experience sexual attraction or interest in sex but who are able to feel an intellectual and emotional attraction to other people). We are all citizens with the same duties as everyone else but because of social and political prejudice towards our sexual orientation, gender identity or biological sex are not given the same recognition, dignity, rights and freedoms as others, and are targets of discrimination at different levels.

Pride is our right as citizens, but it is also our duty with regard to our history.

The past, commemorating and celebrating the Stonewall riots and all those who with their pride led to the recognition of our identity and rights and that above all, taught us the capacity to fight and make our voices heard both as a community and as individuals.

Our present, lived preserving this heritage, fighting for the conquest of the full equality of rights and dignity for everyone and celebrating the goals already achieved.

And the future, in which our pride will have left behind a more just and free society for all, as a blueprint for future generations.

Pride, however, is not just a display by the LGBTQIA community, but, fortunately, our issues are increasingly becoming more wide-ranging. Pride is a mobilisation which necessarily involves all the individual and collective components of a civil society in a calm and peaceful celebration of the universal values of equality and freedom, descended from the French Revolution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and which are the basis of Article 3 of the Italian Constitution. It is for this reason that we recognise ourselves in the feminist principles of the equality and self-determination of women, in the fight against racism and all forms of fascism and totalitarianism. We stand alongside every person or community that suffers prejudice and discrimination and whose rights and dignity are not recognised. We are all different but our rights must be recognised in the same way our duties are.

THIS IS PRIDE: A CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AND A CLAIM FOR EQUALITY, BY AND FOR ALL PEOPLE, IN THE SPIRIT OF STONEWALL.



WHY PRIDE IN FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA?

Italy is at the end of the line in Europe, in terms of respect of human rights due to discrimination against its LGBTQIA citizens, being one of the few remaining European countries which does not even provide an aggravating circumstance for offences based on homo-bi-transphobia. Although after so many years of struggle, Italy has begun to adapt to European standards, there is still a long way to go for the full equality envisaged in Article 3 of the Constitution. The approval of Law n° 76/2016, the so-called Cirinnà, represented an important step forward in the protection of LGBTQIA citizens, but the same law, in creating a new legal institution dedicated exclusively to couples of the same sex, distances itself from its own ideals of equality among all citizens.

Some gaps in the law regarding those missing rights have been bridged by the legal system through court judgments, for example on issues related to the recognition of the rights of custody for non-biological parents in single-sex parent families or in terms of self-determination for legal recognition without the surgical adaptation of transgender persons. Nevertheless, the lack of equality for same-sex couples, the protection for same-sex parent families and self-recognition for transgender people continues to be a reality for thousands of people in this country. In fact, these rights are not guaranteed by the State, which also has the responsibility to “remove obstacles of an economic and social nature which constrain the freedom and equality of its citizens, preventing the full development of the human person and the effective participation of all workers in the political, economic and social development of the country.”

This context of progressive change has seen reflection in our own Region. Friuli Venezia Giulia has come a long way in the protection of its LGBTQIA citizens in recent years. The transcription of marriages contracted abroad in the municipalities of the four provincial capitals, Arcigay and ArciLesbica’s “Getting to know us in School” project, supported by different institutions since 2009 became a special project within the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region in 2014 and was honoured by the President of the Italian Republic, through numerous campaigns against homo-bi-transphobia to break down the barriers and prejudices that still weigh on LGBTQIA citizens, and which are supported by a number of different institutions.

In this atmosphere of positive developments, however, especially in recent years, local politics and society have put this progress at risk by opposing education to diversity, denying the existence of homo-bi-transphobia and making use of concepts that are without any scientific basis to support positions actually founded on prejudice.

In past elections the progress made in the recognition of the equal dignity and rights of LGBTQIA citizens were the focus of election campaigns and public debate. While some local governments have continued to focus on the road to equality, others are still actively engaged in obstructing the few goals achieved being brought to conclusion. A situation that is not only representative of Friuli Venezia Giulia, but shared with Trentino Alto Adige - South Tyrol and Veneto, which is why we have always pushed to overcome regional barriers to create a community without borders.



In other respects, the particularity of Friuli Venezia Giulia as a border region reveals the paradox in Europe of the recognition of LGBTQIA rights. It is surprising to think that just a few kilometres away from our region, European LGBTQIA citizens have different rights and protections according to their home country.

While it is possible for Austrian homosexual couples to adopt, in Italy we are not even allowed to adopt our own partners' children.

While in Slovenia when a crime is committed, homophobia is considered an aggravating circumstance in the same way as racial, ethnic, religious motives, etc. are, in Italy we still find ourselves having to suffer hate speeches by those in the public eye and not, who, strong in their freedom of being able to manifest their opinion, denigrate our dignity with impunity. This scenario opens up an interesting perspective to the debate, which is why we wanted other foreign nations, such as Slovenia, to be involved in this event, in an attempt to create an open dialogue with our neighbours and consequently to broaden the vision on LGBTQIA issues in Italy.

