

LESBIAN RESISTANCE



One lesbian is a blessing,
hundreds coming together
are a revolution!

EL*C#3 Conference
Budapest, 29 Sept - 1 Oct 2022

PARTICIPANT'S PACK



Nicosia, 2016, participants from the ILGA Europe workshop, “Lesbian organising in Europe: where is the state of play for the lesbian movements?” – starting point of the EL*C



Vienna, 2017, local and international group of organisers of the first edition of the EL*C Conference

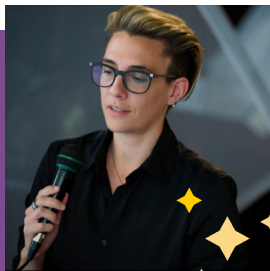


Kyiv 2019, local and international group of organizers of the second edition of the EL*C Conference

BOARD MEMBERS OF THE EUROCENTRALASIAN LESBIAN* CONFERENCE

Evgenia Giakoumopoulou (Greece, France) human rights advocate and lesbian feminist activist, dedicated to bridging the gap between grassroots CSOs and the international fora. She has been working with European Institutions and International NGOs for over 10 years, and currently heads the Council of Europe Programme Office in Montenegro. She joined EL*C in 2018 and was elected Co-Chair in December 2021.

EL*C #3 Conference emcee.



Joëlle Sambi (Belgium) is a lesbian and afrofeminist activist, poet, writer. She is co-chair of the EL*C Board since December 2021

Olena Shevchenko (Ukraine) is a feminist-lesbian activist, head of Insight public organization, board member of ILGA-Europe. She is a human rights defender and educator from Ukraine

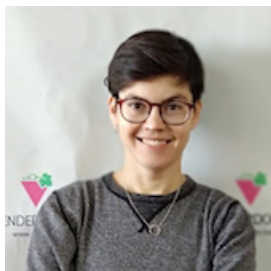


Zhanar Sekerbayeva (Kazakhstan) is the co-founder of Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative Feminita. She is a feminist, powerlifter and poet. In her work she aims at expanding the concept of 'gender' in the general public discourse through activism by mainstreaming questions of gender identity in academia.

EL*C #3 Conference emcee.



Élie Chevillet (France, Germany) is a French copywriter & creative translator and the writer of lesbian-feminist columns. She co-founded the lesbian* community L*-AUX in Augsburg, Germany and co-initiates the Dyke* March Aux. She loves basketball, chess, yoga and vegan cooking.



Anastasia Danilova (Moldova) is the executive director of the only LGBT rights advocacy organization in Moldova GENDERDOC-M Information Centre, trainer in organizational development and strategic planning, a lesbian activist and a feminist. Board member of EL*C since its creation, board member of ILGA Europe (till October 2022).



Evien Tjabbes (Netherlands) is a co-organizer of the first ever lesbian conference in Amsterdam, active in ILIS and ILGA for 20 years as member of their secretariats and participant of their conferences. Within EL*C she bridges the past to the present, works on governance and other internal issues. Enthusiastic tai chi practitioner.

Ruth Borgfjord (Romania) combines her passion for well-being, art and activism as the founder of Queer Sisterhood Cluj, an art psychotherapist in private practice and the President of the Art Therapy Association



Gulzada Serzhan (Kazakhstan) is the co-founder of Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative Feminita, LBQ Women Rights Defender, lesbian and feminist.



Helena Vukovic (Serbia) is a lesbian, LGBT activist and Coordinator for work with community in CSO Egal. She is one of the organizers of Pride Ponos Srbije since 2015. That same year, Helena brought the Ministry of Defense to justice for discriminating against her after her transition.



Alice Coffin (France) is a journalist, politician, lesbian activist and co-founder of EL*C. She is also the co-founder and key actor of several LGBT and feminist groups in France and Europe: Lesbiennes d'Intérêt Général, La Barbe, French Women Association of Journalists.



Marame Kane (France, Senegal) is the political co-coordinator of Inter-LGBT (Paris, FRANCE). She is an enthusiastic visual artist driven by representations of LGBT+ bodies, particularly black and brown people, women* figures. She strongly believes lesbians will save this world.

Natia Gvianishvili (Georgia, Sweden) is the advocacy program manager at RFSL – the Swedish Federation for LGBTQI Rights with a focus on Eastern Partnership countries and Russia. She was the first publicly open activist in Georgia and co-founded the first independent feminist collective – the Independent Group of Feminists – in 2011.





Rhonda D'Vine (Austria) is co-founder of Queer Polyamory Meetup Vienna, founding member of visiBi*lity Austria. She is a trans-feminine activist.

Andrea M. Alaya (El Salvador, Europe) is a lesbian Salvadoran refugee person based in Europe who has been working as a lawyer and Human Rights Defender of LGBTIQ communities's rights since 2009, also they work at the International Level in UN spaces. Currently they work as International Advocacy Advisor for RFSL - The Swedish Federation for LGBTQI rights.



Steph Florquin (France) is a lesbian feminist activist and social scientist specialised in gender equality. She has been involved in various feminist and LGBTQ/lesbian organisations and collectives in France and Belgium and has also dedicated her professional life to promoting the human rights of women, LGBTQI people and migrants working in the NGO sector on programming, advocacy and action research



Alexa Santos (Portugal) is a social worker who is passionate about youth work and social chance. Alexa is part of the board of the only lesbian association in Portugal, Clube Safo.



Syinat Sultanalieva (Kyrgyzstan) is a queer-feminist activist interested in sci-fi and decolonization of knowledge. She started her activism with LGBT organization Labrys and has actively engaged in Bishkek Feminist Initiative and in Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative Feminita. She dreams of one day writing an amazing queer sci-fi novel.



Virginie Jortay (Belgium) is a novel writer, theater and stage director. She directed the Superior School of Circus Arts in Brussels and managed the education and professional insertion programs at the CNAC. She is currently involved in radio production projects and has joined various editorial boards and committees.



Eva Perez Nanclores (Spain) is a lawyer and attorney in Spain, she founded her own firm S&P® Legal and a social media agency Retales Comunicación®. She is a women's and LGBTI rights activist. In 2018, she founded REDI, assuming the position of VP. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Fundación 26 Diciembre and is the General Secretary of LesWorking, the first international professional network for lesbian and bisexual women.

EL*C STAFF



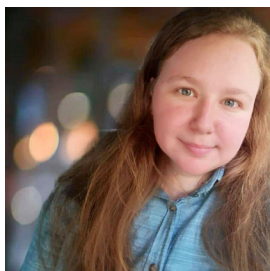
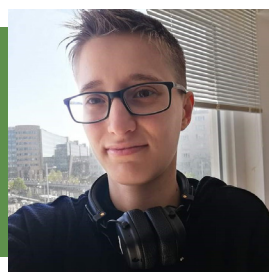
Silvia Casalino (Italy, France) is a lesbian activist, university teacher and filmmaker with a master degree in Space Engineering. From 2001 to 2018, she worked as project manager for the French Space Agency in Paris. In 2011, she directed her first documentary film, No Gravity addressing the journey of women in space technology. In 2017 she co-created the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community. After 3 years of chairmanship, she's currently the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community international NGO Executive Co-Director.

Dragana Todorovic (Serbia) is EL*C's scandalously efficient Executive Co-Director in charge of strategic development and fundraising. With an unparalleled passion for the lesbian movement and an entrepreneurial spirit that doesn't take "impossible" for an answer, Dragana (re)defines the limits of the lesbian skies, drawing from a robust and eclectic experience combining the private sector, governmental institutions, and national and regional NGOs. Her numerous talents stop at drafting her own bio, which she delegates blindly to her lover.



Leila Lohman (Switzerland, Belgium) holds an MA in human rights - Columbia University (NYC) and is a lesbian feminist activist and co creator of EL*C. She has held leadership positions, including co founder of LGBTIQ groups in Switzerland and was affiliated with Human Rights Watch, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as well as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Leila's passion lies in project implementation & activistic expressions through the arts.

Ilaria Todde (Italy, Belgium) is a butch from Sardinia, navigating the gender roles and expectations that rural, traditional societies impose on non-conforming people. Ilaria found a home in feminism and in the lesbian community and never left. Started out as a grassroots activist and community organiser, then has taken part, in different capacities, in the national struggles and advocacy efforts of the Italian and International lesbian and LGBTI movements. Ilaria is currently the EL*C Advocacy and Research Dykector.



Izabela Djordjevic (Serbia) is a woman, lesbian, activist and a true believer in people and change. One of those people who are expanding views of others, not just her own. She most probably marched for your rights too. Izabela finds inspiration and strength among her fellow lesbians, in poetry, cats and Excel spreadsheets. Started working in finances over 6 years ago, dealing with reporting, budgeting, logistics and all that jazz, then managed to combine 2 passions – finance and activism.

Oana Dorobanțu (Romania, Germany) is a queer feminist author, former journalist and activist working at the intersection of Roma and LGBTQI+ rights. Since 2016 they have been active in the local Romanian movements for promoting and protecting the rights of groups vulnerable to discrimination pertaining to housing, education and media representation. At EL*C they handle communication and media.



EL*C HUNGARIAN CO-ORGANIZERS



Labrisz Lesbian Association was founded in 1999 in order to raise public attention to discrimination against sexual minority women, advocate for their interests and dissolve prejudices against them. Labrisz aims to strengthen the self-acceptance and visibility of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women, providing safe and supportive spaces for them, and to support women's and feminist grassroots communities' work. We seek to facilitate the discovery, cultivation and promotion of Hungarian lesbian and feminist culture. To reach our aims, we organize community and cultural events, festivals, publish books, make films, run a herstory archive, and we have an education program for secondary schools, teachers and other school professionals. Labrisz published the controversial but popular children's story anthology *A Fairytale for Everyone* (Meseország mindenkié) in Hungarian in 2020, now translated into 10 European languages.

qLit - Magazine and community building primarily for lesbians* living in Hungary – this is qLit. Beside the magazine, we are organizing table tennis practices, pub quizzes, speed dating and improvisation theater performances focusing on lesbian* life situations.

The asterisk (*) after the word “lesbian” is there to indicate that our stories are aimed not exclusively at lesbians but to all women loving women (WLW).

We believe that our articles and events help today's LGBTQ+ women and girls to lay fresh eyes on things surrounding them.

Just like the lesbian* community, our team is also diverse. Among us you can find marketing experts, graphic designers, copywriters, translators, architects, researchers, artists, IT experts and so. Nevertheless, one thing definitely bonds us together: we are all open people who like to reflect and are willing to make things happen. We believe that it is worth talking openly about topics that concern all of us, and we have faith in our community who are partners in this conversation.



And many others... We are qLit!

Conference visual and cover art by [Marie J. Planques](#)

WELCOME TO THE EL*C

Dear Lesbians*,
Sweet activists, visionaries, artists, revolutionaries,
Dear you who make our asterisk shine bright,

Welcome to our 3rd lesbian conference in Budapest!

Our EL*C conferences are milestones; they are that one stop every two years that allows us, all of us to get together, to take a precious and unique moment to reflect on our movement, our accomplishments, our dreams, our strategies, our plans.

So we couldn't be prouder and more determined as we drop anchor in Budapest for the 3rd edition, to send a loud and resounding message of sisterhood and solidarity to the Hungarian community and all our communities everywhere resisting authoritarian regimes, overcoming daily narrow-minded aggressions, always persisting.

This is our time, our moment, and together with our fabulous partners from Labrisz Lesbian Association, qLit, and all of you, every single one of you, we will stand tall in the face of hatred and bigotry; we will defy misogyny and patriarchy.

The context in which we reunite is bleak, with a war ravaging Ukraine, a backsliding of women's and LGBTI rights across the world, and a pandemic that shattered the ways we interact and mobilise and which continues to loom over us. Gathering now and finding hope in the beauty and power of the lesbian tide is more important than ever.

We have come a long way since the first edition in Vienna in 2017, making history every step of the way. In 2019, in Kyiv, under the ultra-right's teargas, bomb threats and protests, we stood our ground and pledged to forge more permanent connections and strengthen our community through the establishment of a network. Three years later, we gather as a force of over 60 NGOs and hundreds of individuals, having smashed the hierarchies that kept lesbian-led organisations chronically under-resourced, and grabbed our seats at the institutional tables. However, we still have a long way to go, - and we have buckled up for the journey to (re)build the lesbian movement, to make sure that know-how and resources are free-flowing within the community, and that none of us, in all our differences, is left behind.

