**QUARTERLY DIGEST**

**LGBTQ+ ISSUES IN THE BELARUSIAN MASS MEDIA**

*April – June 2022*

The LGBTQ+ issues were scarcely covered in the Belarusian pro-governmental mass media in the 2nd quarter 2022.

At least the intensity of passions subsided. Apparently, the orders were fulfilled, and the implementers calmed down.

However, it does not mean that the LGBTQ community has completely left the agenda of propagandist media, since it is the magic wand that they can always grab onto when they lack arguments.

Still, the second quarter of 2022 appeared to be rather encouraging.

Among other, it is worth mentioning a publication, dedicated to the sensational book *‘Summer in a Pioneer Tie’* on the website of *‘SB. Belarus Today’* newspaper. It is evident that the author of this article didn’t read the book, taking the most striking excerpts from it only. However, the quotes make the best promotion for the book! Thus, unexpectedly for them, the sb.by editorial representatives facilitated dissemination of ‘non-traditional’ values, as they refer to them.

A biting opus on the website of the ‘Civil Accord’ movement can be regarded as another small but pleasant victory. It is clear from the description of the movement that it is not a champion of LGBTQ people: ‘‘Civil Accord’ ... advocates for strengthening the alliance with Russia, developing the Union State, maintaining the state status of Russian and preventing the forced imposition of Belarusian.’ Thus, the author of this publication narrated about the closure of the odious pro-government Telegram channel ‘Zheltye Slivy’ (word play - ‘Yellow Plums’ / ‘Yellow Leaks’), in which the so-called ‘repentant’ videos with the forced outing of LGBTQ-Belarusians was repeatedly posted. ‘On the one hand, we seem to be on the same side of the barricades, but on the other hand, there is no need for enemies with such friends’, the author concluded.

The emerging trends in the 2nd quarter of 2022 included a significant decrease in the number of materials on LGBTQ+ topics in independent media, up to the complete absence of any materials in some of them.

Our fears have come true: the LGBTQ agenda is being squeezed out by other news from the media space.

It should be underscored in this respect that independent media have been largely destroyed in Belarus, the survivors relocating to other domain names.

[***GPress.info***](https://gpress.info/) ***Editorial Team***

**LGBT parade through the eyes of a Belarusian athlete: a bunch of people, support for Ukraine and love**

Katsiaryna Snytsina, an activist of Free Association of Athletes spoke on the topic of LGBT on June 4, 2022. In the morning, the basketball player announced that she would attend the Baltic Pride. It is an annual parade in support of issues of tolerance and the rights of the LGBT community. The event was held in Vilnius on that day. (The Lithuanian Baltic Pride organizers arrange it in turn with Riga and Tallinn.)

<https://by.tribuna.com/tribuna/blogs/socialfootball/3049313.html>

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**Point of view. Abbess Gabriel about LGBT people, family values and the visit of Patriarch Kirill**

<https://minsknews.by/tochka-zreniya-igumenya-gavriila-o-lgbt-semejnyh-czennostyah-i-vizite-patriarha-kirilla/>

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# Tolerance. Big Poll Results

# “In our Instagram, we decided to conduct a large survey and find out if our fellow citizens are tolerant and how they generally treat representatives of sexual minorities.”

<https://vitebsk.biz/news/46052/>

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# "WHO" of an unhealthy person: what does the World Organization need our children for?

# “It’s as if they are poking a stick at the society, whether they would react or not. Whether they can continue to slip trash to the Russian-speaking people to promote their goals or whether they should take a wait-and-see position for a while.”

<https://vecherniy-mogilev.by/voz-nezdorovogo-cheloveka-dlya-chego-vsemirnoj-organizacii-nashi-deti/>

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# Thong party and men's go-go: how to have fun in the only gay bar in Minsk

﻿﻿“Gays and lesbians are no longer perceived as a direct threat in Belarusian society. Therefore, the guys who march under multi-colored banners can rest with the piece of mind in the very center of Minsk. Tochka.by got to one of the theme parties.”

<https://tochka.by/articles/life/stringi_pati_i_muzhskoy_gou_gou_kak_razvlekayutsya_v_minskom_gey_bare/>

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# Presentation of ‘The Art of (Not) Remembering’ photobook by Volha Bubich

Collected from two types of memories (what you most want to remember and what you want to forget), Volha's book is a kind of collection of private stories, an archive of portraits of Belarusian women and LGBT+ people, collected as an attempt to document the processes of forgetting and remembering. <https://baj.by/be/content/prezentacyya-fotaknigi-volgi-bubich-mastactva-ne-pamyatac>

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## **International Family Day Events**

“E.g., the teenagers had a question about the difference in the age of spouses, about families in which spouses are representatives of different faiths. The question was also raised about the attitude of the church towards LGBT communities and even the death penalty.”

