



DIGEST

LGBTQ+ ISSUES IN THE BELARUSIAN MASS



Author: GPress.info

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The 3rd quarter of 2021 can be presented as a rather quiet period as far as the coverage of LGBTQ+ thematic in the Belarusian media is concerned. Verbal attacks on LGBTQ people were further registered in the media, sometimes without any grounds, but they weren't furious within the period under review.

A number of media quoted Aliaksandr Lukashenka, who briefly mentioned LGBT, among other issues.

According to Lukashenka's vision, he is an 'enemy' for the West, since as he says, 'I don't recognize LGBT-people. I don't raise rainbow flags'. Mr. Lukashenka doesn't see any other reasons for the negative attitudes towards him at that.

The previously registered trend of sharing publications, which are full of hate speech in relation to LGBT-people, with the 'subordinate' state media continued within the period under review.

Some Leo Branstein developed an idea in his publication '*Rainbow propaganda. How the West Makes Use of the LGBT Movement for Political Purposes*' that



'LGBT people are a great cover for Western politicians if they need to disguise their mistakes.'

In particular, the example of US President Bill Clinton was given: 'At the beginning of the Clinton presidency, it was a complete failure... Naturally, all these problems had a negative impact on Clinton's rating. Nevertheless, he managed to be elected for a second term. It was under his rule that the active promotion of freedom and permisiveness in the society, and, particularly, LGBT began. Thus, the imaginary 'struggle for rights' addresses the important political and often economic interests of certain persons or groups.'

At the same time, it wasn't noted that the Clinton presidency was one of the most successful periods for the US economy. According to the author's logic, the Americans elected Clinton only for his support of LGBT values...

This publication was re-posted on the Web-sites of several official district newspapers.

A state propagandist Andrei Mukavozchyk dwelt upon the issue, too. Such opuses demonstrate that the ridiculed 'Western' methods of distracting public attention from some problems by the LGBT-related rhetoric are much more clumsily used by the Belarusian propagandists themselves.



Aliaksandr Lukashenka: 'If I don't recognize LGBT nor raise the rainbow flag, I am an enemy'

Aliaksandr Lukashenka: ['They lack people in Poland, in the West.](#) The women don't want to give birth to children. And now they have introduced a new slogan [that a family](#) is a union of either two women or two men. How can they have children in this case? [You are laughing](#) and you are doing it right. It is funny for us, but they have it as a norm. They will listen to my conversation today that I start mocking, joking, and trolling, as our people say. And they will treat me as an enemy. Since I don't recognize [LGBT](#), nor raise the rainbow flags, I am the enemy for them.'

The State TV channels scared the audience with migrants and LGBT and cheered it up with readiness for sanctions and holidays

The mid-summer and the deficit of significant news left their mark on the week analysis programs on the state TV on July 10 and 11, 2021. [CTV, Belarus-1 and ANT](#) had to re-open the almost forgotten 'scarecrows' on the issues of migrants and LGBT.

'A thug bullies, the thieves watching'

Author's column by Andrei Mukavozchyk: 'The fact is that Hungarians have banned the [promotion of LGBT](#) issues in their education system and for their children. The EU has demanded that these laws of the sovereign state be changed. I won't even ponder over the reasons.'



Talking about home violence with the use of Forum Theatre

The Living Library Center held two 'Feel the Human Rights' Forum Theatre Workshops within the Zero Discrimination Week last spring. The first workshop was dedicated to women's rights. It ended with a Forum Theatre performance on domestic violence and young women's rights at work. The second workshop was dedicated to [LGBTQ+ rights](#). It touched upon the issues of discrimination, faced by LGBT+ people at work and at educational institutions, as well as the issue of domestic violence.

Time to act: Actions, Performances, Activism. Part 1

An LGBT activist with a poster "[You are a fake yourself](#)" went on a single picket to the buildings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the KGB, and the House of Government. The action was held in response to the statement of the Ministry of Internal Affairs about the rainbow flag, which had been raised over the British Embassy in support of minority rights. The ministry then called the same-sex relationships a fake and said that 'they wouldn't pass'.

Will Taliban open a window of opportunities for Minsk?

Western countries are not ready to accept [all Afghans](#) fleeing the Taliban. Thus, e.g., Canada declared the readiness to take in 20,000 refugees, but primarily LGBT people.





'Rainbow propaganda. How the West Makes Use of the LGBT Movement for Political Purposes'

'However, let's see if the realization of [LGBT rights](#) infringes on heterosexual people's rights. Why don't heterosexuals march through the squares, screaming "[We are heterosexuals](#)"? It is simply due to the fact that on a subconscious level everyone knows it's okay and it should be like this.'



Yauhen Alekseyuk: the outcome of one year of protests in Belarus

'They [i.e., the envoys of Western organizations] are envoys of all sorts of obscurantism such as gender equality, [LGBT propaganda](#), the destruction of traditional families, and the history rewriting.'



Kazimir Vialikaselets: 'When we leave God, revolutions begin'

'Is it normal, when a man stays with a man?

And those parades! [The lesbians...](#) They have such demonic faces!'



BelNetwork antiAIDS: 'We have always been needed by the state'

[Natalia has been working with HIV-positive](#) young women since 2005. She has a positive status, too.

Natalia says that the contribution of the 'National Platform of Communities' to building mutual understanding between key vulnerable groups and reducing stigma was very important to her as a lesbian.



Belarus included in the rating of dangerous [countries for LGBT tourists](#)

The rating list of safe and dangerous countries for LGBT-tourists was composed on the basis of numerous indicators. The rating consists of 150 countries of the world. [Belarus holds the 61st](#) position on the list.



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E-mail: GayPresseu@gmail.com