We can't wait for this time in Budapest, to share more knowledge, march side by side, build bridges with other regions, draw new horizons and concretely co-create our bright and fierce lesbian future. Sapphic love knows no men's borders, so this will also be the time to connect with our sister organisations around the world, because, hey, the goal is to lesbianize the world, the universe!

This conference, flying the flag of lesbian resistance, is honouring the power, courage, resilience, and fortitude of the many activists in our region and beyond, of our pioneers and our peers. We want to celebrate this lesbian one-of-a-kind resourcefulness and creativity which draws strength from being intrinsically outsider, from having to invent our own rules

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and living on our own terms in order to be ourselves.

We will celebrate the lesbian genius that makes us roll up our sleeves and get things done when the world collapses around us.

We will celebrate the vibrant diversity of our movement and hear from lesbians of all ages, genders, races, ethnic and religious backgrounds, with migrant backgrounds or disabled.

We will shed light on the brave and the visionaries amongst us, at the forefront of social justice movements, or revolutionising their fields from within - ultimately cleaning up the mess of cis-hetero-patriarchy. During the panels and workshops that you are animating, we will talk about lesbian arts and culture, about lesbian love and desire, and about the politics of it all; and we will harness our own destinies inspired by the lesbians hacking the future.

For three days, we shall refill our activist batteries and load on healthy amounts of rage, hope, love and courage!

In adversity we stand proud, visible, united, unapologetic and unyielding! In adversity, we shall thrive because a community of lovers can never be defeated!

Evgenia Giakoumopoulou & Joëlle Sambi Nzeba
EL*C Co-Chairs

About the term “lesbian”: EL*C uses the word “lesbian” as a broad term inclusive of lesbian, bisexual and queer women, both cisgender and trans, intersex and allosex, as well as non-binary persons who feel connected and related with lesbian struggles and identities. The asterisk in the title of our Conferences serves to indicate our inclusive stance, encompassing and describing the intersectional identities that compose the life of lesbian communities while using “lesbian” as a word that defies the compulsory heterosexuality and heteronormativity dominating of our societies, in a world that is still fiercely misogynistic and hateful against the LGBTI community.

WELCOME TO THE EL*C

Kedves Leszbikusok*,
Kedves aktivisták, művészek, forradalmárok,
Kedves mindenki, akik miatt a csillagunk fényesen ragyog,

Üdvözlünk benneteket a 3. leszbikus konferencián Budapesten!

Az EL*C konferenciák mérföldkövek; állomások kétévente, amelyek lehetővé teszik számunkra, hogy összegyűljünk és értékes időt szánjunk arra, hogy elgondolkodjunk a mozgalmunkról, az eredményeinkről, az álmainkról, a stratégiánkról, és a terveinkről.

Ezért nem is lehetnénk büszkébbek és elszántabbak, amikor Budapestre érkezünk a 3. EL*C konferenciára, hogy a testvériség és a szolidaritás hangosan zengő üzenetét küldjük a magyar közösségnek és minden közösségünknek mindenhol, ahol ellenállnak az önkényuralmi rendszereknek, legyőzik a mindennapi szűklátókörű agressziót, és minden körülmények között kitartanak.

Ez a mi időnk, a mi pillanatunk, és csodálatos partnereinkkel, a Labrisz Leszbikus Egyesülettel, a qLittel, és mindannyiottokkal együtt ki fogunk állni a gyűlölettel és a bigottsággal szemben; szembeszállunk a nőgyűlölettel és a patriarchátussal.

Zord idők járnak most, amikor újra találkozunk: Ukrajnában háború pusztít, a nők és az LMBTQI-jogok visszaszorulását tapasztaljuk az egész világon, és a világjárvány, amely gyökerestül változtatta meg azt, ahogy kapcsolódunk egymáshoz és mozgósítunk, továbbra is ott lebeg felettünk. Ezekben az időkben az összejövetelünk, a leszbikus kötelékek megerősítése, a remény elhozatala fontosabb, mint valaha.

Az első, 2017-es bécsi konferencia óta hosszú utat tettünk meg - minden egyes lépésünkkel történelmet írva. 2019-ben Kijevben, könnygáz, bombariadók és tüntetések közepette is megálltuk a helyünket, és megfogadtuk, hogy tartósabb kapcsolatokat építünk és hálózat létrehozásával erősítjük meg a közösségünket. Három évvel később, 2022-ben már több mint 60 civil szervezetből és többszáz magánszemélyből álló erőként gyűlünk össze, miután kikezdtük azokat a hierarchikus rendszereket, amelyek miatt a leszbikus szervezetek krónikusan alulfinanszírozottak voltak, és megszereztük helyünket az intézményi asztaloknál. Még hosszú út áll előttünk, de már becsatoltuk az öveket, hogy (újra)építsük a leszbikus mozgalmat, hogy biztosítsuk, a tudás, a tapasztalatok, az erőforrások szabadon áramolhassanak a közösségen belül, és hogy egyikünk se maradjon le, minden különbözőségünk ellenére sem.

Alig várjuk, hogy most Budapesten még több tudást osszunk meg egymással, egymás mellett meneteljünk, hidakat építsünk más régiókkal, új horizontokat rajzoljunk és együtt alakítsuk fényes és tüzes leszbikus jövőnket. A szapphói szerelem nem ismer férfi-határokat, így itt lesz az alkalom arra is, hogy a világ minden tájáról csatlakozzunk testvérszervezeteinkhez, mert a cél a világ, az univerzum élhetőbbé tétele a leszbikusok számára!

A konferencia a leszbikus ellenállás zászlaját lobogtatja, tiszteleg a régiókban és azon

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túl élő számos aktivista, úttörő és társ ereje, bátorsága, rugalmassága és kitartása előtt. Megünnepeljük azt az egyedülálló leszbikus leleményességet és kreativitást, amely abból meríti erejét, hogy eredendően kívülálló vagyunk, hogy a saját szabályainkat nekünk kell kitalálnunk, és a saját feltételeink szerint kell élnünk ahhoz, hogy önmagunk lehessünk.

Ünnepeljük együtt azt a leszbikus zsenialitást, amely arra készítet minket, hogy feltűrjük az ingujjunkat és aktívan tevékenykedjünk, amikor a világ éppen összeomlik körülöttünk.

Ünnepeljük együtt mozgalmunk vibráló sokszínűségét, a mindenféle korú, nemű, fajú, etnikai és vallási háttérű, menekült vagy migráns, és fogyatékkal élő leszbikusok.

Ráirányítjuk a figyelmet azokra a bátor és messzire látó aktivistákra, akik a társadalmi igazságosságért küzdenek, vagy belülről forradalmasítják a területüket – és végül eltakarítják a kuplerájt, amit a cisz-hetero-patriarchátus okozott. Az általatok vezetett paneleken és workshopokon beszélgetünk majd a leszbikus művészetekről és kultúráról, a leszbikus szerelemről és vágyról, valamint mindezek politikájáról. A jövőt meghekkelő leszbikusok inspirációjától hajtva kezünkbe vesszük saját sorsunkat.

A következő napokban újratöltjük aktivista-akkumulátorainkat, és egészséges mennyiségű dühvel, reménnyel, szeretettel és bátorsággal töltekezünk fel.

Amegpróbáltatásokbanbüszkén, láthatóan, egységesen, határozottan és megingathatatlanul állunk! A viszontagságokban gyarapodni fogunk, mert a szerető emberek közösségét soha nem lehet legyőzni!

Evgenia Giakoumopoulou & Joëlle Sambi Nzeba

Az EL*C társelnökei

WELCOME TO HUNGARY

Dear Friends and Guests,

On behalf of Labrisz and qLit, the two lesbian* organizations in Hungary, and co-hosts of the third EL*C Conference, we warmly welcome you in Budapest.

Thank you for being part of this important event! We wish you all a wonderful time at the Conference, the Dyke March and the EL*C Lesbian Party in our beautiful city. We wish you lots of fun, food for thought, many meaningful and inspiring encounters, new connections and reunions with old friends.

LGBTQI+ people are living challenging times in Hungary now. Your presence and support means a lot to our community. Being part of a big international movement gives us inspiration and encourages us to be persistent and united, never to get tired or give up when it comes to our rights and our lives in our country. We hope that the conference will send a strong message to those who need to hear it that Lesbians* are powerful, resistant and won't be silenced!

It is a great honor to be your hosts during these days. Thank you all for coming, let's have an unforgettable time together!

Labrisz Lesbian Association

qLit - Lesbian Magazine and Program Organizing Office

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ABOUT THE CONFERENCES

Why an EL*C Conference

Whereas most sub-communities included in the LGBTI community have managed to gather and structure their own forums, councils, and meetings in addition to the general LGBTI organizations in Europe, this has scarcely been the case for lesbians*. EL*C aims at making LBTIQ women and non-binary persons visible, strengthening their participation in decision making spheres, and increasing their access to human rights, social justice, economic justice, and wellbeing. It does so by influencing relevant policies on the national, regional, European and international levels, from the perspective of needs and interests of LBTIQ women and non-binary persons, while supporting the building of alliances, sharing of knowledge and consolidation of a thriving movement, able to shape and generate positive impact within its own community and beyond.

Key Goals of the Conference

At its heart the goal of the European and Central Asian Lesbian* Conference is to strengthen and consolidate the visibility of lesbians* within the LGBTIQ+ community and society at large in Europe and Central Asia. Our approach is to provide a space for lesbians* to convene politically, to work on a joint program for a strong transnational lesbian* movement and to allow the lesbian genius to shine.

We decided to hold our third conference in Budapest in order to join all other whistleblowers denouncing the resurgence of far-right politics and of anti-human rights narratives in Europe and other parts of the world. Our theme for EL*C #3 in Budapest 2022 is “LESBIAN RESISTANCE: one lesbian is a blessing, hundreds coming together are a revolution.” We are looking forward to sharing, learning and solidarizing with hundreds of strong, insightful lesbians.

The aim of the conference is to reunite amazing lesbian* activists to help [re]build a strong lesbian resistance movement while supporting the Hungarian lesbians on the ground in their fight against authoritarianism. This year we also take note of the war on Ukraine and show solidarity to our Ukrainian siblings in their bold fight for peace.

Ultimately, we seek to come out of the conference with a stronger, more vibrant EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community equipped to tackle all the needs of a progressive world in the making.

Statement on inclusivity

As a lesbian organization, EL*C cannot be blind to the fact, that trans and gender-diverse people have historically faced exclusion from the lesbian and feminist spaces. While we have partially moved away from the narrow understanding of gender and sexuality, our trans and non-binary siblings continue to face erasure, their identities are being questioned and vilified, both by the anti-gender movements as well as within their own feminist and queer communities. This is something, that we at EL*C do not accept and commit to oppose within our organisation and our spaces.

We are also conscious of the double stigma that bisexual women have been and continue to be exposed to both in wider society and inside the lesbian and queer spaces. Stereotyping, negative attitudes and constant questioning results in adverse mental health consequences for our fellow bi community members as well as loss of sense of safety in the lesbian spaces, among others. For this reason, we believe it is important to explicitly state that EL*C does not tolerate expressions of biphobia in any of the spaces that we curate.

Furthermore, we acknowledge that historically the contributions of BPOC lesbians* and indigenous lesbians* (including Romnja* and Sintezzi*) have been disregarded and their experiences isolated both in the lesbian community and their ethnic communities. Alongside anti-gender movements, we are facing a surge in far-right politics and anti-human rights narratives which intensify racial prejudice and racism throughout the world. EL*C firmly condemns the rise of this hateful discourse and commits to act in a fair, inclusive and safe way with BIPOC lesbians.

We acknowledge that EL*C still has substantial space for improvement and growth in this area and in order to truly achieve solidarity with trans, gender-diverse and BIPOC lesbians and bi women in our midst, we commit to develop ways of ensuring their meaningful inclusion in the organisation's entire infrastructure.

For the purpose of the 3rd Euro Central Asian Lesbian* Conference, we are making proactive efforts to ensure that our bi, trans, non-binary and BIPOC siblings feel and, in fact, are safe and welcome in the spaces organised and curated by EL*C.

A Note on Conduct:

Please be mindful that the EL*C space is made up by people with different life experiences and we can only move forward together with respect, empathy and mutual understanding. The EL*C organisers will not allow any participants or speakers to promote in any way, shape or form any violent, discriminatory, or hurtful communication against any other speaker or participant. The organisers reserve the right to remove any individual or group going against this inclusive approach at any given time during the conference.

