

## Statement by Pink Ladies – Queer Women Luxembourg



Luxembourg, 7th April 2020

### International Lesbian Visibility Day – 26th April 2021

This year, for the **International Day of Lesbian Visibility**, we are not going to repeat what we have already said last year about the invisibility of lesbians in the public space, in the media, in public policies and in the struggles for women's rights.<sup>1</sup> We have worked throughout the year to be visible and to have our struggles recognised. Sometimes it worked, like during our lovely discussion night on March 11th in Differdange on the **place of ageing lesbians in society**.<sup>2</sup> Or, like in some articles on feminism in Luxembourg in which journalists made the effort to investigate the **lesbo-queer perspective on feminism**.<sup>3 4</sup> Or, for the Women's Strike on March 8th, where we were at the head of the march with our lesbo-queer bloc and two of our activists gave a **speech** on queer-feminist struggles, while one of our supporters gave a small but resolutely lesbian **performance** online.<sup>5</sup> Sometimes it didn't work, as we explain in our **press release** on March 16th<sup>6</sup> in which we challenge the media coverage of the Women's Strike, where we were good enough to serve as a nice backdrop with our rainbow flags while the majority of the media didn't see fit to write about our demands.<sup>7</sup>

#### Our mobilisation 2021 in three steps:

##### \*\*\* What makes a family? Love makes a family! \*\*\*

The extension of marriage to 'same-sex' couples in 2015 has shown that a law is not enough to guarantee equality between heterosexual and homosexual people. To date, there is still no law on the access to medically assisted procreation (MAP) and the related bill, 6568A on the reform of filiation law, has been on standby since at least 2017. In addition, both the current law and the bill are based on a heteronormative, sexist and naturalistic view of family. The heterosexual, cisgender man, whether he is a genitor or not, married or not, can claim parentage of the child by simply proclaiming it. Women (and men) couples are excluded from this right. Lesbians must be married and go through an adoption procedure so that the parent who has not given their biological material can be recognised on the same basis as the other. With the support of the *Centre LGBTIQ+ CIGALE*, we went to the United Nations<sup>8</sup> in 2018 to ask for this injustice to stop and for the law to include **automatic recognition of the co-parent**. This year, we have the support of the *JIF platform* to carry our common demand on parenthood for all.<sup>9</sup> Recently the *Consultative Human Rights Commission* issued a

<sup>1</sup> Statement 2020: <https://www.facebook.com/PinkLadiesLuxembourg/posts/2586023031726011>

<sup>2</sup> Movie night Differdange: <https://www.facebook.com/PinkLadiesLuxembourg/posts/2864451323883179>

<sup>3</sup> Article Contacto: <https://www.wort.lu/pt/luxemburgo/mulheres-que-lutam-por-mulheres-5fca4613de135b923612cac0#chapter-5>

<sup>4</sup> Article Femmes Magazine: <https://www.femmesmagazine.lu/jif-christine-garnier-et-sa-vision-multiple-des-femmes/>

<sup>5</sup> Press release JIF 2021: <https://fraestreik.lu/plus-de-1000-participant-e-s-a-la-2eme-greve-nationale-desfemmes/>

<sup>6</sup> Press release PL: <https://www.facebook.com/PinkLadiesLuxembourg/posts/2868464410148537>

<sup>7</sup> Article Le Quotidien: <https://lequotidien.lu/luxembourg/pink-ladies-un-combat-avant-detre-une-photo/>

<sup>8</sup> CEDAW 2018 report: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/LUX/INT\\_CEDAW\\_NGO\\_LUX\\_29967\\_E.pdf](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/LUX/INT_CEDAW_NGO_LUX_29967_E.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Demands Fraestreik 2021 : <https://fraestreik.lu/revendications-2021/>

formal statement<sup>10</sup> criticising the unequal treatment same-sex couples and unmarried couples face. Other European countries have launched initiatives for automatic recognition of co-parenthood<sup>11 12</sup> or have started to challenge the “presumption of paternity” by proposing a “presumption of parenthood.”<sup>13</sup> These proposals are also a step towards the recognition of trans parenthood, as they do not impose two binary genders in the definition of parenthood. **Laws and mentalities are not static and can be changed.** Why stop there when we are on the way to 100% on the ILGA Rainbow Europe ranking? How long will our families be put on hold because the government cannot legislate and propose a bill that takes into account the plurality of our families?

