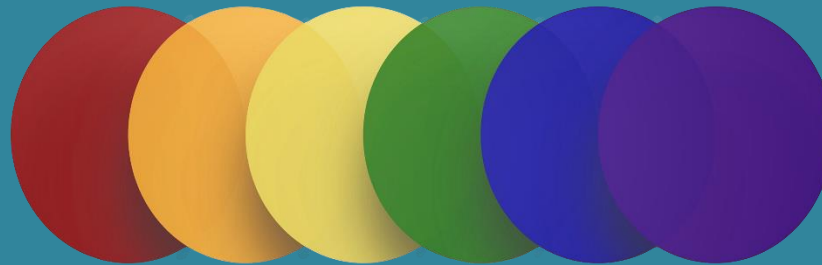




DIGEST

LGBT ISSUES IN BELARUSIAN MASS MEDIA



Author: GayPress.eu

April – June 2020

The Belarusian Presidential election, which has been scheduled for August 9, 2020, has made an impact on the general media agenda of the country.

Eight Belarusian LGBT-projects and initiatives published [The Appeal of LGBT-projects and Initiatives to the Candidates for Presidency in the Republic of Belarus](#).

Apart from the expected questions to the presidential candidates about their attitude to LGBTQ+, there appeared reports in mass media [about one-sex relations](#) of one of candidates. No evidence was presented at that.

It has become a tradition for the diplomatic corps accredited in the Republic of Belarus to celebrate May 17, the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

The titles of publications on the issue:

[The UK Embassy in Minsk Showed the Rainbow Flag Again.](#)

[The Rainbow Flag Can Be Seen on the UK Embassy Premises for the Third Year in a Row.](#)

[Have a Look: A Video in Support of LGBTQ-people Recorded by 18 Diplomats .](#)

[The Heads of Diplomatic Missions in Belarus Recorded a Video Appeal against Discrimination in Relation to LGBTI-community.](#)

[Will Karayeu Comment upon the LGBT-banner Appearance on the British Embassy?](#)

In light of this news, it looks remarkable that one of leading Belarusian online trade platforms posted a commercial offer of [LGBT Rainbow Flag 90x135 cm](#).

The recent issue of [the First Belarusian Gay Podcast](#) was dedicated to the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, too.

The second quarter of 2020 appeared to be rich in electoral events in our region.

Apart from the Presidential election in Belarus and the voting for Constitutional amendments in Russia (the latter topic was not covered with reference to LGBT-context in Belarusian mainstream media), Presidential elections took place in Poland.

The first round of Presidential election took place on June 28, 2020. The second round of elections was scheduled for July 12, 2020.

The acting President of Poland Andrzej Duda was often mentioned in the Belarusian mass media with presentation of his position regarding LGBT.

It should be mentioned that his recent homophobic expressions evoked a storm of indignation in the West.

Among other, Duda said about homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people as follows: 'They are trying to convince us that these are people. However, it is nothing but ideology'.

Duda's main political opponent Rafal Trzaskowski signed the so-called 'LGBT+ Charter' in support of the vulnerable and highly stigmatized social group.

However, he preferred to avoid highlighting the topic during the presidential campaign so as not to scare away the conservative voters.

The titles of publications on the issue:

[The Polish Duda.](#)

[Who will Help Duda?](#)

[A New President Being Elected in Poland. The Observers Forecast that the Winner will Be Known after the Second Round of Elections.](#)

[Portfolio in Cartoons: Intrigue beyond the Bug.](#)

Another non-political topic that was mentioned quite often in relation to LGBT-thematic within the period under review was related to... cartoons.

Here are some titles on the topic:

[A TV Channel for Children Hinted that Sponge Bob is Gay. The Social Media Exploded .](#)

[The Disney Company Produced a Cartoon about a Gay Preson.](#)

[You will Be Surprised, but Modern Cartoons aren't So Innocent. An Expert Explained What was Wrong with Them.](#)

The Pride Month was globally celebrated in the COVID-19 pandemic realities. You can learn more about the diverse celebrations under the [link](#).

