



**SARAJEVO OPEN CENTRE'S IDAHOT
(INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA) PROGRAMME
MAY - JUNE 2015**

Since 2005, May 17 has been marked as the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia. This day is marked in more than 130 countries in the world, and is officially recognized by many countries, including European Union Parliament.

On May 17 1990, World Health Organisation (WHO) declassified homosexuality as a mental illness in the latest edition of its list of diseases and health problems. Since then, this day has been marked as an International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia as a reminder of the importance of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans*) human rights all over the world. It is also a cause of many different actions which point to the discrimination and violence faced by this group. LGBT people make up about 3-12% of every country's population, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nevertheless, BiH LGBT citizens remain completely invisible in the society because of the violence, fear, exclusion and discrimination.

Until now, Bosnia and Herzegovina has not been working proactively on the fight against homophobia and transphobia, nor did it take adequate measures to ensure the equal treatment for LGBT people.

Our neighbouring countries are far more advanced in this respect. Pride parade has been organized and carried out in Croatia for ten years in a row, and same-sex couples can enter into a legally recognized same-sex partnership. Slovenia has even gone further: same-sex partnerships are now equal to heterosexual marriage. Montenegro is the first country in our surroundings that has adopted strategy and action plan for the advancement of life for LGBT people, by the group lead by the Montenegrin Prime Minister. The anti-discrimination strategy and action plan, including measures related to LGBT human rights and people, are being implemented. Albania, through many of its ministries, work on different issues related to the LGBT human rights.

Hereby, we are issuing a request to all BiH, and its entities' institutions: concretely BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees and entity ministries, to start intense work on the LGBT human rights issues. We believe that we should not let BiH be an isolated case in the family of European countries that guarantee equal rights to all its citizens, including LGBT people.

When?	What?	Where?	Contact person
<p>May 6–8 (Wednesday-Friday)</p>	<p><i>Seminar</i> LGBT HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF EU INTEGRATION: Seminar for the representatives of gender equality and human rights bodies in BiH</p> <p>This seminar is organized in order to improve the relations with the representatives of gender equality and human rights bodies, and achieve higher level of BiH and entities institution's support. The seminar will feature regional, Serbian and Croatian institutions' experiences related to the LGBT human rights, as well as the areas in which BiH institutions can act in the context of LGBT rights. MPs, institutions/body's directors, representatives of parliamentary commissions, and other institutions. This activity is supported by the Norwegian Embassy. Link: http://soc.ba/en/the-seminar-on-lgbt-rights-in-the-context-of-eu-integration/</p>	<p>Jahorina <i>Participation in this event is by invitation only.</i></p>	<p>Lejla Huremović lejla@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>
<p>May 12 - June 16</p>	<p><i>Online campaign</i> FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARD YOUNG LGBT PEOPLE</p> <p>In cooperation with Mediacentar Sarajevo, we will conduct an online campaign with the special emphasis on the violence toward young LGBT people. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness on the problems faced by young lesbians, gays, bisexual and trans* people on daily basis through a series of articles to be published on web portals. The campaign will include a video clip, which will be broadcast on web and social networks on May 17. This campaign is supported by European Union/EIDHR.</p>	<p>Countrywide</p>	<p>Vladana Vasić vladana@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>
<p>May 14-24</p>	<p><i>Activist actions in public space</i> YOUNG LGBT PEOPLE</p> <p>As a part of this year's IDAHOT's topic Young LGBT people, our focus in street actions will be schools, colleges, and other institutions important and relevant to and for young people: their meeting points, such as coffee shops and clubs. In the centre of Sarajevo, billboards with the universal message "Let people kiss whomever they want" will be posted. A LGBT community event will also be organised. This activity is supported by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).</p>	<p>Sarajevo</p>	<p>Naida Kučukalić naida@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>

<p>May 15 (Friday) 10 am</p>	<p><i>Presentation od reports and discussion</i> THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE ADVANCMENT OF LGBT RIGHTS IN BIH – CURRENT SITUATION AND WAY AHEAD</p> <p>In publishing the Pink Report, the only annual report on the state of human rights of LGBT people in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014, Sarajevo Open Centre continues with its intensive advocacy work in the field of LGBT rights. In order to advance the state of LGBT rights in BiH, Sarajevo Open Centre suggests three priority measures that should be taken by the institutions in charge. We will also present the monitoring of 2014 General Election report in the context of LGBT rights, and give recommendations for the political parties. Damir Arnaut (SBB), Maja Gasal-Vražalica (DF), and Martin Raguž (HDZ 1990) (TBC) – state MPs and members of gender equality, and human rights parliamentary commissions, will be joined by Mervan Miraščija, Open Society Fund BiH for a discussion on these topics. Kristina Ljevak wil moderate this discussion. Translation to English provided. This activity is supported by the US Embassy in BiH and Open Society Fund BiH.</p>	<p>Sarajevo, Mediacentar</p>	<p>Emina Bošnjak emina@soc.ba 033/551-001</p>
<p>May 16 (Saturday) 10:10 pm</p>	<p><i>Documentary film screening</i> „REGARDING SUSAN SONTAG“, NANCY D. KATES, 2014.</p> <p>In cooperation with FTV, "Regarding Susan Sontag" will be screened. This film intimately portrays the life of a woman who has, thanks to their education, passion and activism, become one of the most influential literary, political and feminist icons of her generation. The film depicts the life of Susan Sontag through archival material, experiences of persons close to her, as well as her own words, from her early infatuation with books to the first experience in a gay bar, from an early marriage to her latest lover. Documentary screening is supported by the Norwegian Embassy.</p>	<p>Federalna televizija (FTV)</p>	<p>Jasmina Čaušević jasmina@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>
<p>May 19 (Tuesday)</p>	<p><i>Thematic session</i> JOINT COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF BIH ON LGBT RIGHTS</p> <p>Joint Commission for Human Rights of Parliamentary Assembly of B&H in its scope considers the issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In its session on the may 19th of 2015, the Commission will address the problem of violations of human rights of LGBT people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This session is a clear</p>	<p>Sarajevo, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina <i>Participation in this event is by invitation only.</i></p>	<p>Emina Bošnjak emina@soc.ba 033/551-001</p>