FVG Pride stems from the desire of the LGBTQIA associations (Arcigay Friuli, Arcigay Arcobaleno Trieste and Gorizia, ArciLesbica Udine, La Fenice FVG and l'Associazione Universitaria Iris) working on the ground, with the aim of representing a huge civil mobilisation in response to this context in order to defeat the resistance that attempts to move away from equality and at the same time to promote a culture of social inclusion where differences are recognised and protected as an important value that enriches society as a whole.

To achieve this goal FVG Pride asks for:

NATIONAL POLICIES

REGIONAL POLICIES

HEALTH AND PREVENTION

SOCIAL

EDUCATION



NATIONAL POLICIES

EGALITARIAN MARRIAGE

So that a law to extend civil marriage to same-sex couples is introduced by the Italian State.

ADOPTION

So that the adoption of children, even by single people and same-sex couples be ensured. As well as this that the Italian Government is also asked to legally recognise the figure of Coparent, by means of adoption within the family to couples of the same sex.

LAW AGAINST HOMO-BI-TRANSPHOBIA

That the Italian State recognises homo-bi-transphobia as an aggravating factor with regard to crimes, and that hate speech against LGBTQIA persons be prosecuted and punished in the same way as racial hatred is.

SELF-DETERMINATION OF TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX PEOPLE

That the State will promote the recognition of the right to self determination of transgender and intersex people, freeing the updating of personal data by the decision to undergo reconstructive surgery, facilitating both those who intend undergoing surgery and those who do not want or cannot undergo surgery. That the state also provide a non-binary type.

RESPECT OF STATE LAICISM

That the Italian state will guarantee secularism so that no religion can impose a pattern of behaviour in order to justify discriminatory social practices.

APPLICATION OF LAW N° 76/2016

That all municipalities will comply with the law on the regulation of civil unions between same-sex couples and that of cohabitation following paragraph 20 that guarantees the same status between civil unions and marriages.

TRANSCRIPTION OF MARRIAGE CONTRACTS ABROAD

That marriages contracted abroad will be transcribed as such (and not transformed into Civil Unions) in the Civil Status of our municipalities, thus recognising them as the first step towards equal access to the institution of marriage in our country.

PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION

That civil servants should have the training necessary to treat LGBTQIA citizens with respect and professionalism, with the aim of preventing discriminatory treatment in Public Administration.

REGULATION OF PROSTITUTION

Based on the principle of the self-determination of people, we ask that the Italian State decriminalise prostitution and sex work regulations in order to protect the employment status of sex-workers thus ensuring their rights and their dignity as workers.



REGIONAL POLICIES

RE.A.DY NETWORK

That the region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, as well as those municipalities that have not yet registered, support the RE.A.DY network for the exchange of good practices in combating discrimination.

GUARANTEE OF RIGHTS WITHIN LGBTQIA PRISONS

To ensure the psychophysical well-being of LGBTQIA prison inmates in the same way as other inmates, promoting information and awareness initiatives for employees and inmates to prevent discriminatory situations, by activating information campaigns on STDs and applying implementation plans for violence prevention with homo-bi-transphobic roots.

REPEAL OF MOTION N° 270/2014 ON THE NATURAL FAMILY

That the Regional Council of Veneto repeal motion No 270/2014, which under the guise of a defence of the so-called “natural family” hides a discriminatory pronouncement against all other forms of family that already exist.

REPEAL OF MOTION N° 13/2015 ON IDEOLOGIES WHICH DESTABILISE THE DEVELOPMENT STUDENTS

That the Regional Council of Veneto also repeal motion No 13/2015 that, in the fear that an ideology be spread, although having no scientific foundation whatsoever, calls on schools to perform actions that are already within their competence.

PROMOTION OF THE CULTURE OF DIFFERENCES IN VENETO

That the Regional Council of Veneto apply motion No 4/2010 for the promotion of initiatives designed to raise awareness towards the culture of differences, the prevention and punishment of behaviours of a homo-bi-transphobic nature, and also support projects for the development of initiatives devoted to combating discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, bringing this to the attention of the Italian Parliament in order to approve laws that protect and legitimise LGBTQIA people.

EXTENSION OF DOUBLE PREFERENCE GENDER IN TRENTO ALTO ADIGE - SUDTIROL

That a law be approved in the Autonomous Province of Trento and in the Trentino Alto Adige - Sudtirol on double gender preference in administrative elections as already occurs in the rest of the country.



HEALTH AND PREVENTION

REGIONAL STD AND STI CENTRES

That regionally coordinated STD/STI departments be created with a view to offering a more efficient service and strategically achieving their prevention; that the Friuli Venezia Giulia region grant recognition of the Centre of Sexually Transmitted Diseases of Gorizia as a Regional Reference Centre thanks to its excellence and experience in the treatment and prevention of sexually transmitted infections.

