Love is love
The rights of the LGBT community

When we speak about rights in a democracy, we must take into account the aspect of sexual orientation.

In a heteronormative world, being straight has always been seen as the norm, labelling as different anyone who didn't fall in this category, who didn't recognize themselves in the sex assigned at birth, or with other sexual preferences.

The LGBT+ community, acronym that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans (+ other identities) has therefore been subject of oppression for a long time with a lack of protection that, in some countries, persists until now.

When we talk about discrimination, this stems from prejudice and lack of education, in schools and society; people fear what they don't know.

"The forms of discriminations can be multiples, starting from the physical and verbal abuse the community has to suffer. The percentage of queer people that were victims of hate crimes is still very high (around 80% of interviewed), and with few legal consequences for the perpetrators. This causes an higher percentage of people suffering from mental illness as well, having to cope with daily harassment, at home, at school and at work.

Moreover, the lack of rights is included in the legal discrimination;, not being able to get married, to adopt, for your gender to be recognized, even to visit your partner at the hospital are all examples of such a discrimination, that it's often forgotten.

Queer people risk even death penalty in at least 5 countries in the world right now.

DEMOCRACY
TREE

Lately, more countries have improved their laws to guarantee equal rights to people who identify themselves with another gender and/or love someone from the same sex.
But it was a long way to reach this point.

First of all, It was only in the '90s, precisely on the 17th of May 1990, that being gay was removed from the list of mental illness from WHO (World Health Organization). That became a remarkable day in history and on that date it's now observed the International day against Homophobia, Biphobia and transphobia.
In that period, among the many protests it's worth mentioning the special case of Sweden, where, to go against the system, people called in sick for being homosexual.

But it was the Stonewall riot in 1969 to spark the start of the LGBT movement, many years after the very first gay group was established. This led to the first Pride parade in USA in 1970 and to the origin of the pride flag.

Years later, In 1989, Denmark was the first country in the world to allow same-sex partnership; Bulgaria, instead, the first one to explicitly ban them, in 1991.
Now in EU, same sex marriage is legalised in 15/27 countries, in others civil unions have been approved but not marriage; joint adoption is allowed in 14 countries, the first one being The Netherlands in 2001; while Slovenia and Estornia permit step-child adoption; furthermore; there are active laws on gender identity and gender affirmation change in 24 countries.

DEMOCRACY TREE

Now, let's take a look at the map of LGBT+ people rights within Europe right now. Countries are adapting and changing their laws gradually, granting rights to the community that encompass all the areas of living, specifically the right to marriage, adopting and legal change.

Finally, it's fundamental to recognize the importance of laws that can protect the lives of queer people, with regulations designated to safeguard people from harassment, attacks and bullying, and stereotypes that might prevent them from being hired in a workplace or being rented or sold a house to.

In a world where even holding hands with your partner could be dangerous, we need more education about sexuality in schools, and more accountability from the governments, to live in a place where everyone can love without borders

LGBT+ rights in Europe

LGB rights in Europe

Same-sex marriage, full adoption rights and:
- broad protection from discrimination
- limited protection from discrimination

Registered partnership and:
- full adoption rights and broad protection
- stepchild adoption right and broad protection
- broad protection from discrimination
- limited protection from discrimination

No partnership recognition and:
- broad protection from discrimination
- limited protection from discrimination
- no protection from discrimination
- Restriction on freedom of expression

Trans rights in Europe

Legal gender change, surgery not required and:
- broad protection from discrimination
- limited protection from discrimination
- no protection from discrimination

Legal gender change, surgery required and:
- broad protection from discrimination
- limited protection from discrimination
- no protection from discrimination

Gender change illegal and:
- broad protection from discrimination
- no protection from discrimination
- Legality of gender change unknown/ambiguous and no protection