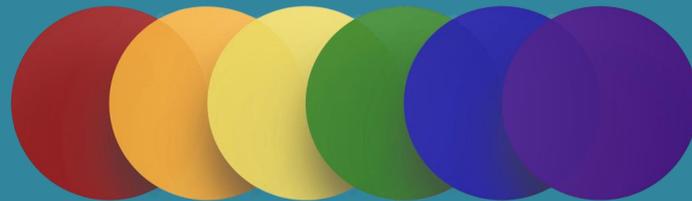




Digest

LGBT Issues in Belarusian Mass Media



Author: GayPress.eu

January-March 2020

The main issue in the first quarter of 2020 was connected with the situation of collection of more than 52000 signatures by various Christian believers under a group appeal with a demand to the Belarusian authorities to adopt a law, which would restrict 'LGBT-propaganda' in relation to children and youngsters.

Titles of publications in mass media:

[Church-goers Collected Thousands of Signatures against LGBT Propaganda. Seminars on Gender Equality Included](#)

[55,000 Signatures Collected in Belarus for Banning 'LGBT-Propaganda'. What Is Coming Next?](#)

[HIV Prevention, Seminars on Gender Equality, LGBT Flag – Religious Activists Propose to Make Them a Crime](#)

[52600 Signatures for Banning LGBT-Propaganda: Defense Measures or Enhancement of Hatred?](#)

[„HIV Prevention, Seminars on Gender Equality, LGBT-Flag“ Proposed to Be Criminalized by Believers](#)

[Believers Collected 52 000 Signatures against LGBT Propaganda](#)

[„They are Our Brothers and Sisters. However, We Can't Hail the Sin“: Christian Believers Have Told about Collection of Signatures against LGBT Values](#)

[The Belarusian Orthodox and Catholic Churches Ask Lukashenka to Ban LGBT Propaganda in Belarus](#)

[Over 52000 Believers Appeal to Authorities to Adopt a Law on Banning Propaganda of Homosexuality in Belarus](#)

[The Roman Catholic Church: Homosexuality Can Be Treated, Contraception and Abortion Should Be Banned .](#)



The Russian Web-portal ‘Zavtra’ (Alexandr Prokhanov – Editor-in-chief) responded to the situation with the publication: [Belarus Opposes This! How the Sister Republic Fights LGBT-Propaganda.](#)

In response to the collection of signatures, there was created a [counter-petition](#) “Against an Attempt to Ban Information about LGBT”. Also, a number of Belarusian civil society organizations and initiatives signed “[A Common Statement about the Activities on Discrimination of LGBT in Belarus](#)”:

1. „Journalists for Tolerance” Human Rights Initiative
2. „Identity and Law“ Initiative Group
3. DOTYK Queer Culture Festival
4. „Legal Initiative” National Public Organization
5. Human Constanta Human Rights Advisory Centre
6. “The Belarusian Documentation Centre” Private Establishment
7. “Viasna” Human Rights Centre
8. The Belarusian PEN-Centre
9. LGBTQ+ Community Centre
10. ‘New Regions’ Initiative
11. MAKEOUT
12. “Delo Pi_” Campaign Against Homophobia
13. „Her Rights” Centre for Promotion of Women’s Rights
14. Belarusian Helsinki Committee
15. Office for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
16. Barys Zvozkau Belarusian Human Rights House
17. „Inter“ Initiative
18. The Lawtrend Centre for Legal Information
19. The Liberal Arts European College in Belarus.

The situation development hasn’t been registered. None of official documents got adopted by governmental authorities at that.



The second most popular topic within the period under review was connected with a statement, delivered by Henadz Kazakievich, the Chief of Main Department on Drug Control and Counteraction to People Trafficking of Criminal Police at the Ministry of Interior of Belarus.

The ministerial official noted as follows: „The phenomenon of male prostitution is gradually developing. We state the fact basing upon our professional activity. We brought around 100 men to legal responsibility on administrative charges last year. And these aren't the traditional Alphonse kind people. This is gay prostitution, when men provide sexual services to men. Their age varies from 16 years old, which is the age of consent for sexual relations, to nearly 50 year old“.

