



# DIGEST

LGBT ISSUES IN THE BELARUSIAN MASS MEDIA



[GPress.info](http://GPress.info)

April – June 2021

The LGBTQ+ thematic was quite infrequently covered in the Belarusian independent mass media in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. It is nice to note that the publications mostly contained correct vocabulary.

Among the breaking news, we would like to note the change of design and main domain for Gaypress.eu Web-site. The updated Web-resource can be found under the link: <https://gpress.info/>.

As before, it is possible to buy [a rainbow flag](#) in a Belarusian online store.

It was a real surprise of the quarter to find a Web-site in the Belarusian domain zone, which promotes the so-called LGBT [yaoi](#) (slash) issues.

It was an unpleasant surprise to know that a new Web-site of "Belarusian Slavic Committee" appeared [online](#). A map on the Web-resource shows a common territory, including the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland and some other countries in the region.

One of the headings on the Web-resource highlights "a collection of films for getting better awareness of dangers of globalization for Belarusians and the mankind". The collection contains a movie under the title: "The Oblivion of Faith: A Swedish lesbian bishop wants to remove crosses from churches to please Muslims."

**The activity of Belarusian state-owned media in the LGBTQ coverage was a kind of discovery and sensation in the second quarter of 2021.**

One of leading channels of state propaganda ANT TV channel posted a very specific [text](#) (as for the choice of topic and neutrality of presentation) for them: 'These celebrities have modified their gender. You will be shocked!'

There were presented photos of foreign celebrities and their concise stories on the gender correction.

One more interesting text of the kind appeared on another propagandist Web-site a bit later.

BelTA is the main pro-governmental news agency in Belarus. Its interest in the coverage of LGBTQ+-issues was never noticed before. However, they published breaking [news](#): "[A Singer] Lolita Tried on a Bright



Swimming Costume and Made a Strong Statement'. The content of the statement was explained in the article: 'I ask you to regard me as an LGBT-icon in this swimming costume', she said.

The peace of news was presented in the gossip column.

The Belarusian State TV (BT-1) showed two videos on the LGBT thematic one after another:

[The US Ministry of Defense Refused to Hang Out Flags of LGBT-Community,](#)

[Hungary Adopted a Law on the Ban of LGBT Propaganda. Europe Got Offended.](#)

Then, they showed [a story](#) in the 'The Main Air' analytical program in the evening under the title: 'The Violent LGBT-Tolerance. How the West Manipulates Lithuania and Ukraine'.

All of a sudden, the story was re-posted on the Web-sites of several district newspapers. This thematic is definitely outside of the main focus of these media that mostly cover the actual situation in their regions.

However, the BT-1 video appeared on the Web-sites of '[Luninets Online](#)', '[Pinsknews.by](#)', and '[The Working Days of the District](#)' (Pruzhan, Brest region).

Apart from this mentioning of LGBTQ + topics, there was noticed another article in "Soviet Byelorussia" governmental daily, which aimed to discredit a civil society activist and politician Volha Karach. (See details below.)

The use of LGBTQ + topics for propaganda is obvious. BelTA and ANT provided information neutrally. What was it? A test ball? The testing of public reaction?

Apparently, the audience did not pay much attention to these texts and the authorities decided to "explain" how to treat LGBTQ + "in the proper way".





## **“The Alien Home. A Session with Debunking”**

“I present to you an outstanding opposition activist Volha Karach. What is worth in the very least her advice to young people to pretend to be gay, so as not to go to the army. [We'll be back to her methods shortly...](#)”

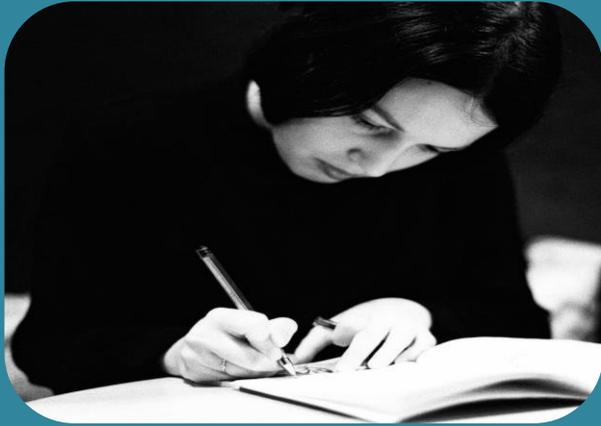
She deals with almost all areas under which it is possible to get money. Urbanism, housing, public transport, gays, lesbians, transgender people, health care, political prisoners, children, drug addicts, people with disabilities...”

