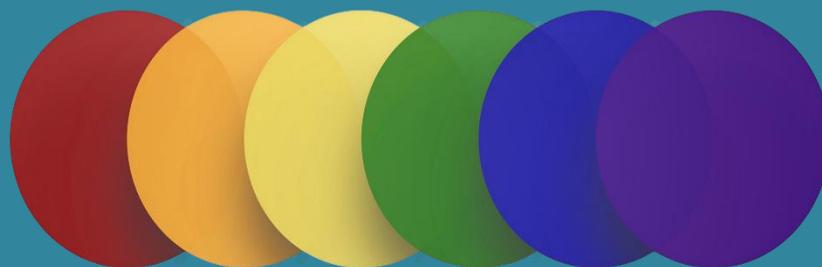




DIGEST

LGBT ISSUES IN THE BELARUSIAN MASS MEDIA



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The Belarusian LGBTQ+ media agenda was largely influenced by the general socio-political events in the first quarter of 2021. As usual, failing to find any intelligible arguments, the propaganda turned to the time-tested cry "They want to impose LGBT values on us".

It was most clearly observed in the specific rhetoric, which was used by a propagandist George Azaronak. His opuses caused a lot of discussions in the social media and evoked the appearance of numerous memes.

As always, "Vecherniy Mogilev" "made everybody happy", bursting out with a voluminous and confusing text, named "The war for the destruction of the Belarusian family. Gender Satanism".

The publication is not for the faint of heart. It is full of religiosity and attacks on the EU and NGOs.

Just have a look at this quote: "And without religious means, the first of which are the fear of God and the recognition of oneself as a servant of God, all socio-anthropological projects of personal spiritual self-development, which, as in the case of soup from an ax, almost immediately need peculiar "supports" in the form of the police and the prosecutor's office, the party and the NKVD, the newspaper Pravda and BBC News, lead exclusively to hell."

The LGBT thematic was also reflected in the official comment of the Ministry of Interior of Belarus that was published by a number of prominent mass media, including one of leading Web-portals Onliner.by. The ministerial officials discovered brochures of 'Journalists for Tolerance', which were presented as 'the literature that propagates LGBT-values'.

Also, there were other reasons for anxiety, including the so-called draft amendments to the Belarus Law 'On Counteraction to Extremism' (more details can be found in the Digest below).

Despite the said above, the analysis of Belarusian mass media field shows that the mentioning of LGBTQ+ thematic was mainly positive in the independent media within the first quarter of 2021.

Large mass media posted information about LGBTQ+, educational diversity events, interviewed the community representatives and published other topical materials with the use of correct vocabulary.



The GayPress.eu Web-site editorial published a range of news items, analytical, enlightening, and entertaining materials, including [video content](#) in the first quarter of 2021.

Among the references to LGBT in the Belarusian Internet, there started to pop up dating messages in the seemingly outdated [ad](#) format.

It becomes a tradition to mention LGBT on trading grounds. Thus, the Belarusian entrepreneurs sell rainbow flags. However, the cost differs from place to place, starting from approximately EUR 4 on [Kufar](#) to **EUR 20** on [Deal](#).

[Monitoring of hate speech in relation to LGBTQ+ in the Belarusian mass media in the 2nd half-year of 2020](#)

The monitoring research was conducted by the 'Journalists for Tolerance' Human Rights Initiative. It was aimed at providing the systematized review on the use of derogatory vocabulary and hate speech markers in relation to vulnerable groups in the Belarusian mass media. A special emphasis was paid to the expressions that stigmatized LGBT-people.





"Presumably drugs and a gun-like object". The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus commented on 90 searches

- "The procedures were held in all regional centers of the country in accordance with the instruction of the Investigative Committee of Belarus in a criminal case on organizing and preparing actions that grossly violate public order," the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus disseminated [the official message in its Telegram channel...](#)

- Moreover, in the course of the searches, there were found documents with requisites for money transfers, unregistered symbols (streamers, banners, flags), documentation on joining strike committees, application templates for provision of help to the pseudo-repressed people, the literature that promotes LGBT values, as well as certificates for [studies in foreign universities.](#)



'I am gay. My wife is a lesbian person. We've been married for three years. And we have a kid'

The hero of the publication and his wife have a child. And they never quarrel. How does it work? The man believes that it has been possible due to an exclusively friendly relationship, [since he is gay, and his wife is a lesbian.](#)

In collaboration with the Living Library Center, we tell the story about the reasons for the [LGBT community](#) representatives to go for tricks in order to become parents.