	<p>statement of support; a new approach to the combat for human rights of all the citizens and a commitment to building BH society free from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. It is a benchmark in the current work of the BH legislative institutions on issues of importance to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. A member of the Sarajevo Open Centre will address the attendees and propose concrete conclusions that should be addressed to the institutions of B&H and the entities.</p> <p>This activity is supported by Open Society Fund of B&H.</p>		
<p>May 23 (Saturday) 9 pm</p>	<p><i>Party/Entertainment</i> EUROVISION 2015: RISE LIKE A PHOENIX!</p> <p>2014 is remembered by the triumph of diversity and the fabulous Conchita Wurst. Although Europe has a lot of work ahead of it to become a better place for all its citizens, Conchita's victory gives us hope for the better future. For the occasion of this year's Eurovision Song Contest, Sarajevo Open Centre is organizing a party with direct live transmission of the finals of the Eurovision Song Contest and a guest DJ from Belgrade - Ismar Gluhalić.</p>	<p>Sarajevo <i>Participation in this event is by invitation only.</i></p>	<p>Jozo Blažević jozo@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>
<p>May 25-29 (TBC)</p>	<p><i>Info session for journalists</i> SENSITIZING THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE OF LGBT PEOPLE</p> <p>Topic of this info session is the Ombudsman's Office recommendation to the Direction for the education of police officers of RS Ministry of Interior. What measures will be taken by RS Mol in order to sensitize the police officers who work with LGBT people? This activity is supported by the MATRA programme of the Netherlands Embassy.</p>	<p>Banja Luka <i>Time and location upon request.</i></p>	<p>Lejla Huremović lejla@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>
<p>June 1 (Monday)</p>	<p><i>Conference</i> OUT-LAWS: LEGAL RECOGNITION OF SAME-SEX COUPLES' LIFE UNIONS</p> <p>In late May of 2015, Sarajevo Open Centre will organize a Conference on various forms of legal recognition of same-sex couples' life unions, and their consequences. The goal of this Conference is to open the discussion on same-sex unions in B&H. The Conference will host experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, and it is intended for the representatives of civil society organizations and institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. English translation is provided. Conference is supported by the European Union/EIDHR and Foundation Astraea.</p>	<p>Sarajevo <i>Participation in this event is by invitation only.</i></p>	<p>Vladana Vasić vladana@soc.ba 033/551-000</p>
<p>June 2 (Tuesday)</p>	<p><i>Conference</i> TRANSGENDER DIALOGUE:</p>	<p>Sarajevo <i>Participation in</i></p>	<p>Naida Kučukalić naida@soc.ba</p>

	<p>TRANS* AS A QUESTION OF POLITICS AND HEALTH</p> <p>In cooperation with the informal group Trans* B&H, Sarajevo Open Centre is organizing a one-day Conference aimed to open the dialogue on transgender people and their issues with the representatives of health and legislative institutions of B&H.</p> <p>The Conference will host experts engaged in advocacy for human rights of trans* people from civil society and health institutions, as well as lawyers, from Serbia, Croatia and Montenegro.</p> <p>The Conference will be opened by its honorary guest professor Susan Stryker, the Director of the Institute for LGBT studies at the University of Arizona (USA) and author of the book "Transgender History".</p> <p>English translation is provided.</p> <p>Conference is supported by Embassy of USA in B&H and Foundation Astraea.</p>	<p><i>this event is by invitation only.</i></p>	<p>033/551-000</p>
<p>June 2 (Tuesday) 6 pm</p>	<p><i>Exhibition Opening and the award ceremony</i></p> <p>Exhibition „ ALL HUMAN BEINGS ARE BORN FREE AND EQUAL IN DIGNITY AND RIGHTS. “</p> <p>AWARD FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBT PEOPLE IN B&H</p> <p>Documentary exhibition <i>All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and right</i> authored by Hana Čopić, follows Yogyakarta principles depicting LGBT human rights and activism through them. The Exhibition is placed in the context of human rights, as well as in the context of the map of Europe and the world. Using the artefacts from B&H and the region, the Exhibition will show our (post)Yugoslav path through personal audio and video records of people who turn personal into political and whose love and courage to lead their life their way pushed them into the zone where human rights are relativized. The Exhibition will be installed in the period from 2nd until 12th of June and can be viewed every working day from 10 am to 6 pm.</p> <p>Production of the Exhibition was supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in B&H.</p> <p>On the night of the Exhibition Opening, Sarajevo Open Centre will present the <i>Award for advancement of human rights of LGBT people in B&H</i>. The Award is presented to people or institutions which have substantially contributed to the protection and promotion of human rights of LGBT people in 2014 and 2015.</p> <p>The Award Ceremony is supported by the Open Society Fund in B&H.</p>	<p>Sarajevo, Art Gallery Collegium Artisticum (Skenderija)</p>	<p>Emina Bošnjak emina@soc.ba 033/551-001</p>