<http://vpg.by/index.php/321-meropriyatiya-posvyashchennye-mezhdunarodnomu-dnyu-semi>

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## **Krystsina Banduryna in the "Words are stronger"Art Project**

## She is an LGBT activist, actively opposing domestic violence. Also, she actively participated in ‘My Right’ project within ‘Let’s Be Belarusians’ public campaign.

<https://budzma.org/news/slovy-matsney-banduryna.html>

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**The Functioning of Russian and Belarusian in the Conditions of Informatization of Society - 58th Scientific Conference of Postgraduates, Undergraduates and Students**

“E.g., if a minor is subscribed to anime groups, then from there he/she will be drawn into LGBT communities, since there’s a lot of mass genres in anime that promote these topics. And from LGBT groups, he/she will be drawn into the furry, slash, transgender communities, and then, wound up with all this, and confused about who he/she really is, the minor falls himself into depressive groups, and from there, into suicidal groups, respectively.”

<https://www.bsuir.by/m/12_100229_1_162731.pdf>

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**The Patriarch and Belarus Embraced by the ‘Russian World’**

“Patriarch Kirill did not condemn the Russian invasion, limiting himself to deep empathy for ‘everyone who was affected by the trouble’ and calling on ‘all parties to the conflict to do everything possible to avoid civilian casualties.’ And a little later, he announced the need to protect Donbass, which does not accept gay pride parades.”

<https://reform.by/315702-patriarh-i-belarus-v-objatijah-russkogo-mira>

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# Agafonau: ‘What is wrong with the Belarusian ‘information SWAT’?

# “The intensity of passions was so great that Ryhor Azaronak published a post in his Telegram channel, which I do not want to quote for reasons of censorship, but which boiled down to the fact that the Belarusian extremist and open homosexual Anton Matolka personally appeased the libertarian Pavel Durov, who hasn’t been noticed in sexual perversions so far, in order to ‘persuade him into doing petty dirty tricks.’”

<https://soglasie.by/2022/06/07/agafonov-chto-ne-tak-s-belorusskim-informatsionnym-spetsnazom/>

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# The theater festival in Niasvizh should become another tourist attraction of the region

“We met at a rehearsal of “The Missing” play before its first night performance in April. The theatrical team decided not just to surprise, but in a sense even shock this time. There are only three characters and one decoration. A rich child-killer who brought her lover to death, an intellectual lesbian who beat off her cousin's girlfriend, and a family tyrant.”

<https://www.sb.by/articles/muzh-i-zhena-v-roli-lyubovnikov.html>

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# “Are you raising children in the proper way? Beware of gays in the books the kids read”

“While you are raising your children with traditional values, others like Elena Malisova and Katerina Silvanova are also educating them. Right now, they're imposing western ‘values’ on kids through their gay novel."

<https://www.sb.by/articles/otkuda-ne-zhdali-khotya.html>

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# The Belarusian sport fiercely abhors homosexuality: Kovalevich's ‘blue’ = ‘bad’, ‘Dynamo’ dismissed a specialist for sexual orientation, even the Nazis were blamed for the appearance of gays

“However, there’s more than enough one-sex relations in the Belarusian sport. Being a secret behind seven seals in the male community, they are not as carefully hidden in the female community, and the number of cases is much higher there.”

<https://by.tribuna.com/tribuna/blogs/editors/3045623.html>

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# ‘The politics is no longer a taboo.’ Russian football player talks about the war, Putin, homophobia, and the ‘repentant’

# Being interviewed, Nadezhda spoke about coming out and a homophobic society, compared the situation in her homeland and in Belarus, shared her opinion on how to resist propaganda, and described the Russia of the future. It turned out to be very emotional.

<https://news.zerkalo.io/cellar/16401.html>

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# ‘Nobody cares now if you love men or women.’ A story about a travesty diva and a biologist from Kyiv, who began to manufacture coffins at the beginning of the war

# Artur Ozerov from Kiev is a candidate of biological sciences, a chemist, a master ecologist, and a beekeeper in civilian life. Also, he is a drag queen. He used to perform in one of the clubs under the stage name Aura. However, after the start of the war in Ukraine, the habitual life of the 33-year-old Kiev dweller changed, indeed. <https://news.zerkalo.io/world/14881.html?c>

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