'The Rainbow Banner of Sodom': Pro-governmental Propaganda Straddled the Topic of Homophobia

— Do you see who stands behind this whole revolution in Belarus? Bloody Bernard-Henri Levy, the God-fighter Nevzorov, the Russian liberal opposition that hates the church and prays for the Pussy Riot group. Feminists, LGBT people, the EU structures that even pervert the holiday of Christmas, calling it "X-mas", and promote perversions at schools, - [George Azaronak scares the audience on CTV.](#)



George Azaronak: "The white-red-white flag is extremist, regardless of laws. It is our potent of disaster"

George Azaronak: "But it came back for the fourth time. It returned in 2020. It returned as a symbol of rebellion and coup. It returned with the militants in the streets, together with the mother who took her child to the rally, together with the psychos who blocked the roads, together with [LGBT people and foreign curators.](#)"



"Your identity is not affected by the person you have sex with". Real stories of gay residents of Baranavichi

[LGBT youth narrates about self-acceptance, their own fears, and homophobia in Belarus.](#)

Kiryl: "People are scared by "Europe and same-sex families".

Darya: "Most people are quite calm about my sexual orientation."

Pavel: "When parents ask about my personal life, I tend to leave the topic."

Special project "The Wrong Culture": How Do LGBTQ+ People Live in Belarus?

"It is strange to talk about discrimination and infringement of rights in the era of seemingly overwhelming acceptance and tolerance.

However, even nowadays, some of us are faced with problems that sometimes do not fit into the heads of people in modern society. We are going to talk [about the LGBTQ+ culture in Belarus](#) and find out what is hidden behind the prejudices of imposed concepts."





"Hockey homosexuality". Belarus offered to hold an alternative to the Ice Hockey World Cup 2021.

“And it is not clear, who will attend the Ice Hockey World Championship, since it is a rogue championship. The way in which the tournament has been stolen is a complete meanness, villainy and absolute hockey homosexuality, a [Russian MP Vitaly Milonov](#) said.



Football. Anastasia Linnik: There are LGBT girls in many spheres of [sport] activity. I don't understand why their presence is attributed to women's football only

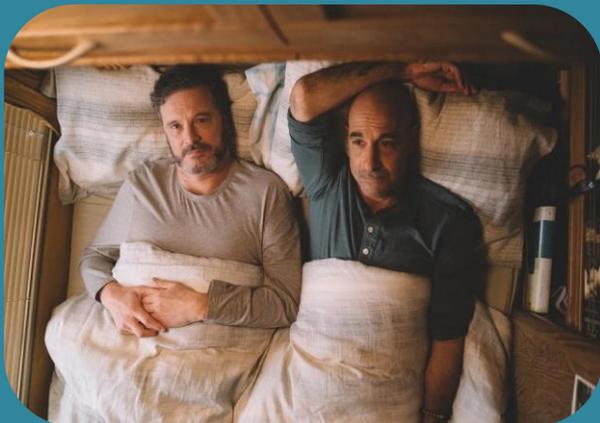
[A Dynamo Minsk football player Anastasia Linnik told Mikita Pastukhou about stereotypes regarding women's football.](#)

Sex scene cut from LGBT drama presented in Russia

The Russian cinematographic authorities cut out a three-minute sex scene from the British LGBT drama "Supernova", which is now on in movie theaters across the country.

Most probably, the movie will be shown in the censored version in Belarus, since cinematographic materials for presentations in the local movies come from the Russian colleagues.

[In the Belarusian box office, most likely, the film is also shown without a sex scene, since materials for distribution in our cinemas come from Russian colleagues.](#)





"My daughter has a wife and a son." The story of an LGBT woman's mom

[Ksenia introduced her girlfriend to her mother Inna](#) and told her that she was a lesbian. The first thing that the woman experienced was fear. She decided to hide it from colleagues and friends, until someone at Odnoklassniki made her out. There was disseminated a mailing to all her acquaintances, which said that Inna's daughter was a lesbian.

Stretching an owl on the globe: a strange bill on extremism discussed on the Web

"Commentary: the amendments follow the best traditions of some ISIS. Here you have the public order, and public morality, and the traditional way of family relations. [This very "traditional way" is especially striking. What is this? Is it an attempt to ban LGBT?](#) Or have the draft creators elegantly caught up with Russia with their ban on the promotion of homosexuality in one phrase?"



Karbalevich: 'Every Belarusian can become an "extremist" now'

"The issue that was discussed in the media for a long time has now been confirmed. It is not surprising that the authorities concealed this draft document so much, since it looks very odious", a political scientist [Valery Karbalevich commented](#) upon the scandalous bill "On Counteraction to Extremism".





