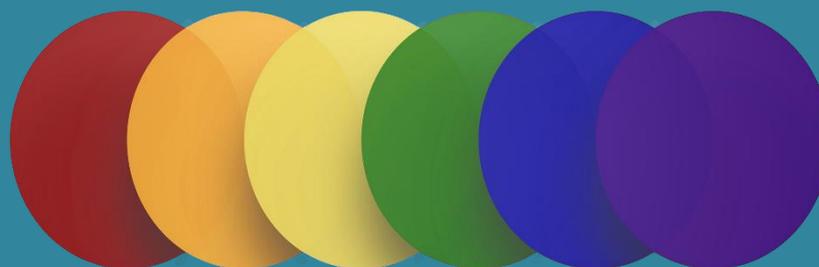




DIGEST

THE LGBT ISSUES IN THE BELARUSIAN



Author: GayPress.eu

July – December 2020

The Belarusian presidential election and the consequent protests had a significant impact on mentioning the LGBT community in the media. The participation of LGBTQ+ in the corresponding public actions was mainly mentioned there.

The Digest has been prepared in specific realities, when VPN-connection was required for getting access to numerous Belarusian Web-sites, since they had been blocked under the following pretext: ‘The access to the Web-resource has been restricted on the base of the decision, taken by the Ministry of Information of Belarus, which was adopted in correspondence with the Belarus Law ‘On Mass Media’.

‘The Unexpected’ Special Heading

A store of children’s toys promoted a doll ‘Rainbow High Jade Hunter’ on their Web-site. And its owners noted under the announcement that the toy was prohibited for sale. ‘Why did you promote it on your Web-site in this case?’, the question arises.

The doll was accompanied by the following description (the author's spelling and punctuation are preserved):

“The concept of these dolls, their appearance and clothing evoke unambiguous associations with the symbols of the LGBT movement. We have nothing against the representatives of LGBT movement. We are sure that all of them are wonderful people. However, we consider their beliefs and lifestyles to be non-constructive. Therefore, we will not promote them, as it is trendy to do now. Moreover, there aren’t other alternatives when it concerns children. It is one case when there are all adults. And it is absolutely different, when it concerns promotion among children.”



Investigation of Activities of Ultraconservative Forces in Belarus

“Who teaches chastity and traditional values in schools? Who does not believe in HIV and AIDS and considers contraception a sin? Who has been fighting against the Domestic Violence Prevention Bill and who is hindering the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation? Who is trying to ban abortion? Who collects signatures against LGBT people? And most importantly, why are these initiatives so successful? ”

Transformation

“Four transgender people tell the stories of their life in Belarus and share their experience of living in the ‘wrong’ body and being a stranger in the society and in your own family.”

What do Belarusians think about abortion, LGBT people, the death penalty and the legalization of cannabis?

“Chatham House has released a new sociological study on what Belarusians think about the political crisis in the country. But this time, the researchers also asked Belarusian citizens about their attitude to the death penalty, abortion, the LGBT community and the legalization of party drugs.”





“I will be imprisoned for these colors”

[A solidarity action of LGBT-people took place in Minsk.](#)



What do LGBTQ Fight for in Belarus?

[“In the new edition of the 34mag.net editorial podcast, we talk with activists Andrei Zavaley and Anna Bredova about how far Belarusians have come in the ability to be united and some people don’t understand that homophobia is an integral part of any dictatorship.”](#)

“The Priest for Special Purposes”. A Gay Priest Tells Why He Won’t Hide His Sexual Preferences

[“Valiantsin Tsishko is the first openly gay person who ran for the post of a deputy in Belarus. He is a civil activist and hiero-deacon of the Greek Autocephalous Orthodox Church. This combination can cause dissonance, but this is more than a real person, just like other people around.”](#)





The Memories of 2020 by Homophobes from 'Viacherni Mahilou' Newspaper

[“A big deal complete. There were submitted 52,600 signatures in defense of the traditional family and against LGBT propaganda among minors. A serious press conference was organized following the collection of signatures. This caused a shock among feminists and LGBT lobby.” ‘Viacherni Mahilou’ newspaper](#)



Belarusian Homosexual Comedian to Perform in Minsk with a Stand-up: before and after the New Year Eve

[‘A Belarusian comedian Pavel Zalutski, who openly says about his homosexuality, will perform twice with a stand-up in Minsk’](#)



The Week for Equality and Inclusion 2020

[‘Human Constanta’ conducted a range of enlightening events under the common title of the Week for Equality and Inclusion on November 9-16, 2020.](#)



'It is not the right time'. Article 328, LGBT and other issues that have faded into the background

[“The general goal is to get united. However, parallelly, there are made attempts to exclude LGBT from the protest discourse. And even more than that.” The European Radio for Belarus](#)



Pro-Russian website claims Tsikhanouskaya is an Israeli Nazi with an LGBT business

[“The article says that Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya allegedly has the citizenship of Israel and Lithuania, and that she is Jewish by birth. The author suggests that Tsikhanouskaya owns a nightclub in Mazyr and an LGBT pimp agency in Moscow.”](#)



Fake Dating and "Working Out" of LGBT People in Belarus: Homophobia in the Country of Police Violence

[“Human rights defenders from the ‘Identity and Law’ initiative group say that the situation, when the Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives invite gays under the guise of ordinary users of dating sites is not unique.”](#)