Safety Measures for Everyone with Special Attention to BIPOC, Trans & Gender Diverse Persons in Hungary

Due to the current political climate in Hungary with anti-migrant, anti-LGBTQA+, xenophobic and racist rhetoric being spewed by the governing party, we believe it is important to be mindful that all our guests are safe. For this purpose, we consulted local trans and Roma activists on the matter of safety for trans and gender-diverse persons and BIPOC participants of our conference. Below you can find our recommendations.

- If it is possible, do not walk alone at night. Try to always ask someone to accompany you if you go out at night. The best is to take a taxi if it is too late, they are considered quite safe in Budapest. For the evening cultural program, EL*C has appointed volunteers to help you move around town;
- At more crowded places, such as Deak Square, Ors Vezer tere, Blaha Lujza Square etc. there might be more drunk people during the evening than elsewhere. Try not to engage with them and stay with your friends/colleagues;
- Avoid the old and run-down parts of District 8 at night;
- Regarding public displays of affection (holding hands, kissing etc.), our Hungarian partners advise to avoid doing this in public, but at the conference venues we encourage you to act as freely as you wish in terms of public displays of affection.
- Always buy and validate your transportation tickets because ticket inspectors tend to check tourists and BIPOC more often than others;

BIPOC Safety

While Budapest is a more multicultural and more open-minded city than the rest of the country, it is still recommended to keep in mind a few safety measures:

- While Budapest is a big touristic city, this is not particularly a diverse place in terms of racial or ethnic background. You might get, given your supposed racial and/or ethnic background, some unsolicited and/or unpleasant attention (“curious looks”). We recommend not to engage the conversation if the environment does not feel safe. If that derives to harassment, physical and/ or verbal, please contact Leila Lohman +41 78 642 36 54 or Ivett Gregor +36 30 489 31 23
- Always buy and validate your transportation tickets because ticket inspectors tend to check tourists and BIPOC more often than others;
- Unfortunately, certain racial slurs (e.g. c*gan) are still a part of the Hungarian language, so you might hear them in everyday conversations in public. While this is abhorrent, it is your choice whether to start a conversation or ignore.
- In case of an attack whether verbal or physical, contact one of our emergency contacts: Leila Lohman +41 78 642 36 54 or Ivett Gregor +36 30 489 31 23 immediately for help.

Trans and Gender Diverse Persons' Safety

In the last few years the Hungarian government has been doing everything in their power to paint a very negative picture of LGBT+ people in the media. Keep in mind the following safety measures:

- Avoid people who seem under the influence of alcohol or narcotics and groups of aggressive young people, especially at night;
- Budapest is generally a safe place for trans people and those who are against trans people tend to stop at talking or laughing behind one's back, but it should not escalate, best is to ignore such people;
- Based on community discussions, Budapest is relatively safe for trans people, however the more gender "ambiguity" one's gender expression has, the higher the chance of negative reactions;
- It's a good idea to move in the city in groups;
- In the case of transphobic attitudes, the trans people in Hungary advise to stay calm and polite, avoid escalation and if the environment becomes dangerous, immediately call one of our emergency contacts: Leila Lohman +41 78 642 36 54 or Ivett Gregor +36 30 489 31 23

Covid-19 Safety Measures

At EL*C we put the safety of our community above all else and we acknowledge that Covid-19 does not impact everyone in the same way given the unequal distribution of medical resources and the fact that being vaccinated is a privilege for those who do not live with immunodeficiencies.

While restrictions have relaxed around the world, EL*C considers that the Covid-19 pandemic must be taken seriously as to avoid spreading the virus to those of us who are more vulnerable to its impact. We strongly advise wearing masks during the conference to reduce the risk of transmission and we will provide three masks (one for each day), disinfectant gel and self tests for Covid-19 in your tote bags received upon registration.

We remind everyone that travel restrictions have been lifted in Hungary, so you do not need a negative test in order to enter the country regardless of where you are coming from. However, if you do present any Covid-19 symptoms, please do not come to the Conference as we do not wish to endanger our participants.

If you develop symptoms during your stay in Hungary and the self-test appears as positive, please do not leave your hotel room. Should you be one of the EL*C scholars, please alert EL*C of the situation and contact Leila Lohman +41 78 642 36 54 to let us know of your situation and aid if necessary.

Further information on Covid-19 requirements in Hungary can be accessed here:

- <https://konzinfo.mfa.gov.hu/en/covid19-information-travel-restrictions>
- <https://reopen.europa.eu/en>

Political Choices

For EL*C #3 Conference, we made the political choice to be as green and environmentally friendly as possible. For this reason, you are reading this participant pack online instead of on paper. Additionally, all meals provided by us during the conference will be vegan and vegetarian.

Furthermore, although the main language of the conference is English, we do provide translation into Ukrainian, Hungarian and Russian for our participants.

Holding the Conference at the Central University Building is also part of demonstrating our support to local civil society, as CEU has been forced by the Hungarian Government to move to Vienna.

Engaging with EL*C, Labrisz & qLit on social media & group photo

Social Media:

EL*C

Hashtags: #LesbianResistance, #ELCBudapest2022 (use on stories, posts, tweets etc)

Twitter: [@EuroLesbianCon](https://twitter.com/EuroLesbianCon)

Facebook: fb.com/EuropeanLesbianConference

Instagram: [@EuropeanLesbianConference](https://www.instagram.com/EuropeanLesbianConference)

YouTube: [EL*C EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

TikTok: [@ELC_LesbianTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@ELC_LesbianTok)

Telegram: [Channel Link](#)

Labrisz Lesbian Association

Facebook: fb.com/LabriszEgyesulet

Instagram: [@labrisz_egyesulet](https://www.instagram.com/labrisz_egyesulet)

qLit

Facebook: fb.com/qlithu

Livestream:

The Conference will be livestreamed via EL*C Facebook and YouTube accounts.

Lesbian* Group Photo:

We are inviting you to join us for a **group photo on 1 October at 11:45 in room Hilda Gobbi (the plenary) of the CEU Building on Nador 15, Budapest.**

Photo Policy

There will be two different color lanyards/keycards made available for participants and speakers attending the EL*C. The **purple one** will be for persons agreeing to have their photo taken during the event, and the **red one** will be for persons who do not want to have their photo taken at any given time during the event.

Additionally, for those not wanting to be photographed we will make available no-photo stickers. Important note: In advance, we thank everyone at the event including participants, speakers and journalists for respecting this photo policy and never to take any picture of the persons wearing either or both the no-photo lanyard and or no-photo sticker.

Logistical details, venues, meals

Central
European
University
Building



The Conference venue is the Central European University (CEU) building on Nador 15, 1051 Budapest. The CEU building is easily accessible by several metros, trams and buses. See the details below in the “Plan of the city, getting around, key venues & metro” section on pages 21-22.

Lunch

The meals are vegan and vegetarian.

3 x Lunches will be served as well as coffee breaks throughout the conference in the CEU building.

Dinner for EL*C Scholars

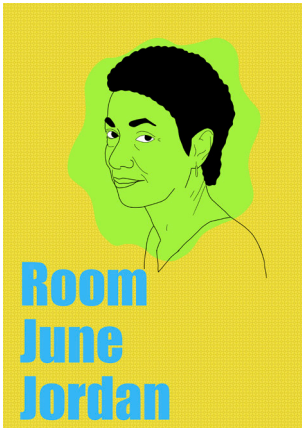
3 x Dinner will be served during the conference in Danubius Hotel Hungaria in the evening between 7 and 9 PM. Participants who are not scholars are welcome to join, but please be mindful that you will have to pay for your own dinner.



Wi-Fi Access at CEU

Name: CEU External and Event

Password: autumnLEAF2022



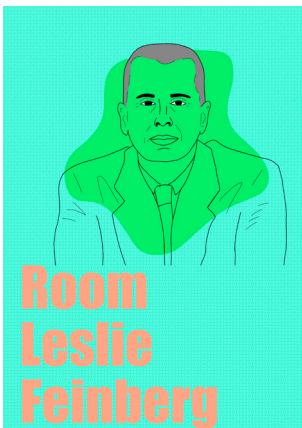
Caribbean bisexual
activist and poet



“Black, lesbian, mother,
warrior, poet”



North African - French
lesbian



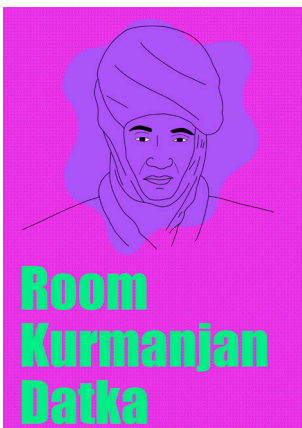
Butch lesbian, trans
activist, author



Award winning Hungarian
lesbian actress



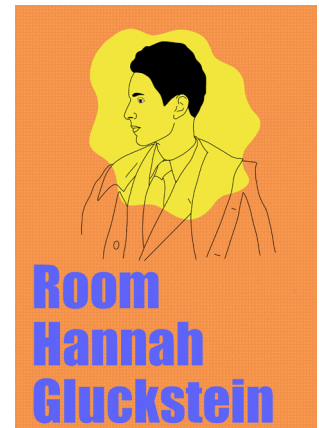
Indian-Born American
lesbianactivist, lawyer,
writer



Datka (righteous ruler)
of Kyrgyzstan



Ukrainian lesbian
modernist writer and
feminist



Gender-nonconforming
lesbian painter

Dyke March & Lesbian Party on Saturday



Budapest Dyke March on Saturday Afternoon

Start: 5 PM

Finish: 9 PM

Route: Erzsébet tér - Deák Ferenc tér - Károly körút - Astoria - Múzeum körút - Kálvin tér - Vármű tér - Fővám tér

We want to join lesbians on the ground in their fight against authoritarianism by being seen on the streets of the city in our fight against lesbophobia, misogyny, transphobia and interphobia, racism and all other types of discrimination. Marching unapologetically is still needed to affirm lesbian existence. We encourage every participant of the Conference to take part in this demonstration!



Saturday Night Lesbian Party at Akvarium Klub

Following the Budapest Dyke March, all EL*C participants are invited to have fun together! EL*C Party Tickets can be bought for 10 € on [EventBrite](#). The party will start at 11 PM.

Details about Registration

The registration desk will be open:

Starting on 28 September evening during the Welcome Reception at Kristály Színtér between 6 and 8 PM.

For anyone who would be put in an uncomfortable position by showing ID, please contact leila.lohman@lesbiangenius.org, +41 78 642 36 54.

Thursday 29 Sept and onwards
(please come as early as you can to register to avoid having to wait or queue)
Registration will open at 8 AM at the CEU Building on Nador 15. Participants will have the possibility to register at any time in case they cannot join Thursday morning.

Note: During registration you will be given a badge with your information. It will be important that you keep your badge throughout the event.

Useful numbers in case of emergency & for questions

Emergency Numbers

112	Emergency Number
107	Police
104	Ambulance
105	Fire Department

Key Contacts
during the Conference

+41 78 642 36 54	Leila Lohman
+36 30 489 31 23	Ivett Gregor

Conference Care Team

We have taken multiple safety precautions around the Conference and one of these measures is to have an Care Team on the ground in case of anything that needs discussing, mediating or resolving. The Care Team is there to ensure that the Conference goes smoothly for everyone and that each person has someone to turn to in case of any sign of distress. You can spot the Care Team members by their designated armbands. Assistance can be given in English, French, Spanish, German, Portugese, Ukrainian, Romanian, Georgian, Russian, Swedish and Serbian.

Furthermore, for any questions you might have or anything you might need, feel free to ask our volunteers or crew members which are dressed in purple t-shirts.

Plan of the city, getting around, key venues & metro

There is a specific bus travelling from the airport to the city and back: E100
For E100, you will need to buy a specific travel card either on the spot or via the BudapestGo mobile application. This travel card costs 1500 HUF (3.73 EUR)

The Budapest public transport system offers an extensive method of getting around the city. There is a wide range of night buses available too (and tram 4 and 6 run continuously). A single fare costs 350 HUF (0.87 EUR), a 72 hour travelcard costs 5500 HUF (13.68 EUR), but there are other transportation options too, like 30 and 90-minute tickets.