CAMPAIGN FOR THE PREVENTION OF STIs

That new advertising campaigns giving information on HIV infection and on sexually transmitted infections in general be created, activated and coordinated, and that a large scale campaign be promoted into the use of condoms as a prevention tool against STIs; that information and awareness initiatives be organised targeting medical staff and paramedics on the doctor-patient relationship, should they come into contact with LGBTQIA people.

EXTENSION OF STI PREVENTION SERVICES

That the anonymity regime and gratuity tests for common STIs such as gonorrhoea, syphilis and hepatitis be extended, that the service be offered with increased visibility; that a rapid test for HIV, through information, prevention be promoted, and community-based HIV testing in unconventional CBVCT sites (Community-based voluntary counselling and testing) be actively offered, and in accordance with the HIV COBATEST protocol, including those populations who are more exposed to HIV (MSM - Males who have sex with Males, IDU - those who use injectable drugs and migrants). Furthermore an expansion of the gratuity of the HPV vaccine is also called for.

PROHIBITION OF “REPARATIVE THERAPY”

That so-called “reparative or conversion therapies” that claim to fix the differences from cis-heterosexual in LGBTQIA people be officially banned.

TRANSEXUAL DEPATHOLOGISATION

That transsexual depathologisation be brought to an end.

INTERSEXUAL DEPATHOLOGISATION

That the Italian State depathologise variants of sexual characteristics in medical guidelines and protocols. That the Italian Government also combat medicalisation aimed at “normalising” such individuals such as genital surgery or other psychological treatments, thus promoting the self-determination of intersex people.

SURGICAL INTERVENTIONS ON INTERSEXUALITY

That surgical and pharmacological interventions of gender reassignment be prohibited on those people born with sexual characteristics that do not fit within the typical binary notions of the male or female body, carried out without the prior consent of the interested party or on minors.



HEALTH AND PREVENTION

GUARANTEE TO INTERRUPT PREGNANCY AND REPRODUCTIVE THERAPIES

That the number of area clinics be increased to ensure access to treatment and the interruption of pregnancy, ensuring freedom of choice which in recent years has constantly been hampered by the high percentage of objecting doctors.

CHANGE IN LAW N° 40/2004

That law n°. 40/2004 be changed in order to permit access to medically assisted procreation to singles and couples, including those of the same sex.

LAW ON THE END OF LIFE

Based on the principle of self-determination, we ask that the Italian State approve a law on end of life which recognises the right of a citizen to free choice and that the government should have to take on exceptional clinical situations in order to end prolonged agonies.

SERVICE GUARANTEE FOR STD/STI CENTRES IN TRENTO

That the STD/STI Centre of Trento, which is the only reference in the province, continue to provide the services currently offered without the feared reduction of activity, given the importance that the Centre plays in the sexual health of the population of Trentino.



SOCIAL

GUARANTEES FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM SEEKERS

That special reception services for applicants with special needs requiring international protection be guaranteed within the territory, as provided for in art. 17 of Legislative Decree 142/2015 (implementation of the 2013/33/EU Directive providing standards for reception for applicants requesting international protection and Directive 2013/32/EU providing common procedures for the granting and withdrawing of international protection status), including those LGBTQIA persons persecuted in their country of origin due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

GUARANTEE OF RIGHTS FOR OLDER LGBTQIA PEOPLE

That specific information and training be available with regard to the problems of elderly LGBTQIA persons be given to nursing homes or sheltered accommodation, in order to prevent situations of discrimination.

GUARANTEE OF RIGHTS FOR LGBTQIA PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

To ensure that emotional education also be provided within protected centres and facilities for disabled LGBTQIA persons making sure that targeted information campaigns and training be initiated to prevent situations of discrimination, both within these structures, and more widely in society as a whole.

LGBTQIA SHELTERS

That temporary shelters be created within the Region for LGBTQIA persons who are victims of domestic violence.

EDUCATION

EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

That real emotional education conducted in consultation with relevant experts on sexuality, including the differences, which is appropriate to the age of students, be ensured as part of the educational programme carried out in public schools, which also targets families, based on the democratic principles of respect and acceptance of all diversity.

PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

That the staff of public schools welcome and appreciate all experiences within the family of their pupils and that the school teaching and administrative staff be offered the training necessary to deal with LGBTQIA students.





We are confident that the Friuli Venezia Giulia region, having shown great respect and sensitivity to the differences and claims of the LGBTQIA community on so many occasions, is ready to welcome and host FVG Pride, Pride of Triveneto 2017. We believe that the institutions and their representatives have a duty and right to defend, promote and support the initiative in order to give an important sign of respect for democracy, in respect of the universal values of equality and freedoms as enshrined in the Italian constitution.

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