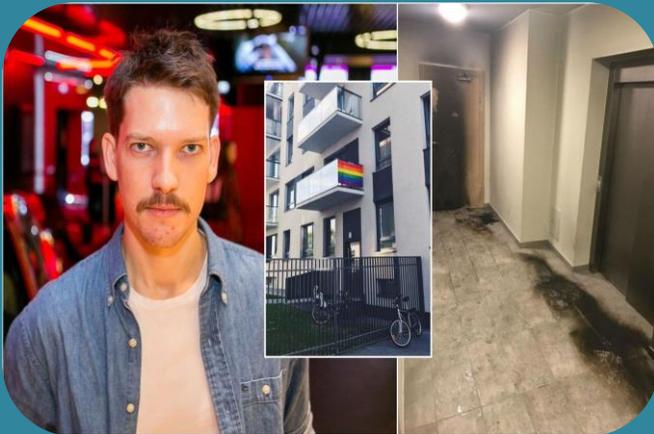
Gays' Mother

“She was the mother of a gay man, but, in fact, in the last decade she became the mother of all Belarusian gays, whom their own parents were ashamed of. The Belarusian LGBTQ movement knew her since 2010, when she participated in a picket in support of LGBTQ rights (without ‘+’ at that time) and defended the participants from the riot police.”



Pavel Seviarynets Excluded from the List of Sakharov Prize Winners

“A political analyst and columnist Pavel Usau said that he was embarrassed by the fact that Pavel Seviarynets was excluded from the list of people who were nominated for this award, since he is allegedly a homophobe and an anti-LGBT person.”



Feelings beyond borders. A conversation with director Romas Zabarauskas

“Romas Zabarauskas, who used to be a guest of "Northern Lights" movie festival with the film "You can't run away from Lithuania", this time presents a new feature film, named ‘The Lawyer’. It is grounded upon a life story of LGBT-people, whose life is hindered by state and social borders.”



The Broken Fate and Career of the Grandmaster from Hrodna Yauhien Ruban, Stripped of His Titles and Failing to Fit into the Soviet Reality

“His name was excluded from chess reference books in Soviet times. He was stripped of the title of master of sports. Lacking growth prospects and chances to make a career, he was forced to make odd jobs and ... drink.”



Mikhail Efremov’s Daughter Participated in Belarusian Protests

«Anna-Maria Efremova, daughter of the famous Russian actor Mikhail Efremov, came to Belarus and took part in several protests. Anna-Maria’s appearance at the rallies did not go unnoticed. Her photographs under the rainbow flag of the LGBT community caused discussion even on the Belarusian state TV.” The European Radio for Belarus



LGBT-banners Noticed at Meetings in Minsk. How do Minsk Residents Feel about This Movement?

“There are more Russian LGBT activists in Minsk than ever before. (They are easily recognizable by their rainbow flags.) Some shocking, others provoking the crowd. However, most Belarusians still do not understand this behavior.” ANT Belarusian State TV Channel



Dictatorship Worse than Homophobia. LGBT Column Protest in Minsk with Banners and Rainbow Flags

[“It was for the first time that an LGBT column joined the protests in Minsk on Saturday, September 5th. 20 male and female activists joined the Women’s Rally that united around 10,000 people. A Hrodna.life correspondent inquired the LGBT column and Women’s Rally participants why they joined the action and what there banners mean.”](#)



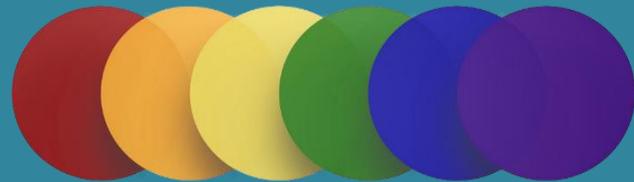
“Peaceful” Protests in Belarus: LGBT Flags, Children at Meetings, Autos with Knives”

[“Crowds of protesters continued to walk along the streets of Belarusian cities. Representatives of LGBT community joined the people this week.” ‘Panorama’ News TV Program at the Belarusian TV and Radio Company](#)



“Lukashenka or... 4 Compelling Reasons in His Favor”

[“Be aware that along with freedom, prosperity, and what else our candidates promise, we will get a sharp increase in corruption, drug addiction and crime. We will receive such "benefits" of Western society as the legalization and imposition of LGBT culture, juvenile crimes, and many other advanced methods of exterminating people.” Media Brest News Web-site](#)



How to Talk about Sex with Kids

["In cooperation with the "Family Tree" parent support project, we are figuring out how to properly talk with children about sex. How to choose the words and at what age can you already start sex education? \(Spoiler: you can start it when your kid is 3 years old.\) How to tell children about the LGBT community?"](#)

["Men like you are not needed in this country." What Awaits a Transgender Person in Detention?](#)

["Yauhien Vialko is 24. He was born a girl, and later he realized that he was a boy. On September 26, the riot police detained him at a Women's Rally in Minsk, where he came along with other LGBT activists."](#)

Lesbian 40+... Phenomenon? Mass Trend?

"A party, some alcohol, unfamiliar people ... I woke up in bed with another woman on the next morning."

["At first it was a shock, stress, and contemplations in the format: "I am a lesbian and did not know about it." Let's refrain from making everything complicated and going into smart books for definitions of bisexuality. After all, you don't become lesbians just at the snap of your fingers or after an extra glass."](#)

The GayPress.eu Web-site was attended by 238,545 Web-users in 2020.

The main online target audience came from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

Our pages and groups in the social media:

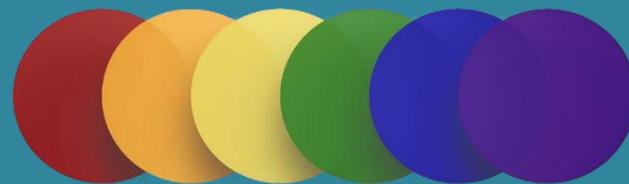
[Facebook](#)

[ВКонтакте](#)

[Яндекс. Дзен](#)

[Twitter](#)

E-mail: GayPress.eu@gmail.com



GayPress.eu