For more information see: <https://bkk.hu/en/>

SmartPhone App for public transport - BudapestGo (no space): <https://bkk.hu/en/tickets-and-passes/budapestgo/>

Key venues throughout the Conference:

Mayor's Office (for 28 Sept, by invitation only):

Városház u. 9-11, 1052, Budapest

Metro: M1, M2, M3 stop Deák Ferenc tér

Tram: 47, 48, 49, N19 stop Deák Ferenc tér

Bus: 9, 105, 178 stop Deák Ferenc tér, 15, 115 stop Erzsébet tér / Dorottya utca
(Vörösmarty tér M) Trolleybus: 72M stop Deák Ferenc tér



Kristály Színtér (for 28 Sept)

1138 Margitsziget

Closest public transport & stop:

Bus No. 26, stop Hajós Alfréd uszoda

You can also walk from tram 4-6 stop Margitsziget (cc. 8 minutes)



Central European University Building (for Sept 29 - 1 Oct)

Nador utca 15, 1051 Budapest

Closest public transport & stop:

Metro: M1, M2, M3 stop Deák Ferenc tér or M3 stop Arany János utca

Tram: 47, 48, 49, N19 stop Deák Ferenc tér, 2, 2B, 2M stop: Széchenyi István tér

Bus: 15, 115 stop Zrínyi utca / Erzsébet tér, 105, 178 stop József Nádor tér / Hild tér, 9 stop Arany János utca

Trolleybus: 72M stop Arany János utca



Közkincs Könyvtár Feminist Library (for 29 & 30 Sept)

Rákóczi út 11, 1/10, 1088 Budapest

Closest public transport & stop:

M2 stop Astoria

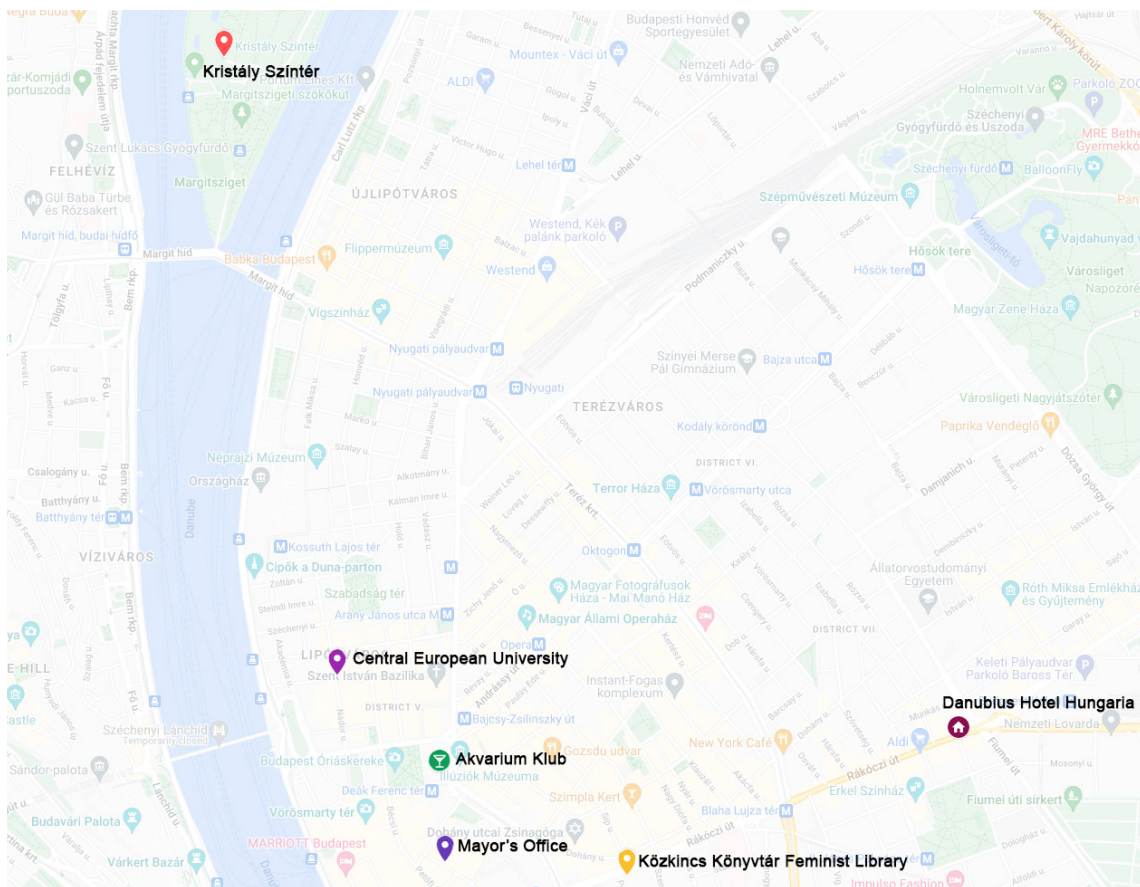
Tram: 47, 48 49, N19, stop Astoria

Bus: 5, 7, 8E, 9, 108E, 110, 110E, 112, 133E stop Astoria

Trolleybus: 72M, stop Astoria



Danubius Hotel Hungaria (For Sept 29 - 1 Oct)



Rákóczi út 90, 1074 Hungary

bus: 5, 7, 110, 112 Huszár utca

trolley bus 73, 76, 79M stop munkás utca

metro: M2, M4 stop Keleti Pályaudvar

Bus: 7E, 8, 8E, 20E, 30, 30A, 108E, 110E, 133E, 230 Keleti Pályaudvar



Akvarium Klub (for 1 Oct, Saturday night party)

Erzsébet tér 12, 1051 Budapest

Closest metro & stop:

Metro: M1, M2, M3 stop Deák Ferenc tér

Tram: 47, 48, 49, N19 stop Deák Ferenc tér

Bus: 9, 105, 178 stop Deák Ferenc tér, 15, 115 stop Erzsébet tér / Dorottya utca (Vörösmarty tér M) Trolleybus: 72M stop Deák Ferenc tér



Accessibility:

We took extra precautions to ensure that the buildings included in the EL*C #3 Conference are accessible for people with limited mobility and those using wheelchairs.

We have designated a specific person in charge of accessibility. In case of need related to accessibility, please contact Judith Persson - judith.anna@web.de

Program

The thematic and plenary sessions will offer the instruments, the good practices, the knowledge and the data to address the needs, the struggles and the challenges of European and Central Asian lesbians* and the movement. All thematic sessions are organized according to their relevance to the theme.

Lesbians on the Frontlines – Thursday, 29 September

Daring to be an out and loud lesbian is still a challenge for many women, non-binary and gender-diverse persons living diverse experiences in the world. We will hear from lesbians fleeing war, grassroots workers, lesbians leading social justice movements and find out more about what lesbian resistance looks like for those of us on the frontlines.

We Are the Revolution – Friday, 30 September

The world we live in needs wide-reaching changes to happen in conditions, operation and in social systems. In organizations and in society, as pillars of connection and bringers of change, lesbians are transforming the world. On this day we will hear from lesbians who are instituting change in every walk of life and who are materializing intersectionality in their work, be it social movement, industry or personal actions.

The Future Is Lesbian – Saturday, 1 October

Lesbians are building bridges for a fair and socially just society past, present and future. Together we are laying the groundwork for an equitable tomorrow. On this day we explore lifting our community up and the potential of what a lesbian world could look like.

Wednesday - 28 SEPT - Pre Conferences + Welcome Reception			
Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Pre-Conference Session on Funding (by invitation only)	Mayor's office – 1052 Budapest, Városház u. 9-11.	9 AM - 12 PM	N/A
Interinstitutional Dialogue on Lesbian Rights (by invitation only)	Mayor's office – 1052 Budapest, Városház u. 9-11.	1 PM - 4 PM	N/A
Welcome Reception	Kristály Színtér, 1138 Budapest, Margitsziget 23800/7 (Next to the Hajós Alfréd swimming pool)	6 PM - 10 PM	Olena Shevchenko (EL*C) Ivett Gregor (Labrisz) Dep. Mayor Anett Bósz Mayor Gergely Karácsony (video) HU MEP Zita Gurmay (video) MEP Malin Björk Lydie Siswanker Film by Maria Takacs

Thursday - 29 SEPT - Lesbians on the Frontlines

Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Registration	CEU Building, Nador 15	8 AM - 9 AM	N/A
Welcome from EL*C team, local hosts & Opening Keynotes	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	9 AM-10 AM	Helena Dalli (European Commissioner for Equality) Reem Alsalem (UN SR VaW) Olena Shevchenko Anita Kurimay
Opening Panel Resisting the anti-gender backlash	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	10 AM - 11:30 AM	Moderator: Biljana Ginova Speakers: Mari Kurtanidze Dorottya Redai Natalia Soloviova Yasmine Oz Malin Björk
<i>Coffee Break</i>	CEU Building, Nador 15	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	
Workshops	CEU Building, Nador 15	12:00 - 1:30 PM	Lesbians and War <i>Room Olha Kobylanska</i>
			Resisting Violence in all Forms <i>Room Dinah Gonthier</i>
			Lesbian Storytelling <i>Room Audre Lorde</i>
			Not Born This Way <i>Room Leslie Feinberg</i>
			Resisting the Anti-Gender Campaigns <i>Room Urvashi Vaid</i>
			Decolonizing Eurasia <i>Room Kurmanjan Datka</i>
			Self Defense Workshop <i>Room Erzsébet Galgóczi</i>
			Lesbian Fairytales for Everyone <i>Room Hannah Gluckstein</i>
<i>Lunch Break</i>	CEU Building, Nador 15	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM <i>Room June Jordan</i>	

Thursday - 29 SEPT - Lesbians on the Frontlines			
Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Keynote Speech	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	2:30 PM - 2:40 PM	Shadi Amin
Panel: Lesbian Resistance in Times of Crisis: Ukraine	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	2:40 PM - 4:10 PM	Moderator: Dragana Todorovic Speakers: Olena Shevchenko Sabine Arnolds Lepa Mladjenovic Oksana Kutynska Ilyia Reena
Workshops	CEU Building, Nador 15	4:10 PM - 5:40 PM	Self-Care: Power Dynamics <i>Room Dinah Gonthier</i>
			Roma Women in LGBTI and Feminist Movements <i>Room Audre Lorde</i>
			Violence in Lesbian Intimate Partner Relationships <i>Room Leslie Feinberg</i>
			Lesbian Gaze <i>Room Urvashi Vaid</i>
			Lesbian and Trans Solidarity <i>Room Erzsébet Galgóczi</i>
			Disabled Lesbians VS Capitalism and Ableism <i>Room Kurmajan Datka</i>
<i>Coffee Break</i>	CEU Building, Nador 15	5:40 PM - 6 PM	
Panel: Lesbians Heading Social Justice Movements	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Moderator: Andrea Ayala Speakers: Pierrette Pyram Elisa Manici Siame Haddioui Nevena Tarlanovic

CULTURAL PROGRAM - 29 SEPT - Lesbians on the Frontlines			
Event	Location	Time	Program
Photography Exhibitions	Room June Jordan (CEU Atrium)	9:00 AM-8:00 PM	Şafak Şule Kemancı - All Birds Would Come to My Garden
			Berta Garadnay - XX Generations
Film Night	Közkincs Könyvtár Feminist Library	9:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Central-East European lesbian film selection by Dorottya Redai
Lesbian Mix'n'Match	1st Floor Danubius Hotel Hungaria		Strength in Our Differences by Irene Hemelaar "I'm Here, I'm Home, I'm Happy" Film Screening by Dir. Orla Egan

Cultural Program

29 September – 1 October

All Birds Would Come to My Garden, photo exhibition

June Jordan, CEU

For this exhibition, Şafak Şule Kemancı imagines an erotic queer ecosystem where the boundaries between being plant, mineral, human or animal become fluid. Şafak shapes this ecosystem through stretching the potentialities of the material. Belonging specifically to neither time nor a place, it invites the audience to travel between the artificial and the natural.

Photography Exhibition of Hungarian Lesbians

June Jordan, CEU

Berta Garadnay's photo exhibition "XX Generations", (originally curated for the 2019 LIFT Festival) brings together members of the younger and older lesbian* generations and their thoughts on each other.

29 September

Film Night

Közkincs Könyvtár Feminist Library

The film night at the Közkincs Library will screen short films by Hungarian and other contemporary lesbian filmmakers from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as lesbian-themed short films. The program is about 3-4 hours long, continuous and free to come and go. The Library can accommodate up to 40 people at a time.