The 'Halasy ZMiasta' lead singer avoided answers about their song for 'Eurovision'

- "They would like to enjoy equality and brotherhood, express their will everywhere, as well as put a dress on their son in a trembling impulse of tolerance". Do I understand you correctly that this irony concerns the freedom of LGBT communities?

- Let's get back to the point one. I swear to dwell upon this topic, too. I will tell you everything. [At this point, will you, please, address all your inquiries on this topic and around this topic to the Belarusian State TV and Radio Company.](#)

Belarusians post white-red-and-white photos in social media

[Olga Zhadeeva, mother of five children:](#)

"My mom recently bought a down jacket. When she was offered a red-colored garment, she shuddered:

-No way! I will be afraid to leave the house in it!

In the future, they could still ban blue and yellow, so that people wouldn't like to be here like in Ukraine, and at the same time they can ban all the colors of the rainbow, in order to prevent propaganda of LGBT."

59 teenagers became victims of pedophiles in Grodno in 2020. How to keep children safe?

"The degree of threat to sexual freedom and inviolability of minors is increasing from year to year, says Andrei Kudritsky, the Head of the Drug Control and Anti-trafficking Police Department. [He attributed this to the popularity of social networks among lovers of child pornography and "promotion of non-traditional family](#) values and the LGBT movement on the international scale."





“Protest as a performance. How puppets were made of Belarusians for street extras”

The performances of the Belarusian Free Theater are full of speculation on the theme of protest and victims of the regime. The promotion of LGBT values is in trend. [They also staged a performance with the act of suicide ...](#) Khalezin was happy to tell the “independent” media that he had studied with Gene Sharp, talked about the genres and the quality of directing protest actions by the opposition.”

“The playing with body is abuse of children.’ Former transgender person’s testimony”

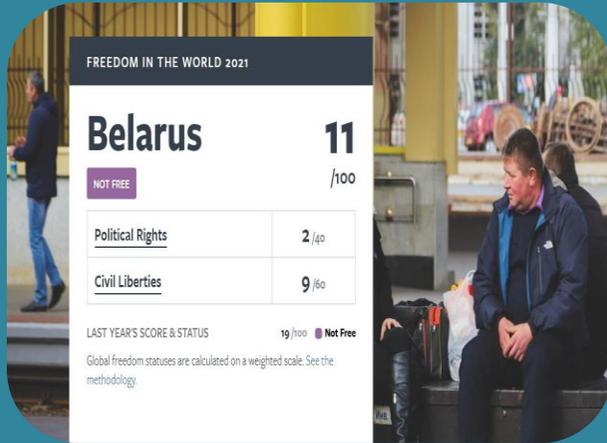
[“Giving children the idea of questioning their own gender is nothing more than using minors.](#) Dressing boys in dresses and girls in men's outfits and making them realize that they are perfect in their new roles is psychological, emotional and sexual abuse. No one knows this better than transgender ex-men who have experienced firsthand what so-called sexuality education, gender-neutral parenting, hormone therapy, or gender reassignment attempts really mean.”



“The global sexual revolution”

“Gabriela Kubi describes the global sexual revolution, which was prepared by thinkers from the era of the French Revolution and continued till the present times, when the gender ideology got activated. Its main aspects are as follows: [promotion of contraception, porn, sex education, and the LGBT movement, which is the main engine of this revolution.](#)”





Belarus dropped even lower in the Freedom House's 'Freedom in the world – 2021' rating list

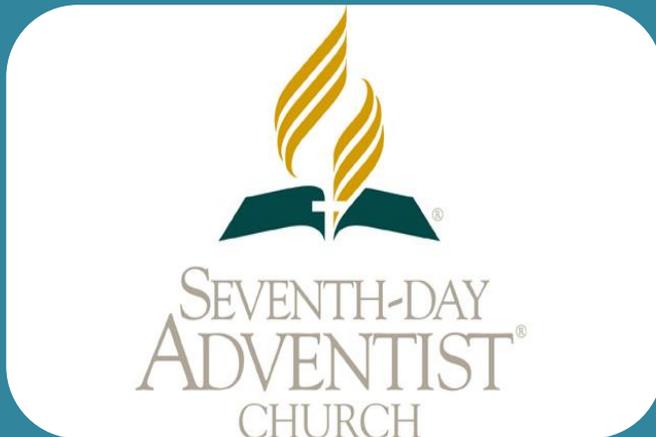
Belarus has scored [11 points out of 100 possible this time](#). The country had 19 points in the worldwide ranking in 2020.

Belarus received one point only for the opportunity for different groups of the population (ethnic, religious, gender, LGBT) to enjoy political rights and participate in elections. Also, it received one point for the fight against corruption of officials.