Another broadly cited topic was connected with the published article [‘I’m Not Dangerous to Anyone’, where the most widely known openly gay person from Palessie area in the south of Belarus told about the peculiarities of being a living ‘propaganda’](#). The interviewee Yauhien Karpautsou, 29, from Mazyr replied to the most frequently asked questions and commented upon the existing stereotypes about LGBT.

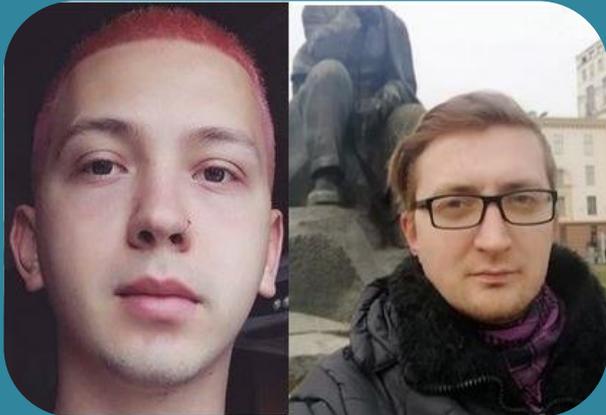




Gay Person from Belarus about Migration to Germany and His Marriage - 'My Husband Has Taken My Belarusian Surname'

Kirył Basalai, 38, lives an ordinary life in Germany. However, he was hiding himself in the closet just a couple of years ago. And he was doing all he could to leave Belarus. Kirył has told us how he chose the country for migration, how he got acquainted with his husband, and why he doesn't want to come to Belarus any more.

<https://blizko.by/notes/gey-iz-belarusi-o-perezde-v-germaniyu-i-svoem-brake-muzh-vzyal-moyu-beloruskuyu-familiyu>



Why Does the Church Bully Gays and It Is Not Regarded As Harassment? A Battle of Believers vs. LGBT

This publication was created as an attempt to model a dialogue between the people in it. We collected a group of characters, consisting of a heterosexual priest, a gay believer and a lesbian church-goer as well as a guy, who resigned from religion on learning he was gay. They answered our questions individually and didn't see each others' comments at that.

<https://kyky.org/pain/pochemu-tserkov-travit-geev-no-ne-schitaet-eto-nasiliem-batl-veruyuschih-protiv-lgbt>



The Most Famous Openly Gay Person from Palesie Told about Being a Living 'Propaganda'

The most famous open gay from Mazyr in Palesie area, Yauhien Karpavets, 29, told 'Paleskaya Viasna' if it may be possible to become a homosexual due to propaganda, what the stories about homosexuals really promote as well as why the propaganda is needed to LGBTQ+ community. Here are some quotations from his large interview.

<https://palesse.press/news.php?slug=118-1>



The Lives of Hrodna Residents with Unusual Surnames

Pavel Gay:

— I don't feel any discomfort having my surname. However, most probably, my children will have to change it for something else. My son is only 3.5 years old now, but my friends and a psychologist say that it won't be easy for him to have this surname in the future. My wife has decided to return her maiden name and change our children's surnames, too. So, I will be almost like Michael Jackson, who said that he had nothing apart from his car and him. I will have only my surname and me.

<http://vgr.by/2020/02/25/pivko-po-pasportu-kak-zhivut-grodnencyi-s-neobyichnyimi-familiyami/>



The Cases of Gay Prostitution More Frequently Registered in Belarus

“Around 100 men were brought to legal responsibility on administrative charges in 2019”, - stated Henadzi Kazakevich, the Chief of Main Department on Drug Control and Counteraction to People Trafficking of Criminal Police at the Ministry of Interior of Belarus. According to the ministerial top official, gay-prostitution is a new definition for our country, but it is gradually developing here. “These aren't the traditional Alphonse kind of people. The men provide sexual services to other men. Their age varies from 16 years old, which is the age of consent for sexual relations, to nearly 50 year old”, - he added.