Lesbian Mix'n'Match

1st Floor Danubius Hotel Hungaria

Strength in our differences by Irene Hemelaar (Netherlands)

Irene Hemelaar is the founder and chair of the OndersteBoven Foundation, which conducted the first research into the well-being of lesbians in the Netherlands in 2009. She works as a strategic trainer and advisor in areas such as D&I at the training institute of the trade union FNV. As an independent entrepreneur in 2020 she did action research into discrimination against LBTQI+ women and non-binary people for the municipality of Amsterdam

Screening of “I’m Here, I’m Home, I’m Happy” by Orla Egan (Ireland)

I’m Here, I’m Home, I’m Happy uses extracts from oral history interviews and items from the Cork LGBT Archive, to explore the lives of some LGBT people in Cork in the 1970s and 1980s.

Orla Egan is a Queer Archival Activist and has been active in the Cork LGBT community since the 1980s. She is the Founder and Director of Cork LGBT Archive, author of *Queer Republic of Cork* book and of the *Leeside Lezzies* play, and Director of the short Cork LGBT film *I’m Here, I’m Home, I’m Happy*. She is a lesbian parent.

Keynote Speakers

Olena Shevchenko is a human rights defender and educator from Ukraine whose focuses are LGBT rights and women’s rights. She is chairperson of Insight, a public organization she and two of her friends founded and officially registered in 2008. Insight is unique among other LGBTQI organizations because of its inclusiveness and feminist approach. Before founding Insight, Olena volunteered for 3 years in a feminist-lesbian organization and was a senior teacher for 4 years at the National Pedagogical University in Kiev. Today Insight, under her leadership, has become a visible and significant player for advocacy both nationally and internationally.



In 2018 Olena founded a civic initiative “Womens march”, which brings together women’s rights organizations and individuals, working on womens rights in Ukraine. More than 5000 people took part in 8 of march public assembly in Kyiv.

In 2012 Olena was elected as a Co-chair of LGBT Council of Ukraine – a new all-Ukrainian umbrella association, where she is also the head of the advocacy and PR committees. In 2010 Olena was elected as a Board member of IGLYO (International LGBT youth organization) for a one-year term. This experience brings an international integration and globalization perspectives in to her local work. She has edited two research papers on the situation of LGBT families in Ukraine and the situation with Transgender rights. In 2014 became an author of the book “ABC on LGBT rights”. In 2016 Olena was elected as a Board member of ILGA-Europe and in 2017 she became one of the initiators of ELC*

(European lesbian conference). In 2019 was elected as Co-Chair of ELC*.

In 2020 Olena was elected as Board member of ILGA-World.



Anita Kurimay is an Associate Professor of History at Bryn Mawr College (USA). She specializes in modern European history with an emphasis on East-Central Europe. Her main research interests include the history of sexuality, women's and gender history, conservatism and the politics of the far right, and the history of sport. Her book *Queer Budapest, 1873 -1961* (Chicago University Press, 2020) examines the history of Hungarian politics of non-normative sexualities from the late 19th century to the present. She has published articles on Hungarian gay and lesbian history in *Sexualities* and *Eastern European Politics and Societies (EEPS)* and is also the editor of the forthcoming *Handbook on Sexualities in East Central Europe* (Routledge).

Shadi Amin, a pioneering and influential Iranian LGBTI activist, is the coordinator of Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network (6Rang). 6Rang is a community dedicated to serving LGBTI Iranians whereby Shadi seeks to raise awareness about human rights violations on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Shadi is also a leading writer and researcher in her field and has authored and co-authored numerous authoritative books and articles. Shadi's selection and translation of Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde's articles, published in *Ghodrat va Lezzat* (Power and Joy, 2006), was one of the first among her literary works and one of the few resources available in Farsi on lesbian existence.



In 2010, Shadi led Iranian members of the lesbian and transgender communities in creating the 6Rang network which offers peer support and raises awareness in the larger society. Another unique contribution from Shadi is the "No to Forced Sex Change" project, which documents the medicalization of gender identity.

Shadi has also taken the initiative to set up an alternative counseling e-system, which methodically informs, educates, supports and assists LGBTI Iranians. Through this effort, she is changing the status quo and creating opportunities for a better life for thousands of Iranian LGBTI at the grassroots level under the Islamic Republic regime in Iran—a government intent on denying LGBTI individuals' very existence. Shadi works with UN Mechanisms such as Treaty-bodies, special rapporteur and Universal Period Review to defend the rights of LGBTI people in one of the most stigmatized regions in the world.

Panels

Resisting the Anti-Gender Backlash

10:00 - 11:30 AM, moderated by Biljana Ginova

In Europe and Central Asia, but also globally, the anti-gender movements are attacking their opposition using different political spaces and influencing both at a level of politics and policy. The narratives have been present for decades now, but the level of organisation and mobilisation that we see today can be considered as their peak. By imitating the methods of the feminist and human rights organisations, they occupy the spaces and the public discourse in the parliament, on TV and the streets to oppose the human-rights based initiatives.

The panel will explore the main actors and the impact of the anti-gender movements in our region, the responses developed by the feminist and transgender organising and the good practices to build on our future work towards gender justice.

Speakers:

- Mari Kurtanidze (Georgia), member of Lesbian* Resistance, a queer feminist group uniting queer feminist fighters, healers and dreamers from different parts of Georgia.
- Dorottya Redai (Labrisz Lesbian Association, Hungary), an independent scholar in Hungary, affiliated with the CEU Democracy Institute
- Natalia Soloviova (Russia), Chairperson of the Board, Russian LGBT Network.
- Yasmine Oz (Turkey), a human rights lawyer/defender, feminist and LGBTI+ activist for 27 years, co-founder and vice chair of Kaos Gay and Lesbian Association (Kaos GL)
- MEP Malin Björk, of the Swedish Left Party has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2014

Lesbian Resistance in Times of Crisis: Ukraine

2:40 - 4:10 PM, moderated by Dragana Todorovic

Lesbians are at all times developing strategies to exist within societal norms and models that are in their nature oppressive and exclusionary of our communities. As lesbians and as feminists, in times of war - inherently patriarchal and unfeminist, we find ourselves trapped by borders and conflicts that are not ours. In this system dominated by men and their patterns of aggression, domination, militarization and destruction, underpinned by predatory capitalist drives for more land, more resources, more power, more subjection, we can only rely on ourselves to devise alternative ways to ensure the survival of our own. From the very first days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, EL*C was at the borders with Ukraine, stepping out of its usual mission and improvising emergency solutions. There, we got to witness first-hand the outburst of grassroots solidarity, but also the abysmal absence of the traditional international humanitarian actors and their deaf tone and inadequate response to the crisis. During this panel discussion, we will hear from lesbians affected by conflicts, past and present, their journeys of resilience and of solidarity, be it in Ukraine, in the Balkans or across Europe.

Through their stories, let's unravel the very lesbian kind of genius that makes us step up and transform into a self-reliant, determined and powerful support system for the community, when no one else will.

Speakers:

- Olena Shevchenko, feminist-lesbian activist, Head of Insight public organization
- Sabine Arnolds, journalist, communications consultant, activist
- Lepa Mladjenovic, lesbian feminist activist, counselor for women with trauma of male violence in Belgrade.
- Oksana Kutynska, math teacher, refugee from Ukraine, now living in Scotland
- Ilyia Reena, activist and student, refugee from Ukraine, now living in Germany

Lesbians Heading Social Justice Movements

6:00 - 7:30 PM, moderated by Andrea Ayala

Numerous studies, including research conducted by EL*C, have shown that in many countries in Europe and Central Asia, LBQTI women and non-binary persons are, or have been, at the forefront of social and political change, despite their efforts, creativity and activist contributions being too often invisibilised or marginalised. In this panel, the floor is given to LBQTI women leading intersectional fights or being catalysts of change for social and environmental justice. From Black LGBT+ decolonization or queer migrants trajectories to the #metoo movement, from combating ableism or fatphobia to queer ecology, the discussion will explore what it means to be an LBQTI advocate across other movements, and why it is so important to mainstream an intersectional LBTIQ feminist approach.

Speakers:

- Pierrette Pyram, activist with 27 years experience of LGBTQI+ rights, fighting against lgbtqiaphobia, anti-Blackness and patriarchy
- Elisa Manici, journalist, writer and activist. In 2021 she published the book *Grass* (Fats)*
- Nevena Tarlanovic, an activist for people with disabilities, running her NGO, *Uniquely Abled*, since 2016.
- Sihame Haddioui, Alderwomen in charge of culture and gender equality of Schaerbeek, Brussels, queer activist with Muslim background

Workshops

Thursday 12:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Lesbians and War

In this session, we hear from Ukrainian lesbians on the ground fleeing war as they share their experience of coordinating a shelter for LGBT community and the experience of working with the community in war conditions. We hear from organizers and volunteers as they take us through the challenges they face and the solutions they find. In addition to this, we will also listen to personal, political and historical accounts of lesbians and feminists during wartime and post-wartime on the territory of Yugoslavia in the 90s, in Ukraine now, in Armenia, Georgia and other invasions.

Iryna Lazorevych – volunteer, activist, coordinator of the medical advocacy direction of the NGO “Cohort” (this organization works with the trans* community).

Olena Hryhoryak – human rights defender, LGBTQI activist, queer feminist, coordinator of the regional representative office of NGO “Insight” in Chernivtsi city.

Olena Shevchenko – Ukrainian feminist-lesbian activist. Head of Insight public organization

Lepa Mladjenović – Lesbian feminist activist. Feminist counselor for women with trauma of male violence in Belgrade.

Resisting Violence in All Forms

In this session, we will hear from Rete Medusa3 from Italy who will present their observatory on lesbophobia.

Trigger Warning: Please be mindful there will be discussions about extreme forms of violence such as lesbophobic murder.

Angelica Polmonari is an Italian jurist and a transfeminist lesbian activist for LGBTQIA+ rights at the local, national and international levels. She is the Chair of the Women’s Steering Committee of ILGA World, the major global federation of LGBTQIA+ organizations, the international spokesperson of Arcigay Rete Donne Transfemminista, the first-ever Italian transfeminist LGBTQIA+ network internal to Arcigay, the main Italian LGBTQIA+ organization, and the first out lesbian female President of Arcigay Modena “Matthew Shepard”, one of the seventy-four local committees of Arcigay. Angelica Polmonari worked as Human Rights Expert, Policy Advisor and Lead Project Manager for the European Parliament and IBO Italia.

Lesbian Storytelling

In this two-part workshop, we play with words surrounding communication strategies for activists and have some dedicated playtime amid an erotic writing circle. Leo Zbanca will guide us through learning about dramatic structure and storytelling tools which help communicate a message. Anna Adam believes that vocabulary is politics, words are knives and language is our weapon, during her workshop Anna will deal with female sexuality, repressed and lived sexual fantasies through creative writing.

Leo Zbanca - a film director, scriptwriter and LGBT activist. His lesbian comedy short

“The Beginning ” in 2012 was selected to 23 film festivals in 19 countries.

Not Born This Way

This workshop aims to create a cooperative dialogue around the denaturalization of sexual orientation and the political power of lesbian* identification. Do we have to claim that we are “born this way” ? We will explore this questioning through interactive activities, then have a time for theoretical knowledge.

***Lou Eve** is a transracial adoptee with Vietnamese background. She works as a project manager for the MAG Jeunes LGBT+, the oldest French LGBT association.*

***Pauline Boyer-Méjanelle** is a project manager in MAG Jeunes LGBT+, the oldest French LGBT organization.*

Resisting the Anti-Gender Campaigns

The anti-gender movement is a highly organised and well-financed movement that acts transnationally in deteriorating women’s rights, LGBTIQ rights and civil society. They use narratives embedded in the language of concerned citizens for the future, the children, and the nation that are much more appealing to the general public than the language of human rights that we use, which often is relatively abstract. During this session, we will talk and work on topics related to how to unite, how to prevent and how to work against the anti-gender backlash.

***Biljana Ginova**, queer feminist activist and a human rights defender*

***Natalia Soloviova**, psychologist, trainer, human rights defender. Chairperson of the Board, Russian LGBT Network*

Decolonizing Eurasia

This session focuses on creating a space for queer women from across Eurasia to reflect on what decolonizing feminism would look like in our contexts, to exchange experiences and to forge transnational and trans-local solidarities.