The Digest highlights of LGBTQ in Belarusian Mass Media and the results of Gaypress.eu activity in the 2nd quarter of 2020 are presented below.

A new video project [GayPress Talks](#) was started in April 2020. The Belarusian homosexuals shared their experience of facing discrimination in their lives there.

Moreover, we recommend to get acquainted with publications on LGBTQ problematic on the Web-sites of [Journalists for Tolerance, Meeting, and Makeout.](#)



Babaryka about same-sex marriages

'The people's right to their behavior and their choice in life is inalienable. The same goes well for same-sex marriages', [TUT.BY](#) quoted a prospective presidential candidate Viktor Babaryka.

'Human rights should be strictly observed. It doesn't depend upon the communities the person represents. We are entitled to have the partners we choose, the politician noted in his live presentation according to [KYKY.ORG](#).



Distance Voluntary Service: Seven Options to Help

The 34Mag journalists promoted the 'Open Soul' Center for Rehabilitation and Support of People with Mental Disorders that looked for LGBTQ-community representatives, who were ready to discuss the statistically high level of depression, eating disorders, dysmorphobia, and anxiety disorders among LGBTQ-people.

<https://34mag.net/post/valancyorstva-na-dystancyyoncy>



'They Called Me 'Fag' and 'Homo'. However, Everything Appeared to Be More Complicated'

Hleb's personal story about agenderness, 11-year-long bullying, girls' dresses, discrimination inside LGBT-community and his mother's courage to accept her son.

<https://citydog.by/post/zhb-agender/>



Free Extracorporeal Fertilization As a Catastrophe for Demographic Policy

The access to extracorporeal fertilization and surrogacy is extremely important for the people, who live in same-sex unions and partnerships. To give birth with the use of extracorporeal fertilization is practically the only way for them to become parents. Therefore, LGBT-activists are ready to overcome any obstacles, in order to reach the goal. <http://prolife-belarus.org/besplatnoe-eko-kak-katastrofa-demograficheskoy-politiki.html>



'The Internet Suicide or Real Life!' A Personal Story by Nick Antsipau, MAKEOUT Co-founder

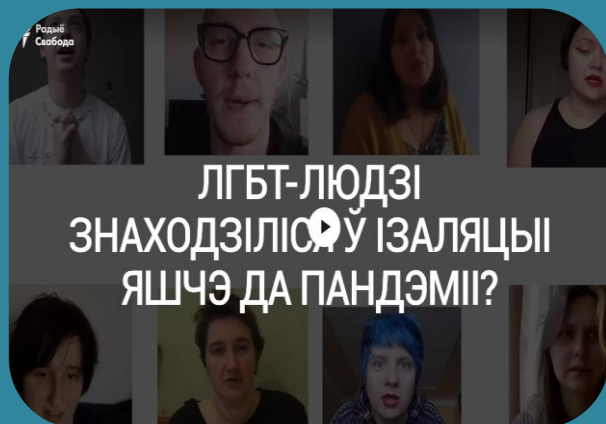
Although it was the unplanned decision, Nick decided to return to Facebook on May 17, the Day of Fight with Homophobia. He felt that he had to be visible as much as possible on this important day.

- No matter what, I made up my mind to have a say. I decided to take the step not only for me, but also for my allies in the LGBTQ-movement. <https://oeec.by/people/tak-mozhno/na/>

LGBT-people about Isolation before Pandemic

May 17 is the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

LGBT-people shared their experience of isolation they suffered from before the COVID-19 pandemic with Radio Liberty / Radio Free Europe. <https://www.svaboda.org/a/30617312.html>





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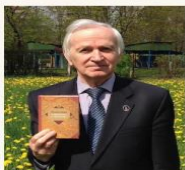
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Заместитель директора



ВАСИЛИЙ МАЛАШЕНКОВ
Председатель



ВИКТОР ВЛАДИМИРОВИЧ
ЧЕЧЕТ



ЕВГЕНИЙ ЛАЗДИН
Председатель территориального совета



What Does Inclusion Mean? (video)

Creation of comfortable living conditions for various groups of people, including parents with small children, elderly and disabled people, LGBT, migrants etc. is fundamentally important.

