



# ERATO Stockholm

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ILGCN (*International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network*) Information Secretariat

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## Conference Protest over Lithuanian ban on Rainbow Flag Demonstration:

### ILGCN World Rainbow Cultural Conference in Vilnius May 24-25

*Vilnius* — Art, photography, music, song, films and discussions were part of the successful 1<sup>st</sup> stage of this year's ILGCN (*International Lesbian & Gay Cultural Network*) world rainbow cultural conference May 24-25 in the Lithuanian capital – part of the week-long pioneering *Rainbow Days* event.

The international gathering sharply protested the decisions of the Vilnius authorities to ban the planned display of a rainbow flag in the heart of the city, the unprecedented refusal to allow a travelling, European Union-supported anti-discrimination information bus to visit the city, and the banning of EU-supported rainbow campaign posters on the city's trolley buses – containing the words that “a gay can be a policeman” and “a lesbian can be a teacher.”



Anna Gavriolova, Elena Mosalova  
(Belarus LGBT Amnesty)

“This puts Vilnius in the same homo- (page 3)

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## Rainbow Culture vs. Homophobia & Silence at Stockholm gathering

### 10<sup>th</sup> Moonbow International Culture & Human Rights Festival

**Stockholm** – International rainbow solidarity across Nordic borders and beyond — and the use of rainbow culture as a powerful weapon against intolerance, homophobia and invisibility –are the themes of this the 10<sup>th</sup> **Moonbow international culture & human rights festival** in Stockholm July 29-August 5 during **Pride** week.

“We are very pleased to have the co-operation of the **Romanian Culture Institute** to enable two activists from Bucharest to attend our festival ...and to have the support of Canadian labour union **CUPE** to bring a composer/ musician from Toronto to this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary festival,” says **Bill Schiller** of **Tupilak** (*Nordic rainbow cultural workers*) and the **ILGCN** (*International Lesbian and Gay Cultural Network*) Information Secretariat in Stockholm.



*Pride Celebrators in Bucharest*

“We’re also very glad to have Iranians in exile hosting a seminar on the worsening situation for homosexuals in Iran, and to have private support to bring an Italian performer, Italian graphic art and Italian video art to this year’s Moonbow,” he adds. “Our low-budget Moonbow festivals (page 3)

# ILGCN World Rainbow Cultural Conference in Vilnius ....

(from page 1) phobic pot as Moscow, Minsk, Chisenau and Teheran when it comes to rainbow rights and cultural diversity – instead of with other European Union members,” says **Bill Schiller**, secretary general of the **ILGCN Information Secretariat in Stockholm**. “When political and religious authorities outlaw rainbows and love, they forfeit their right to talk future to generations ... they turn their back on democracy and human rights, and strangle a rich cultural heritage now blooming in so many other cities around the world.”

Special guests at the conference from **Minsk** described the continuing difficulties of arranging rainbow events in **Belarus** — the last dictatorship of Eastern Europe — and the crucial importance of maintaining international contact with other colleagues.

The conference also discussed plans to increase Baltic rainbow collaboration with the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the **Nordic Rainbow Council** in September 27-30 in the Swedish west coast city of **Gothenburg**, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the **Nordic Rainbow Humanist** session in the same city. Specially invited guests will come from **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania** and **Poland** as well as **Sweden** and **Norway**.

## *Baltic & Belarus Awards from ILGCN*

**2007 ILGCN Grizzly Bear** awards – honouring those fighting especially ferocious homophobia — were approved for the organizers of Pride and rainbow events in **Vilnius, Riga** and **Tallinn**. This year’s **Clio’s Silver Cup** award for outstanding LGBT history and documentation went to the “**Volunteers Over Borders**” in the Belarus city of **Gomel**

## *Toronto “Iranian” ILGCN Conference Stage Postponed*

Special greetings were received by the Vilnius conference from the organizers of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the 2007 ILGCN world rainbow cultural conference in **Toronto** (originally scheduled for June 20 as part of **Pride Toronto** but postponed with plans to hold this stage around September also in the Canadian city and at the **University of Toronto** and still keeping the special focus on **Iranians in exile** and the increasingly dangerous homophobia in Iran with whippings, arrests and executions.

Also displayed at the Vilnius gathering: historical panels from the History Secretariat and art work from the travelling **Tupilak (Nordic rainbow cultural workers)** and ILGCN art and photo exhibition.