***Zhanar Sekerbayeva**, co-founder of the Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative “Feminita”. She is a feminist, powerlifter and poet.*

***Mohira Suyarkulova**, scholar and activist, teaches sociology and politics and works with LGBTQ organization “Labrys Kyrgyzstan”*

***Ramilia Almazbekova** is a queer activist and a feminist. She is the head of Advocacy and Human Rights department of LGBT+ Central Asian organization - PU “Kyrgyz Indigo”.*

Self Defense Workshop

In this session, we learn how to strengthen our minds and bodies against lesbophobia and against discrimination. The session is focused on both empowerment and self-defense training, learning techniques in an integral way, covering psychological, emotional and physical part.

Nives Bercht is feminist self-defence and assertiveness (Wendo) teacher for many years and bring this knowledge to the workshop.

Heghine Babayan helps womyn to create safe communities where they can practice empowerment self-defence as a tool of resistance, empowerment and safety.

Lesbian Fairytales for Everyone

In the workshop, based on the book "A Fairytale for Everyone", using the storybook as a basis, participants will write stories with lesbian* protagonists, focusing on lesbian problems and their solutions.

Dorottya Rédei is an independent scholar in Hungary, affiliated with the CEU Democracy Institute. She also works as an activist in Labrisz Lesbian Association; she is the coordinator of the internationally renowned "A Fairytale for Everyone" book project.

Thursday 4:10 PM - 5:40 PM

Self-Care: Power Dynamics

Power dynamics affect the fabric of our existence and in this session we are invited to explore them with the scope of LBQT+ liberation. The session is both theoretical and practical with an exercise in psychodrama, a therapeutic and educational method, through which special attention will be given to the ways in which heteropatriarchy shapes our sexual lives, how it influences our relationships with pleasure and shame, how it affects our body image.

Based in Istanbul, **Nazlı Mayuk – Nayuk** – is a non-binary queer feminist researcher, author, community builder, and certified facilitator.

Roma Women in Feminist and LGBTI Movements

Rromnjako Ilo (Serbia) wants to exchange related to specific position of Roma women/girls in feminist and LGBTI movements starting from the point that Roma women/girls are underrepresented and invisible to some extent in both movements. Their self-determination, low education and language does not allow them to become more active and increases inaccessibility for wider participation. Hidden discrimination is in both areas, and it would be beneficial to open the discussion on this and advocate for better participation of LBTIQ Roma women/girls.

Danica Jovanovic - Bisexual, Roma. Active in Roma feminist movement since 1998. President of the Association of Roma Novi Becej since 2000, co-founder and mentor and assistant of the Roma Women's Center „Rromnjako Ilo“ since 2010

Violence in Intimate Partner Relationships

This session deals with the forms of violence, risk factors and specifics of abuse in LGBT* intimate relationships, how to support someone in such a relationship, how to seek help and support. Opening the space to not so pleasant and usually sensitive themes is

important for the avenue of sharing valuable information, giving space for reflection, a safe space for sharing and asking for support.

Trigger Warning: Please be mindful that this session includes conversations about domestic abuse.

Mateja Merkandel is a social worker//Counselor for women, victims of domestic violence in the Association for nonviolent communication based in Ljubljana, Slovenia// Activist//tirelessly informing and educating people about violence in LGBTIQ+ intimate relationships//Member of the initiative LFU (Lesbian Feminist University).

Lesbian Gaze

This session explores a rewriting of photographic history by looking at lesbian photographers through time and looking at the documentation of lesbian lives through the medium of photography. The workshop explores an invisibilized lesbian gaze and adopts an intersectional perspective to counteract the crushing cis white straight male gaze that has pervaded photographic history.

Bea Uhart - freelance photographer whose personal work focuses on the notions of boundaries

Lesbian and Trans Solidarity

Presentation of the outcomes of research on solidarity between lesbian-non-binary feminists and trans people in post Yugoslav region and discussion on the experiences and good practices with attendees who engage with the idea of building trans-feminist coalitions.

Maja Pan is a interdisciplinary feminist philosopher, cultural theorist and non-formal educator on gender based violence.

Disabled Lesbians vs Ableism and Capitalism

In a number of European and Central Asian countries there still is a systemic discrimination of disabled persons. What can we, then, say about disabled lesbians? They are discriminated against because they are women, they are lesbians, they are disabled and also they are very often poor. At the workshop we will focus on main mechanisms of oppression, address the reasons why those mechanisms exist, examine existing range of rights that disabled lesbians have and set milestones for resistance against the capitalist system of institutionalized ableism.

Alena Levina. Queer artist, independent curator, researcher, feminist activist working to advance the rights of women with disabilities, coordinator of community 'Women. Feminist. Disability'. Queer&Crip rights advocate

Anna Shülik (stage name "Temnitsa"). Non-binary lesbian, feminist activist, hip-hop producer, rapper, journalist, volunteer at Invagirls grassroots community which advocates for rights of disabled women and queer persons.

Friday - 30 SEPT - We Are the Revolution			
Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Welcome by Hosts	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Evgenia Giakoumopoulou Zhanar Sekerbayeva
Opening Keynotes	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	9:15 AM - 9:45 AM	Vera Kurtic Nadège Defrère (European Commission)
Opening Panel: Romn*ja and Sinte*zzi Lesbians Defying Patriarchy	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	9:45 AM - 11:15 AM	Moderator: Izabel Marin Speakers: Roxanna Lorraine Witt Lois Brookes Jones Vesna Cerimovic Florinela Tanase
<i>Coffee Break</i>	CEU Building, Nador 15	11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	
Workshops	CEU Building, Nador 15	11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	Lesbian Archives <i>Room Olha Kobylanska</i>
			Self-Care: Resistance <i>Room Dinah Gonthier</i>
			Building Meaningful Cooperation between Regions <i>Room Audre Lorde</i>
			Lesbian Sports <i>Room Leslie Feinberg</i>
			Lesbian Hermeneutics <i>Room Urvashi Vaid</i>
			UN and International Policy <i>Room Erzsébet Galgóczi</i>
			Bisexual Workshop <i>Room Kurmanjan Datka</i>
Lunch	CEU Building, Nador 15	1:15 PM - 2:15 PM <i>Room June Jordan</i>	

Friday - 30 SEPT - We Are the Revolution			
Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Panel: Lesbian Desire as Resistance	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	2:15 PM - 3:45 PM	Moderator: Marame Kane Speakers: Mima Simic Sandra Selimovic Irene Villa Tinatin Nogaideli
Workshops	CEU Building, Nador 15	3:45 PM - 5:15 PM	Lesbian Money Talks <i>Room Olha Kobylanska</i>
			Ecolesbianism (No planet, no lesbians) <i>Room Dinah Gonthier</i>
			Loving the Lesbian <i>Room Audre Lorde</i>
			Lesbian Narratives <i>Room Leslie Feinberg</i>
			Lesbian Voices Heard (Podcasting) <i>Room Urvashi Vaid</i>
			Older Lesbians against Ageism <i>Room Kurmanjan Datka</i>
			Building Better Spaces for FINTA People in the music sector <i>Room Erzsébet Galgóczi</i>

CULTURAL PROGRAM - 30 September: We Are the Revolution			
Event	Location	Time	Program
Photography Exhibitions	Room June Jordan (CEU Atrium)	9:00 AM - 8:00 PM	Şafak Şule Kemancı - All Birds Would Come to My Garden
			Berta Garadnay - XX Generations
Banner Making	Közkincs Könyvtár Feminist Library	8:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Banner making for Budapest Dyke March
Lesbian* Virtual Archive (L*AW)	1st Floor Danubius Hotel Hungaria		Creating a Lesbian* Cultural Archive by Monika Rak & Agnieszka Małgowska

Cultural Program

29 September – 1 October

All Birds Would Come to My Garden, photo exhibition

June Jordan, CEU

For this exhibition, Şafak Şule Kemancı imagines an erotic queer ecosystem where the boundaries between being plant, mineral, human or animal become fluid. Şafak shapes this ecosystem through stretching the potentialities of the material. Belonging specifically to neither time nor a place, it invites the audience to travel between the artificial and the natural.

Photography Exhibition of Hungarian Lesbians

June Jordan, CEU

Berta Garadnay's photo exhibition "XX Generations", (originally curated for the 2019 LIFT Festival) brings together members of the younger and older lesbian* generations and their thoughts on each other.

30 September

Banner Making

Közkincs Könyvtár Feminist Library

Together we will make signs for the Budapest Dyke March. Materials will be sourced and provided by Labrisz.

Lesbian* Virtual Archive (L*AW)

1st Floor, Danubius Hotel Hungaria

Lesbian* Virtual Archive (L*AW) is the first source of knowledge about lesbian* culture in Poland.

But this is not a typical archive. L*AW not only collects facts, but also arranges them thematically and interprets them artistically. <http://lesbijskiearchiwumwirtualne.pl/> During the meeting, we will talk about Polish culture, show artifacts and video materials. The starting point will be the L*AW box which has drawers with lesbian* gadgets - labrys, mustache, lavender, etc. We are interested in the similarities and differences in perception of lesbian* culture in different places around the world. So we will ask the participants about their personal associations related to their native culture with artgadgets. We all create a lesbian* archive.

The meeting will be hosted by Agnieszka Małgowska and Monika Rak (Sistrum Association. Space Of Lesbian* Culture <http://sistrum.org.pl/>)

Monika Rak (actor / poet / performer / slammer / writer / lesbian art-activist / theatre studies scholar / drag king - Maryjan Bear)

Agnieszka Małgowska (theatrical coach, director, critic / author of theatrical and film scripts / lesbian art-activist / archivist)

Keynote Speakers



Vera Kurtić is a proud feminist and a Romani woman from Serbia, activist, researcher and NGO consultant, with many years experience in grass root initiatives and international organizations and networks, in the fields of minority activism, women's human rights, intersectionality, gender equality, political participation, peace and security, dealing with the past, Roma position and LGBT rights. She is active in women's, Roma, LGBT, left, ecological and vegan/ animals' rights movements. Vera is the founder of Campaign Month of Roma Women Activism, author of *Džuvljärke- lesbian existence of Roma women* (2014), the first study on Roma women of different sexual orientation than heterosexual.

Nadège Defrère is Team Leader for Non-Discrimination in the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers of the European Commission. She is responsible, among others, for the implementation of the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. She joined the European Commission in 2008 to work on communication and press relations in the fields of employment and social affairs. She then was the Head of the Political Sector of the EC Representation in Belgium. Before joining the European Commission, she worked as a research assistant on European social issues. Ms Defrère graduated in European politics at the College of Europe and completed a master degree in journalism (IHECS).



Panels

Romn*ja and Sinte*zzi Lesbians Defying Patriarchy

9:45 AM- 11:15 AM, moderated by Isabel Marin

All around the world, Roma and Sinti lesbians have been waiting for decades to be seen, heard and accepted. Within the general discourse of the queer population of Europe and Central Asia, Romani and Sinti women and nonbinary people seem to be too rarely mentioned, if at all. Both in Roma and queer communities, there seems to be no place for them - and yet, they still fight for their rightful place.

The panel will be a place for Romani and Sinti lesbians to be heard, to be as loud as they please, to stop, living an invisible existence - as seen by the white gaze. It will explore the way queerness and (lack of) whiteness can influence your daily life and the good practices to build on our future work towards justice and equity.

Speakers:

- Roxanna Lorraine Witt, Sinti founder of Save Space e.V., queer Roma and Sinti organization in Germany
- Lois Brookes Jones, queer Romani activist from Manchester, UK
- Vesna Cerimovic, president of Romnjako Ilo Serbia
- Florinela Tanase, proud lesbian and Romani woman, originally from Romania, currently living in Ireland

Lesbian Desire as Resistance

2:15 PM- 3:45 PM, moderated by Maramé Kane

In our societies, lesbian bodies, sexualities, desires, loves, romantic and erotic relationships, are intrinsically transgressive. Giving in to lesbian desire, allowing ourselves to fully experience it, succumb to it, embrace it, is eminently political and is an act of resistance to the cis-heteronormative imperative. Inspired by the works of Audre Lorde, this discussion seeks to explore the power of the erotic, but also the many ways in which our community reclaims its agency, be it through art and representation, through breaking the mold of monogamy, or for instance through butch masculinities bridging the gap between sexual orientation and gender identity.