## **“About LGBT, the oppressed, the offended, the colored hair, femininities, Zoomers, Tik-Tok trends and what else is bothering you there”**

“It makes no sense to fight the imposed LGBT agenda, the more so you can consume the spaghetti. [The world will never be ruined by the fact that society finds important topics for discussion](#), which break out in places where one part wants to give up everything old and the other is afraid of everything new. ”

## **“A Russian LGBT Activist Detained at Minsk Airport For a Joke about TNT”**

“[Maria Rymar, the lawyer of 'Avers' LGBT Public Movement](#) from Samara (Russia) was detained at the Minsk National Airport for joking irrelevantly about TNT, human rights activists reported.”



**"I did not want to hear accusations that the protest would lose because of LGBTQ flags." The girl produced the "Love" Movie. It is worth watching**

"The ["Love" documentary](#) by Darya Triden and Darya Baryshnikova was released in March 2021. This film is about love, protests and homophobia. The film director Daria Triden has told about the film shooting, the Akrestsin Pre-trial Detention Center, and comments of Belarusian people."



**"I realized I was gay because I was attracted more to guys"**

"Araz was born and raised in Turkmenistan, studied in Belarus, and now lives in Germany. [He has told how gay people live in three different countries.](#)"

**"Anti-stress toys: relaxing or tiring?"**

"By the way, some countries have raised the issue of banning the simple dimple. [The critics note that the toy promotes LGBT.](#)"





**“It is horrible to hear from friends ‘I’m sorry, but we’ll throw grenades at you.’”**

“Vera is a lesbian, she was 22 years old at the time of the interview. She moved to Minsk from Odessa lately. [The girl shared her thoughts on how LGBT people live in Belarus and Ukraine.](#)”



**“The list of proposed amendments to the Constitution of Belarus”**

“Two terms for the presidency, the abolition of the death penalty, a ban on gay marriage. [Here is the list of amendments to the Constitution of Belarus, which are proposed by parties and NGOs.](#)”



**“Visiting an engineer to tidy the eyelashes. How men from Hrodna work in the field of beauty”**

[Maxim Palchykau became a master of pedicure](#) after massaging his wife's feet at the end of a hard work day...

At the end of the course, Maxim made a T-shirt for himself with "I'm not gay" inscription on it.



## "The Consideration of [LGBT] Propaganda Law and the Importance of Safe Spaces"

"We will touch upon another important issue for our society: the life and activity of [LGBTQIAP + people in Belarus](#)."

## "The "Queer Smoking Room" Podcast Started about LGBTQ+, Protests, and Self-care"

[The RADA Youth Council has launched the "Queer Smoking Room" Podcast](#) about Belarus, protests, self-care and queer. The show is created with the participation of Andrei Zavalei, the coordinator of the "Pi\_Case" project, as well as a journalist and writer Tony Lashden."



**Change, self-love and Minsk - these are 7 Belarusian podcasts you should also listen to**

**"Queer Smoking Room": about LGBTQ, but not only Who is doing?**

The [podcast is being made by LGBTQ activists](#) Tony Lushden and Andrei Zavalei. Both have many years of experience of self-acceptance, activism and life in a country that is not the most tolerant of LGBTQ culture.



**“Out of the frying pan into the fire: a transgender person from Maladzechna to be extradited to Belarus from a jail in Russia”**

"[According to human rights activists](#), it was decided to extradite Nazar Hulevich to Belarus on the day of his release from custody."



### **“How to Avoid Raising a Child as a Homosexual”**

“A lot of articles focus on how to avoid bringing up a child with [homosexual attractions](#), how to recognize the wrong orientation of your child at the early age and how to understand the reasons for its occurrence.”



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