<https://www.kp.by/online/news/3736424/>

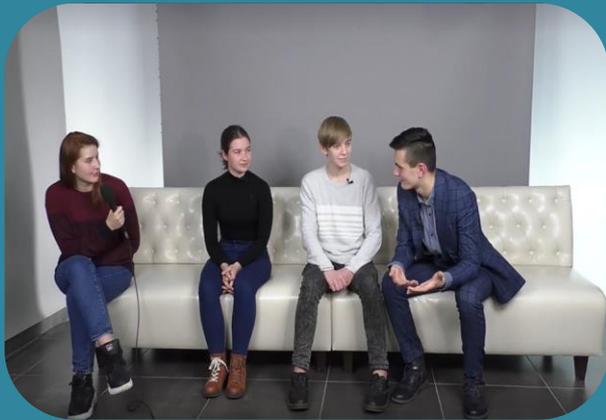
Publications in other media:

[Henadzi Kazakevich about Prostitution, Drugs, People Trafficking, and the Work of Belarusian 'Vice Squads'](#)

[Around 100 Men Persecuted for Practicing Gay Prostitution in Belarus in 2019](#)

[More Than 100 Men Fined for Gay Prostitution in Belarus in 2019](#)

[Around 100 Men Fined for Practicing Gay Prostitution in Belarus in 2019
Kazakevich about Queer People: 'The phenomenon of sex for money develops in Belarus'](#)



What Do We Know about LGBT-Community?

Finally, we've come to discussion of this sensitive and long-awaited topic at our 'Stumps of Revelation': 'LGBT in Modern Public Realities' The following questions were raised during the discussion: The essence of LGBT. The attitude towards LGBT at school and in the society in general. Is it an illness or a norm? Also, we prepared a small interview with a bisexual person.

<https://teenage.by/article/lgbt-soobshhestvo-cto-my-pro-jeto-znaem>



Petition against Attempts to Ban Information about LGBT

We believe that there's no place in the Belarusian society for the prevalence of values of one group (the Christian signees) over the values of another group (the people, who disagree with the petition) and we believe that it is not possible that some people are dictated to withstand from presentation of their life experience and their position.

<https://petitions.by/petitions/3464>



“The children already play in gays and lesbians at schools”: A Human Rights Activist Bandarenka Starts a Movement against ‘LGBT-propaganda’

Andrei Bandarenka, a former political prisoner and the head of 'Platform' informational establishment delivered a statement about his desire to found a civil movement 'in defense of family, religious, moral and cultural values, endangered by LGBT-propaganda'

<https://nn.by/?c=ar&i=248111&lang=ru>



How to recognize a pedophile?

Although any person can be a pedophile, most of them are men after all. The gender of victims is not significant for them. Both girls and boys are endangered. Some of them suffer from psychiatric diseases, such as personality disorder or depression. There exists nearly equal number of heterosexual and homosexual pedophiles is nearly equal. Thus, the idea that most of pedophiles are homosexual is nothing but a pure myth.

Zorkanews.by



Cruel Murder near Tarnova. Report

Viktar doesn't look older than 40. He is from Minsk region. He had a close friend Peter from a village close to his place of residence. The neighbors describe him as a spineless supple man, who gladly followed others. One can only guess what united a former prisoner and a mumbler. However, they were often seen together. And some people even say that the men were homosexuals and lived as a family.

<https://newgrodno.by/region/zverskoe-ubijstvo-pod-tarnovo-reportazh-s-mesta-proisshestviya/>



Gays and Lesbians May Be Permitted Legal Sex since the Age of 18 and All Others since the Age of 16

The Ministry of Health Care of Belarus made a proposal to increase the age of mutual consent for homosexual intercourse and other actions of sexual character from 16 to 18. Thus, if homosexual couples have sex under the age of 18, they are proposed to be prosecuted under article 168 of Belarus Criminal Code that envisages up to 4 years of restriction of freedom or imprisonment.

<https://www.kp.by/daily/27092.7/4164609/>



The Statistics of Crimes Committed by Pedophiles and Queer People Presented in Hrodna

"The reasons of this negative social phenomenon are explained by the rapid development of Internet and high popularity of social media among the child porn lovers, representatives of queer sexual relations and pedophiles as well as by promotion of non-traditional family values and LGBT movement internationally..."