Speakers:

- Mima Simic, Croatian writer, film critic and an LGBT+ activist
- Sandra Selimovic, actress, director, rapper, activist
- Irene Villa, feminist LGBTQ activist & PhD candidate in Human Sciences and Political Philosophy at the University of Verona
- Tinatin Nogaideli, French-Georgian author, singer and podcaster

Workshops

Friday 11.30 AM

Lesbian archives

Several lesbian archives do exist, some others are disappearing, more do not know where to start. The workshop will explore how to secure the existing archives (venues, funds,...), how to create new ones and how to use the tools at our disposal as lesbians and as activists and hear from activists in Belgium, France, Romania and Hungary that via mutual assistance, horizontal organization, digital communication and a good understanding of the institutions are moving mountains and preserving our herstory.

***Marian Lens** is a sociologist, lesbian activist and researcher since the late 1970s, is securing an international lesbian archiving. Active in Les Lesbianaires, the 2nd Lesbian Archives in the world, she later founded lesbian bookshop Artemys in Brussels, the place to be for lesbians, and the first Belgian association to have explicit lesbian statutes.*

***Loise Tachon** is a French feminist and lesbian activist based in Paris. She studied literature, philosophy and sociology and worked in the book industry for several years before deciding to become a full-time activist.*

***Alex Zorilă** is a lesbian activist from Bucharest, Romania. She has been a Volunteer Coordinator and event organizer at Accept Association since 2015 and Bucharest Pride Coordinator in 2021 and 2022.*

***Anna Borgos** is a psychologist and women's historian, working as a research fellow in the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology, Budapest. She is a founding member of Labrisz Lesbian Association.*

***Anna Matras** - polish lawyer and activist based in Katowice. I am a member of the board of the Tęczówka Association in Katowice (Poland), which provides psychological and legal support for LGBTQ+ community, organizes queer cultural events and holds Katowice Pride*

Self Care: Resistance

Self-care is not only a form of self-love but a form of resistance that is deeply connected to the understanding of solidarity, empathy, and creating sisterhood within our communities. The session will explore the political roots of deprioritization of self-care and mental health issues. It will also be the occasion to engage in self-care activities by using art-therapy. No art experience or skill required.

***Ruth Borgfjord** is a queer woman, human rights activist, artist and art psychotherapist. Ruth has over two decades of experience in the social field, much of this work as a childcare inspector for the Canadian government, where she worked with indigenous communities in the Arctic, and another part as the founder of Queer Sisterhood Cluj - the Romanian informal LGBTQ+ women, trans and non-binary group.*

***Aida Marukyan** is Armenian based feminist-activist with a 7 years of experience in non-profit. Currently advocating LBQ womxn's* rights using grassroots community-based approaches focused on gender mainstreaming, art-activism, wellbeing and self-care. She is a team member of Armenian LBQ womxn's* organization Queer Sista Platform and a co-founder of "Girls Talk" young womxn's* feminist initiative.*

Building Meaningful Cooperation Between Regions

Joint actions and radical solidarity beyond borders are key in building relationships between lesbians of different backgrounds. The session will explore such existing bonds between Global North and Global South between Eastern and Western Europe. It will be the occasion to hear from South Africa and Germany about cross-continental learning and grassroots partnerships as well as queer collaborations between Munich and Kyiv.

Cornelia Sperling has been an activist in the women's movement since 1968, in lesbian feminist contexts since 1980. International gender expert. Theme of working life for 20 years: Empowerment of women entrepreneurs. Theme of senior age: International dialogues.

Sonja Schelper, Hamburg, Germany. Lesbian feminist for 5 decades, psychologist and coach, project supporter of the Coalition of African Lesbians for 10 years to strengthen grassroot lesbian and queer collectives in Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Lesotho and Mozambique.

Laura Piazza is OutRight's Senior Program Manager, LBQ Connect Program.

Lesbian Sports

The workshop will explore the experiences of LGBTI women in sport, including bans, discrimination and abuse of LGBTI athletes and widespread and systemic lesbophobia. It will consider disruptive approaches to the dominant discourse and create alliances between lesbian and trans and gender diverse communities to fight for truly inclusive sports.

Sarah Townsend has been on the Board of EGLSF (European Gay & Lesbian Sports Federation) since 2016 and is currently co-president. She sits on the Equality Within Sport Committee (EWS) committee for ENGSO (European Sport NGO), which advises the Executive Committee on equality matters, and was one of the 15 experts of the European Commission High Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport.

Lesbian Hermeneutics

This session will show how the "resistant power of queer" can be revived to fight anti-gender and anti-lgbtq, anti-feminist voices and how it can be used to fight ideologies that are using religions to support their cause. Building on Althaus-Reid, the founder of queer theology, the sessions will show how she used the power of queer-feminist resistance in her context and how we could apply it in our context.

Judit Gyarfás has been an unofficial queer activist for about 15 years and was a member of Labrisz Lesbian Association in the early 2000s. The title of her M.A. theology thesis of 2022 is "Queer Theology as Liberation".

UN and International Policy

This session aims to showcase how developing international advocacy within the frames of the different UN mechanisms as well as of initiative such as Ilga World LBTIQIA+

Women Steering Committee can serve as a tool for lesbian resistance and countering the hate narrative with legal instruments. The objective will be to give activists the knowledge that triggers their curiosity and creativity to start using international advocacy as part of their toolkit to resist and promote lesbian rights.

Andrea M. Ayala is a lesbian Salvadoran refugee person currently based in Europe, she is a Lawyer and has worked as Human Rights Defender of LGBTIQ communities around the world since 2009 focusing her efforts in the Global South (Latin America), currently, she works as an international consultant on SOGI and Social Inclusion issues creating public and private politics to address them.

Kseniya Kirichenko is an intersectional feminist activist, international human rights lawyer and researcher with two-decade experience in social justice, public interest law, advocacy and NGO management.

Aoife Burke is a Junior Professional Consultant on UN Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and Sustainable Development Goals at ILGA World.

Natia Gvianishvili is the advocacy program manager at RFSL – The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights, with focus on Eastern Partnership countries and Russia. Before taking the position at RFSL, Natia worked within the feminist and LGBTQ movement in Georgia, where she was involved in community building, research, advocacy and visibility since 2009. Natia was the first publicly open activist in Georgia and co-founded the first independent feminist collective – the Independent Group of Feminists – in 2011.

Angelica Polmonari is an Italian jurist and a transfeminist lesbian activist for LGBTQIA+ rights at the local, national and international levels. She is the Chair of the Women's Steering Committee of ILGA World, the major global federation of LGBTQIA+ organizations, the international spokesperson of Arcigay Rete Donne Transfemminista, the first-ever Italian transfeminist LGBTQIA+ network internal to Arcigay, the main Italian LGBTQIA+ organization, and the first out lesbian female President of Arcigay Modena "Matthew Shepard", one of the seventy-four local committees of Arcigay.

Bisexual Workshop

This session is an invitation for bisexual exchange, networking and open dialogue about topics around bisexuality as an interplay between discrimination and activist potential. This workshops allows participants to reflect about bisexuality, definitions, realities and much more in an interactive way.

Rhonda D'vine is a co-founder of Queer Polyamory Meetup Vienna, founding member of *visiBi*lity Austria*, trans-feminine

Friday 3:00 PM

Ecolesbianism (no planet, no lesbians)

The climate crisis concerns us all, but we do not all contribute equally to it. And we are not all equally affected by its impacts. In most cases, LGBTI women* and people with lower incomes as well as people from the Global South and Global East suffer more

from the consequences of the climate crisis. When it comes to eco activism, queer folks have been making significant contributions to the climate justice movement since Rachel Carson, a lesbian, who wrote Silent Spring. In this session, we will create a climate justice toolkit for lesbians.

Chantal van den Bossche works as communications specialist at WECF, Women Engage for a Common Future, an international ecofeminist network of over 250 women's and environmental organisations in 72 countries worldwide, with a historical focus on Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Loving the Lesbian

Between bonding exercises, love coaching for lesbians, politics of polyamory and asexuality in an allonormative world, this session focusses on building healthy relationships with yourself and with others whether romantic or aromantic.

Viktoria Sulyok has been an aromantic and asexual activist for more than six years. She is one of the founders and board members of the only Hungarian asexual advocacy organisation, the Hungarian Asexual Community

Mima Simic - writer, film critic, translator, political activist. For two decades Mima has been engaging with (mostly popular) media to subvert the heteropatriarchal matrix by coming out in the most unexpected places.

Marta Susak - one of the founders of the first student LGBTIQ initiative in Croatia.

Ano Surmava is a member of non-hierarchical queer feminist group Lesbian* Resistance from Georgia. Since their early student years Ano has been actively involved at leftist movements.

Lesbian Money Talks

The time has come to take what belongs to us! Over the past several years EL*C has collected hard evidence that overwhelmingly shows that the lesbian movement is one of the most underfunded movements globally, but especially in Europe and Central Asia. Due to this, many lesbian organizations have either disappeared, transformed into general LGBTIQ organizations or are somehow surviving with no money, no staff and no spaces. It is by now more than obvious that the current funding norms, structures and practices favor those groups/organizations that have more power and are as such further perpetuating and strengthening unfair and unbalanced power distributions, both in the wider society and within the LGBTIQ or women's movements. For a very long time, the donors have been preferring the general over the particular, stronger and more established organizations over the smaller and less capacitated, mainstream and traditional approaches to social change rather than creative and revolutionary approaches and bottom-up approaches, which has left organizations with no funds or with very limited funds. This trend needs to be reversed, and it should be reversed fast. During this workshop EL*C, its member organizations and lesbian organizations from other world regions will be presenting the funding needs and demands of the lesbian movement, as well as our ways of working for the future, that came out of our collective and strategic planning that took place ahead of the Conference.

Dragana Todorović is EL*C's scandalously efficient Executive Co-Director in charge of strategic development and fundraising. With an unparalleled passion for the lesbian movement and an entrepreneurial spirit that doesn't take "impossible" for an answer, Dragana (re)defines the limits of the lesbian skies, drawing from a robust and eclectic experience combining the private sector, governmental institutions, and national and regional NGOs. Her numerous talents stop at drafting her own bio, which she delegates blindly to her lover.

Lesbian Narratives

Seeing yourself represented in stories, be they fairytales or press articles, is important for our well-being as lesbians. In this session we discuss constructing narratives of refugee lesbian maternity, the political detention case of Karla and Magda, and also LGBTQI+ representation in French children's literature.

Sarah Ghelam is a PhD student at the University of Tours and Paris 8. Her thesis focuses on the production, representation and reception of non-white characters in picture books. She also investigates LGBTQI+ representations.

Tania Irias Guerrero is part of the Artemisa Lesbianas Migrantes y Refugiadas group in Spain

Dyking your cultural heritage through a lesbian podcast: creative & practical tools

Want to test working with a fun and creative lesbian* podcast idea as a means of resisting cisheteropatriarchal norms in society? Join our workshop. We envision the session as a sharing space for both beginners, as well as those who have more experience, with a good balance between presentation, exercise and discussion. We want the participants to take away practical tools so that they feel confident to finally launch in podcasting.

Tinatin Nogaideli is a French-Georgian author, singer and podcaster. Tini reclaims and creates lexical fields dealing with female and lesbian bodies, making them the core subjects of her stories: they enjoy, exist and resist in the 90-s post-Soviet Georgia. Under the stage name Rémmée, Tini sings her lesbian loves and dramas. Last year, she produced the first Georgian feminist anthem *Sister / Dao*. Tini co-created a lesbian podcast together with ELC's board member, Natia Gvianishvili Gvino, Duduki, Kalebi, bamed after a traditional song. Spiced with "traditional" Georgian lesbian toasts, episodes tell stories of coming out, lesbian firsts and how-to-s.

Natia Gvianishvili is the advocacy program manager at RFSL – The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights, with focus on Eastern Partnership countries and Russia. Before taking the position at RFSL, Natia worked within the feminist and LGBTQ movement in Georgia, where she was involved in community building, research, advocacy and visibility since 2009. Natia was the first publicly open activist in Georgia and co-founded the first independent feminist collective – the Independent Group of Feminists – in 2011.

Older Lesbians Against Ageism

The workshop will deal with topics of difference between biological aging and aging by culture, both within general and lesbian subculture. We will talk about expectations of older lesbians by our lesbian communities, but also about others' expectations influence on our perception on aging. Finally, we will discuss the potential impact of invisibility on self-identity and how we can empower ourselves, other lesbians, older lesbians and how to resist ageism in our lives.