Among other, it is important to integrate diverse social groups and create equal opportunities for them in the fields of education and work (that almost everyone knows) as well as in other fields of life, including equal access to culture, health care, sports, sex, travel etc.

<https://humanlibrary.by/shto-takoe-inklyziya/>

Common Statement by 'Fathers' Council' and 'Paternity' NGOs

'We express serious concern with activity of LGBT-community that, in our opinion, ruins the traditional moral foundations of Belarusian society and threatens the national security of our country. Also, we stand up against free access of underaged people to the films, cartoons, series, and other production, where LGBT-relations are presented.'

<https://otcovstvo.by/news/219-sovmestnoe-zayavlenie>

Amnesty International Presented a Report on Human Rights in Belarus

The chapter on [Belarus](#) includes critical notes concerning the presence of capital punishment, restrictions on Internet freedom and freedom of speech, parliamentary elections, discrimination of Roma and LGBT-people, as well as severe punishment on the articles, which are used for prosecution of drug users, including the underaged ones.

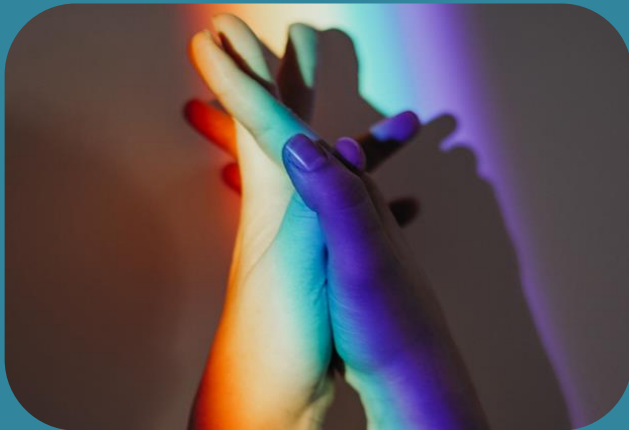
<https://reform.by/amnesty-international-predstavila-doklad-o-pravah-cheloveka-v-belarusi>



TEST: How Resistant Are You to Stereotypes about LGBT?

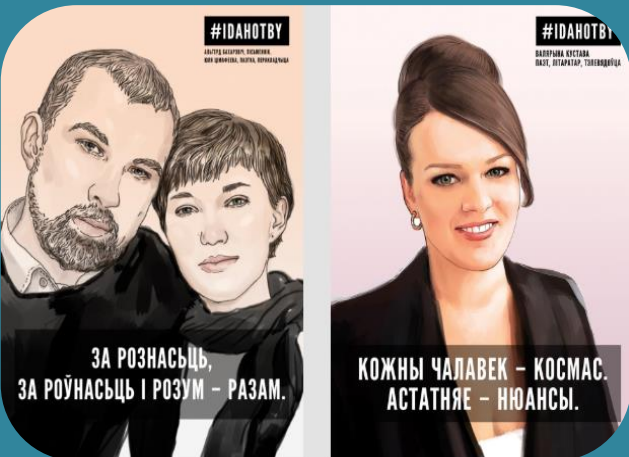
The test includes 12 questions, containing wide-spread beliefs about lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people. Check yourself how resistant you are to stereotypes about LGBTQ+.