"I was a woman, a gay, a native American, and an elderly person". A Kremlin troll's confessions

"[One of former employees of the Foreign Department of the Russian "troll factory"](#) shared his story about writing comments on the US portals on behalf of fake people.



Video. Representative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Belarus Talking about LGBT

"[Let's talk about the LGBT problem and the causes of non-traditional sexual orientation. Why do failures occur? Do you need to help get rid of them?"](#)



Schraibman after the army: “The military claim little, the same approach applies to politics”

[“The Major General conducted a survey in the hall, asking who was a believer and separately who was an Orthodox believer.”](#) Then he called all of us “statesmen” because we hadn’t hidden from conscription, and enlightened us about the crazy crowds of teenagers, color revolutions, controlled chaos, LGBT lobby and NLP techniques from the western media.

It was not our laughter at all, but only his deputies waving their hands and the expiring time of the meeting that kept the Major General from talking about reptilians.”



The “RADA” Youth Network starts a group of psychological assistance for LGBTQ+ people

It is planned to conduct 12 three-hour-long group meetings as a part of the psychological consultancy. The meetings have been planned to be held in Minsk. [The ‘RADA’](#) team is ready to start similar psychological support groups in the regions, depending on the needs.



“Rumors were spread that I was stealing things...” How sexuality becomes a pre-text for false accusations

[“I think a person is born that way.”](#) If there was an opportunity to choose, then, faced with such things, no one would want to be different from others. Thus, Vera talks about the sexual orientation.”



“It looks like we have forgotten about someone... A book about the need to stop discriminating others (18+)”

“We often do not think about other people’s lives. For example, why is it harder for LGBTQ couples to rent housing and for people with disabilities or women to find employment.

[The Office of European Expertise and Communications](#) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands has developed the book “It looks like we have forgotten about someone. Inclusive practices of the Netherlands and [Belarus](#).”

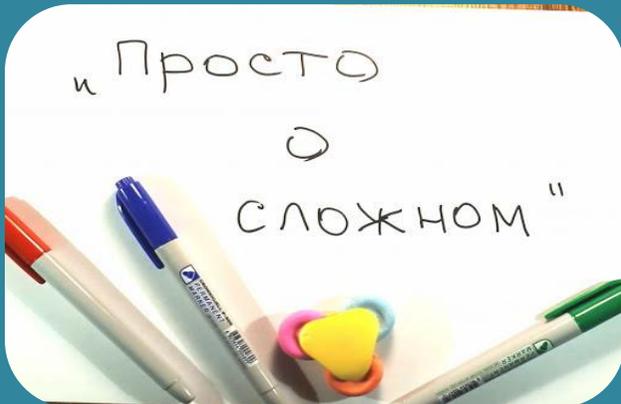
Psychological Lectures-Seminars ‘Talking Simply about Complicated Things’

[The Community Centre for LGBTQ+ People and Their Kins](#) is conducting a series of lectures and seminars on the topic ‘Talking Simply about Complicated Things’ in March – June 2021.

The educational sessions are aimed at developing psychological literacy among the LGBTQ + people. Each session within the program consists of a lecture and a seminar. The participants can pose questions to the lecturers during the seminars.

Workshop on ‘Inclusive Events Online – Mission (Im)possible?’

“[Due to participation in the workshop](#), you will get awareness about the barriers that exist for people from different vulnerable groups (people with disabilities, elderly, LGBTQ+, teenagers at risk of family violence etc.), who would like to take part in online-events. Also, you will discuss the ways to overcome the barriers and choose specific solutions for your educational or awareness-raising online activities.”





“The perfect evening? When they put \$ 100 in your palm and fall asleep.” A prostitute tells about her work (18+)

[“What benefits did I get?”](#) A couple of beautiful pictures of sunrises and sunsets, a couple of funny anecdotes and the ability to do a blowjob, although I'm a lesbian, as well as a broken leg, a lot of emotional trauma, a lot of fines, and lack of education.”



“A Belarusian transgender person faces the threat of imprisonment in a male colony in Russia. He is afraid that he will not survive there”

[“He had his breasts removed in 2008,](#) but did not have genital surgery. Despite this, he served in the Belarusian army as a man according to his passport”.

целомудри^е

“The war for the destruction of the Belarusian family. Gender Satanism”

“By undermining the family, the forces of evil and their accomplices gain access to destruction (submission to evil and the devil as its king) of the remaining structure of human life, i.e. the person itself, the state, the people, its economy, army, freedom, historical memory, and soul. [\(We are setting aside the danger of total ruining of humanity so far\).](#)”

65690 unique Web-visitors attended the Gaypress.eu Web-pages in the first quarter of 2021. The main part of online audience came from Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan.

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