Vera Kurtic is a proud feminist and a Romani woman from Serbia, activist, researcher and NGO consultant, with many years' experience in grass root initiatives and international organizations and networks, in the fields of minority activism, women's human rights, intersectionality, gender equality, political participation, peace and security, dealing with the past, Roma position and LGBT rights.

Cornelia Sperling has been an activist in the women's movement since 1968, in lesbian feminist contexts since 1980. International gender expert. Theme of working life for 20 years: Empowerment of women entrepreneurs. Theme of senior age: International dialogues.

Bárbara Romero is a Salvadoran woman, she is a psychologist, a feminist, a human's rights defender, and a lesbian activist. She has a post degree of Gender in Public Policies and a Master in Social Sciences.

Steph Florquin is a lesbian feminist activist and social scientist specialised in gender equality. She has been involved in various feminist and LGBTQ/lesbian organisations and collectives in France and Belgium and has also dedicated her professional life to promoting the human rights of women, LGBTQI people and migrants working in the NGO sector on programming, advocacy and action research.

Ilaria Todde is a lesbian activist, actively engaged in feminist and LGBTI struggles from a very young age. A butch from Sardinia, navigating the gender roles and expectations that rural, traditional societies impose on non-conforming people, Ilaria found a home in feminism and in the lesbian community and never left.

Building Better Spaces for FINTA People in the Music Sector

"The journey of becoming a professional in the music sector is a complex one, especially if you are not a cisgender man. This session paints a portrait of the struggled faced by FINTA* people face at every level of the music sector. It will also shine a light on all the warriors leading initiatives in Belgium in order to provide a pipeline for FINTA* people to thrive in the music sector. The session will also focus on gathering similar or new initiatives run in the participant's own country/city.

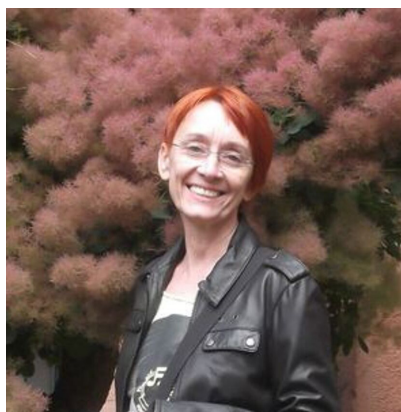
FINTA = Frauen, Inter Menschen, Nichtbinäre Menschen, Trans Menschen und Agender Menschen (women , inter people, non - binary people, trans people and a gender people.)

Lyne Brenac - "Bi as in fuck the binary". Trainer, educator, manager, this bi feminist woman is getting (sh)it done in the activist and cultural sector since 2012.

Saturday - 1 OCT - The Future Is Lesbian			
Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Host Welcome	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	9:15 AM - 9:30 AM	Evgenia Giakoumopoulou Zhanar Sekerbayeva
Opening Keynotes	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	9:30 AM- 10:00 AM	Erzsébet Barát Manuela Kay Lydie Siswanker
Activist Intervention from Central Asia	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	The Central Asian Feminist Lesbian, Bisexual, Queer and Transwomen's Activist Network (CAFLBQTAN)
Panel: Lesbians Hacking the Future	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Moderator: Evgenia Giakoumopoulou Speakers: Maria Afroditi Patsi Ise Bosch Alice Coffin Angela Tomic
Conference Highlights & A Message from EL*C Co-Chair + Group Photo	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Video highlights from the conference Message from our co-chair Joëlle Sambi Nzeba
Lunch	CEU Building, Nador 15	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM <i>Room June Jordan</i>	
Closing Panel: Lesbianizing the World	CEU Building, Nador 15 Room Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Moderator: Silvia Casalino Speakers: Mohira Suyarkulova Cristina Gonzalez Hurtado Jean Chong Rutendo Madzinkanda Kseniya Kirichenko Lopa Banerjee (video)

Saturday - 1 OCT - The Future Is Lesbian			
Meeting	Location	Time	Speakers
Closing Remarks: EL*C Past, Present, Future	Hilda Gobbi (Plenary)	2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Dragana Todorovic
Budapest Dyke March	Erzsébet tér - Fővám tér	5:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Alice Coffin/ EL*C Dorottya Redai, Labrisz Lydie Siswanker, Guadeloupe Olena Shevchenko, EL*C - Insight Radvanyi Viki, Budapest Pride Yasemin Oz, Turkey Rhonda D'Vine, EL*C (spoken word)
Lesbian Party	Akvarium Klub	11:00 PM - 5:00 AM	DJs: Zora, Kali (HU), DISKET (BE) Drag Kings: Maryjan Bear & Blue (PL)

Keynote Speakers



Erzsébet Barát is Associate Professor in the Department of English, at the University of Szeged and since 2000 Recurring Visiting Professor at CEU. She holds a PhD in Linguistics from the Social Sciences Faculty, Lancaster University, UK. Her research interests include feminist critical theory, relational models of identity, and the relationship between language, power and ideology. She is founding Editor-in-Chief of the Hungarian journal, TNTeF: Interdisciplinary Electronic Journal of Gender Studies. She launched and has organized the annual gender studies conference in Szeged since 2005. She has been invited to run courses in MA and PhD programs,

most recently at the University of Sundsvall, Sweden. She is currently working in the research project "Bodies in Transit: Genders, Mobilities, and Interdependencies" funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitivity. She is a regular contributor to edited volumes and journals in English and Hungarian.

Manuela Kay is a journalist, writer, publisher and activist from Berlin. Journalist for LGBT-issues since 1986. Co-owner of Europe's biggest publishing house for LGBT+media with the longest running lesbian magazine in Europe, L-MAG, and queer city magazine SIEGESSÄULE, after 38 years the biggest and oldest of its kind. Started the Dyke* March Berlin in 2012. Film curator, festival organizer, moderator and author of various books.



Photo by Tanja Schnitzler



Lydie Siswanker is the president of MA DIFFERENCE-LGBT (Guadeloupe), a legal aid association committed to the fight against LGBTphobia and serophobia. In 2022, her association organized Guadeloupe's first ever pride.

Panels

Lesbians Hacking the Future

10:15 AM- 11:45 AM, moderated by Evgenia Giakoumopoulou

The future in patriarchy and capitalism is bleak. In a world which was never built for us, not even to marginally accommodate us, in a world where our loves, desires and mere existences make us pirates of the cis-heteronormative imperative, what does it mean to harness our own destinies and hack the future?

From artificial intelligence and blockchain technology to climate change, from impact investment to controlling the narrative, the challenges and opportunities are many and equally daunting.

Together with lesbians whose works are as innovative as they are disruptive of the system, let's dismantle our realities in all their disparities and commonalities, in the digital and physical spaces, and draw together a fierce and bright lesbian future for our communities around the globe. Let us imagine the lesbiverse!

Speakers:

- Ise Bosch, founder of Dreilinden gGmbH, based in Hamburg, Germany. Ise's goal is to employ money she inherited so that gender diverse communities in the global south and east can build up the infrastructure of their movements
- Alice Coffin, a journalist and lesbian activist. Her field of expertise is the study of media coverage of LGBTI issues
- Maria Afrodita Patsi, immersive digital marketing and innovation ambassador, Meta AR Developer since 2016
- Andjela Tomic needed to hack identities, roles, from a very young age, and to manage to get to myself, to be who I am, to be free. Hacking means freedom.

Lesbianizing the World

1:00 PM- 2:30 PM, moderated by Silvia Casalino

Incredible, inspiring and fierce activists are resisting, leading fights and shining lesbian genius all over the world. As the final panel of the conference, we have the immense joy and honour to be joined by lesbians representing other regional networks to find common languages, build bridges, coordinate our strategies, learn from each other's struggles and victories, and forge alliances to grow stronger together. Across the different contexts in which they operate, lesbian intersectional movements have in common to cultivate feminist values and practices that strive to implement ambitious and transformative actions, challenging the power dynamics that perpetuate inequalities, to ultimately creating just environments for our communities and society at large. So let's channel lesbian leadership and lesbianize the world!

Speakers:

- Mohira Suyarkulova, Scholar and activist, teaches sociology and politics and works with LGBTQ organization "Labrys Kyrgyzstan"
- Cristina Gonzalez Hurtado, Colombian founder and director of Corporacion Femm, co-founder of LESLAC – Network of Lesbian and BQ Women's Organizations of LAC
- Kseniya Kirichenko, intersectional feminist activist, international human rights lawyer and researcher
- Rutendo Madzikanda, queer black feminist, co-founder of Isusu Ffena pan-African collective in Berlin
- Jean Chong, executive Director and founder of the ASEAN Feminist LBQ Network (11 countries in South East Asia) based in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Lopa Banerjee, UN Women Executive Coordinator of Generation Equality & Director of Civil Society Division (video)



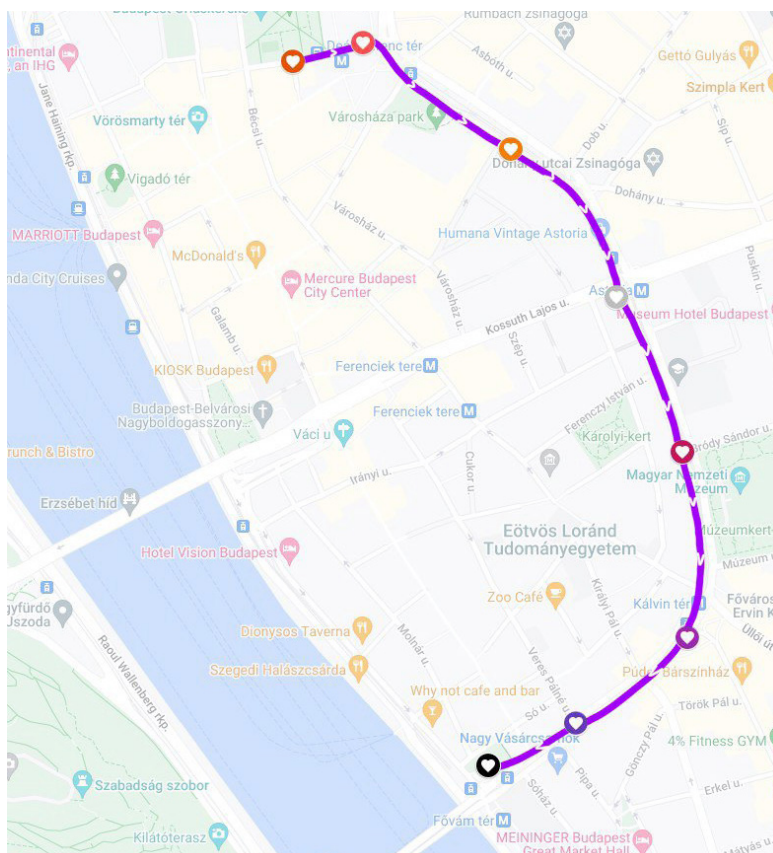
Budapest Dyke March on Saturday Afternoon

Start: 5 PM

Finish: 9 PM

Route: Erzsébet tér - Deák Ferenc tér - Károly körút - Astoria - Múzeum körút - Kálvin tér - Várműház körút - Fővám tér

We want to join lesbians on the ground in their fight against authoritarianism by being seen on the streets of the city in our fight against lesbophobia, misogyny, transphobia and interphobia, racism and all other types of discrimination. Marching unapologetically is still needed to affirm lesbian existence. We encourage every participant of the Conference to take part in this demonstration!





Saturday Night Lesbian Party at Akvarium Klub

Following the Budapest Dyke March, all EL*C participants are invited to have fun together! EL*C Party Tickets can be bought for 10 € on [EventBrite](#). The party will start at 11 PM.

DJs: Zora (HU), Kali (HU), DISKET (BE)

Drag Kings: Maryjan Bear & Blue (PL)

Drag King Maryjan Bear

He is retro figure whose existence is a slap in the face of modernity, logic and aesthetics. That is patriarchal man, therefore fleeting but vital. He represents Sarmatian manhood, „truly” Polish in wedding and paternity style. Although... there is a surprise in him... Maryjan belongs to the oldest (by age) Drag King in Poland.



Drag King Blue

The man who has it all. Tender anger and bracing depression are his fuel. On stage somewhere between fury and ecstasy, somewhere between lipsync queer and drama king. He likes cleaning and doing laundry, he loves to adore and to be adored. Co-founder of two Polish drag king collectives: Drag King Heroes and Brokatowa Wstęga Mobiusa.

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