### \*\*\* Support your local lesbian \*\*\*

It is always easier to talk about the “problems” that lesbians and LGBTIQ+ people face elsewhere in distant countries, and to congratulate ourselves on the advances in sexual rights in Western Europe. However, our rights, our lives and our families are also challenged here in Luxembourg by people who e.g., are afraid of a gay kangaroo. Homophobia and sexism push lesbian, bisexual and queer women into invisibility, into hiding their sexuality, their relationships even in a country that supports LGBTIQ+ rights. It is worth **acknowledging the struggles of local communities**, because those of us who show their faces are the ones who expose themselves to possible attacks. While some people stay comfortably at home, thinking that everything is taken for granted [for them], others go out on the streets, write statements, organise meetings, bring a community into existence, and through this militant work, carry the whole mental burden of the struggles - with their successes and failures - that benefit the whole society.<sup>14</sup> This year (and because of Covid-19) we have chosen a smaller Facebook action that allows everyone **to express their support for lesbians** by adapting their profile picture with the **Facebook frame #SupportYourLocalLesbian**. This frame can be used by anyone, no matter if they are straight, gay, bi, pan, ace, etc. This small gesture serves to show solidarity and makes it easier to find allies who support lesbian struggles. You don't have to look far, **lesbians are everywhere**.

### \*\*\* Our struggles are without borders \*\*\*

On 26th March 2021, we had an exchange with a representative of the **EL\*C – EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community** and since 28th March 2021, we are part of **The Lesbian Network**. This network will permit lesbians, bisexual and queer women from all over Europe and Central Asia to exchange, support and fight together for the recognition and non-discrimination of lesbian lives in Europe and beyond. The Pink Ladies are embarking on a new adventure and for this we also **call on future lesbian, bisexual and queer activists in Luxembourg**: join us, because every movement needs renewal, new thoughts, new hands to do the daily work that allows us to exist. Activism has no age and you can get involved at any time. All you need is motivation, a little time to spare and a healthy **dose of lesbian genius!**<sup>15</sup>

Pink Ladies is a women's group which has been working for more than 10 years for the visibility, non-discrimination and recognition of lesbian and queer lives in Luxembourg. Our group organises various activities for cis and trans women who define themselves as lesbian, bisexual, asexual, queer or questioning. Our aim is to open up queer-feminist perspectives on society and politics.

[pinkladiesluxembourg@gmail.com](mailto:pinkladiesluxembourg@gmail.com)

<sup>10</sup> Statement CCDH : [https://ccdh.public.lu/fr/actualites/20201/20210319\\_Avis\\_PL6568A.html](https://ccdh.public.lu/fr/actualites/20201/20210319_Avis_PL6568A.html)

<sup>11</sup> Article Germany: <https://www.rbb24.de/politik/beitrag/2021/03/berlin-kammergericht-bundesverfassungsgericht-zwei-mutter.html?fbclid=IwAR1lgTk0k-V0iGWtRnnaFP4EaSpuDZXSa8qbVwH1oXl0AFBjilmdddcH98k>

<sup>12</sup> Article Ireland : <https://www.rte.ie/news/2021/0326/1206314-same-sex-couple-birth-certs/>

<sup>13</sup> Press statement RFSL Sweden: <https://www.rfsl.se/en/aktuellt/likabehandling-av-alla-gifta-par-i-sikte/>

<sup>14</sup> JIF video portrait PL: <https://www.facebook.com/PinkLadiesLuxembourg/posts/2819442068384105>

<sup>15</sup> Twitter Alice Coffin: [https://twitter.com/alicecoffin?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/alicecoffin?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)