Newgrodnobyl.com



The Belarusian Film „Il“ to Be Watched by Everyone Shown in Barysau

The feature movie touches upon several important social problems, including bullying, biased attitude towards HIV+ people, and homophobia. It is a story about two senior schoolchildren, who attend a tutor's classes together, watch films and sometimes drink at parties together as well as support each other, despite all difficulties and attacks of ill-mannered classmates.

Ex-press.by



Concise Political History of Modern Belarus

Uladzimir Matskievich, философ и методолог.

2010-2015: The people live their own lives with their own worries. Some people work hard and others beat the buck. One can notice the growth of non-political philistine civil activity: they defend animals, monuments, green belts, victims of domestic violence, queer people of all kinds from LGBT to the supporters of traditional family values.

<https://eurobelarus.info/news/policy/2020/02/17/kratkaya-politicheskaya-istoriya-sovremennoy-belarusi.html>

Gaypress.eu Web-site remained to be the only LGBT-portal in Belarus with the daily frequency of publications in the first quarter of 2020. The scope of publications included global and Belarusian news, the content in Belarusian language and original materials. According to Google Analytics, the average audience of Gaypress totaled around 17505 unique Web-users a month in January – March 2020.

A new #stopstereotypes Web-section was founded on the Web-site in the framework of 'No Stereotypes!' campaign in March 2020. It is aimed at elimination of basic stereotypes, which exist in mass media in relation to LGBT-community. The original publications, which were published in the Web-section in the first quarter of 2020 were as follows:

[The Main Stereotypes about LGBT. Part 1](#)

[The Main Stereotypes about LGBT. Part 2](#)

[5 Stereotypes about LGBT that Should Have Been Forgotten Long Time Ago](#)

[TOP-stereotypes about Asexuals, Lesbians, and Intersex People](#)

[Do You Have These Stereotypes about Pansexuals? How Do They Differ from Bisexuals?](#)

[How to Understand Pansexuals and Get Rid of Stereotypes?](#)

[Stereotypes of Belarusians about LGBT Couples. Part 1](#)

[Stereotypes of Belarusians about LGBT Couples. Part 2](#)



Moreover, the following original materials were published on Gaypress.eu Web-site in the first quarter of 2020:

[How Do Gay People Live in India? Interview with a Guy from Delhi](#)

[Does the Ministry of Health Care Struggle against Gays and Lesbians?](#)

[The Essence of Erectile Dysfunction](#)

[5 Surprising Facts about HIV You Should Know](#)

[A Hot Gay Festival to Take Place in Croatia on June 14-17](#)

[How Does Gay Art Survive in Peking When Censors' Pressure Grows](#)

[17 Books for Children with Queer Characters that Deserve Your Attention](#)

[22 Pieces of Advice about Sex You Should Have Known Before](#)

Gay Dating Services and COVID-19: Humour and Warnings As a Response to the Threat

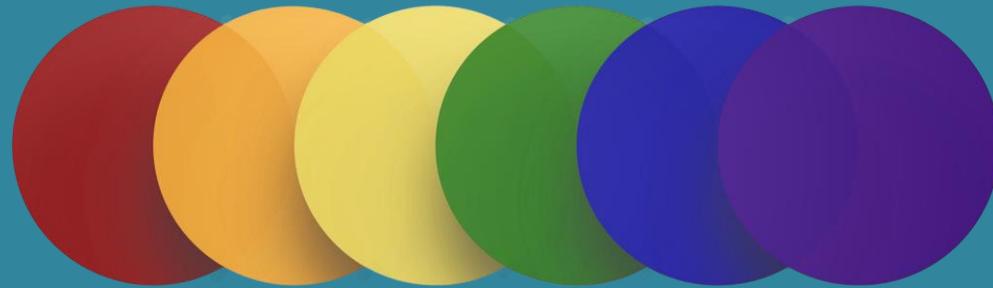
[The Deadly Sins of Gay Dating Online. Stop Doing This Please!](#)

[Get Acquainted with a Collector of LGBTQ Art from New York](#)

[How Should LGBT React on Cases of Microaggression? Essential Guide. Part 1](#)

[How Should LGBT React on Cases of Microaggression? Essential Guide. Part 2](#)





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