<https://udf.by/news/tests/211381-test-naskolko-vy-ustojchivy-k-stereotipam-ob-lgbt.html>



The Marriage Matters: What Can You Learn from LGBTQ Couples in Sex and Relationships

One-sex couples have got the right to marry only since recently. And only in few places. Therefore, they regard the issue as seriously as possible. At the same time, heterosexual couples regard their right to marry as something natural. Some of them keep saying that they don't need 'a piece pf paper' to confirm their intentions. Whilst one-sex couples are on the seventh heaven, having the opportunity to have their relations officially registered by the state. Citydog.by



6 Examples of Support to Activists by Celebrities

DOTYK has issued a series of posters-postcards with portraits of famous Belarusian celebrities with their words in support of LGBT-people.

The *Shuma* music band and 'Sprava Pi_' Campaign in memory of Misha Pishcheuski started the #superparents long-term flash-mob, dedicated to relations between parents and children as well as to the problem of hate and bullying in relation to LGBT-people.

<https://34mag.net/post/yak-zorki-dapamagayuc-aktyvistam>



The Concept and Operation Rules of BAJ Ethics Committee

'The Ethics Committee regarded a case that had been submitted in reaction to a very rude comment under an article on the LGBT issue. During the investigation, the editorial acknowledged its mistake and deleted the comment. However, to tell you the truth, I don't understand the reason to publish the stuff that provokes such an explosion of xenophobia and increases aggression in the society.' [BAJ](#)



Is There LGBT Propaganda among the Youth in Belarus?

Have a look at Minsk dwellers, expressing their opinion on the issue of LGBT propaganda. A street poll in Minsk.

<http://www.legin.by/posts/197>



COVID-19 Ruined LGBT Ideology

'Where are our LGBT now? Where are our fighters with Harvey Weinstein and representatives of one hundred and forty eight genders? The left-wingers have come down and become silent. They are neither seen nor heard now!' [Link](#)

The Pandemic Returns the World to Traditional Values

'The cancelled 'Pride Marches', a strike on the global gay-lobby, the return to traditional family values: the world will change for the better after the epidemic.' [Link](#)

GayPress.eu remained to be the only LGBT News Portal in Belarus with 1-2 daily updates in the 2nd quarter of 2020. Among other, the Web-resource presented news from Belarus and the world as well as the original content and translations in the Belarusian language. The number of unique Web-visitors in June 2020 totaled 24,441 people (according to Google Analytics).

The Gaypress.eu Web-site editor's efforts on posting the original publications on [Yandex.Zen](#) have led to the audience growth. In particular, the Gaypress.eu publications were viewed **158,629** times and read completely over 30,000 times in June 2020. The monthly audience totaled **26,000** Web-users. And the figures continue to grow.

12 original video publications were watched over 55,000 times on TikTok in June 2020. 4 video materials were viewed over 10,000 times at that.

'[No Stereotypes!](#)' (#stopstereotypes) media campaign was continued by Gaypress.eu in the 2nd quarter of 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 media-campaign Web-section, were as follows:

[Does the Bible Really Condemn Gay People? Are These Just More Stereotypes?](#)

[There Weren't Gay People in Sodom!...](#)

[Marriages of Gay People: Simple, Cosy, and Warm. Photo Report to Refute Stereotypes](#)

[Who Is the Man, and Who is the Woman in Gay Couples?](#)

[Do Gay People's Children Become Gay?](#)

[Are Bisexuals Just Promiscuous?..](#)

[Biphobia and Monosexism. Does Bisexuality Really Exist?](#)



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

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

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

[Test: How Resistant Are You to Stereotypes about LGBT?](#)

[The Stereotypes about LGBT-people in the Belarusian Mass Media](#)

Over 150 publications were published on [**GayPress.eu**](#) during the 2nd quarter of 2020. They included original text / video / audio materials, the LGBTQ news from Belarus and the world, including original and translated articles in the Belarusian language.

Gaypress.eu in the social media:

[Facebook](#)

[ВКонтакте](#)

[Яндекс. Дзен](#)

[Twitter](#)

E-mail: GayPress.eu@gmail.com