The Vilnius conference also approved next year’s world conference sites: **Helsinki** in collaboration with the annual **Tribade Days & Nights Festival** and **Minneapolis/St. Paul** with the in co-operation **ILGCN History Secretariat** at the **University of Minnesota** — both in September, 2008.

## VILNIUS CONFERENCE APPROVES NEW SECRETARIAT FOR FILMS, FILM FESTIVALS

Emphasizing the enormous importance of rainbow films for the visibility of communities and the ability to reach beyond national borders, the conference approved the creation of a new **ILGCN Rainbow Film and Film Festival Secretariat** based in **Riga** — under the leadership of **Andrejs Visockis** of **Mozaika**, who says he will concentrate on helping launch new rainbow film festivals in the region (see addresses).



Lithuanians including ILGCN co-ordinator Arvydas Vogilis (center)

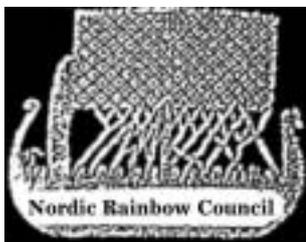


Anne Jaaskelainen (Tribade Festival) singing her own songs in Vilnius

## Supporting the ILGCN Information Secretariat:



Nordic rainbow cultural workers



# 10<sup>th</sup> Moonbow International Culture & Human Rights Festival...

(from page 1) were launched to boost international awareness and rainbow culture — without high price tags and open to everyone.”

Other artists, photographers and art work, musicians, singers, performers and seminar hosts are from Austria, Finland, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the USA

## *Nordic Baltic Rainbow Co-operation at Gothenburg Book Fair*

A traditional Moonbow supporter, the **Nordic Rainbow Council** will host a festival seminar on the coming conference on Baltic rainbow co-operation at the giant Gothenburg **Book Fair** and at the **Museum of World Culture** this September in that west coast Swedish city (*including delegates from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland*). ‘Another supporter, **Nordic Rainbow Humanists**, will participate in a seminar on boosting Nordic co-operation and confronting the fierce homophobic attitudes of religious institutions – especially in our eastern Baltic neighbours and in Russia and Belarus.



Swedish singer  
Elise Ria Borderline

Starting with the **Tupilak/ILGCN** art exhibition vernissage on Sunday July 29, the week-long festival will take place at **Galleri Café Aguéli** (*Blecktornsgärnd 9, Mariatorget*). On Saturday, August 4 a festival cultural evening and award ceremony will take place at **Musik Valvet** (*Gamla Stan, Kåkbrinken 5*).



## New photos in Tupilak/ILGCN Travelling Rainbow Art & Photo Exhibition



Eka Papinashvili,  
Georgia



George Rostiashvili, Georgia

.....in support of ILGCN work on Eastern European rainbow barricades.



**ILGCN Annual Awards:** (Proposals welcomed at all Secretariats)

**Rainbow Iceberg** — (international work)

**Orfeo Iris** (research in Nazi 6 neo nazi persecution of homosexuals)

**Grizzly Bear** (work in ferocious homophobic situations)

**Orfeo Musica** (international musical co-operation) **Arco Nordica** (Nordic co-operation)

**Sappho in Paradise** (libraries, publishing)

**Orfeo Imago** (graphic art & photography)



**Clio's Silver Cup** (LGBT history)

## DANISH WEBSITE: GLOBAL LINK to LESBIAN ART

**Denmark** —Feminine Moments is a research website which features links to lesbian fine art and bibliography of art books about lesbian and queer artists in visual art. Feminine Moments has been made to give the interested reader access to an archive - i.e. a list of art books and a list of art links – with information otherwise difficult to access in the mainstream medias in Europe, hoping that it will bring a greater appreciation of the art works by the artists, and of lesbian & queer lifestyles in general.



In the middle of the 1990'ies I felt that the world and especially Europe needed access to works of fine art by lesbian artists, but it was not until 2003 that I had gathered enough data to be able to present a substantial amount of data. I am not a curator, but a fine art photographer and webdesigner so I decided to launch a website.

I hope to be able to redesign the site next year so that any reader of the site can join as editor of the site.

— Birthe Havmøller of Feminine Moments and ILGCN co-ordinator for Denmark



## ILGCN World Cultural Conferences 2008

**Helsinki, Finland** – September

**Minneapolis/St. Paul, USA** - September

## ILGCN Secretariats

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*Andrejs Visockis (Mozaika- Latvia)  
ILGCN Rainbow Film Secretariat, Riga*