

A report on activity of the Association Campaign Against Homophobia in 2008

Warsaw, 2009

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I. Information about the Association Campaign Against Homophobia

Campaign Against Homophobia
Ul. Żelazna 68
00-866 Warszawa
Registration date in National Court Register: the 6th July 2002
National Court Register number: 0000111209
REGON: 015182682

Statutory goals of the Campaign Against Homophobia

- a) making a discussion about problems of sexual minorities public and improving their social appearance,
- b) creating tolerant attitude and overcoming prejudices and stereotypes towards bisexual, homosexual and transgendered people,
- c) creating positive identity of bisexual, homosexual and transgendered people,
- d) abolition of entries in Polish legal system that contains prejudice against LGBT people, according to EU legislation requirements,
- e) introduction to Polish legal system the entry about lawful same-sex civil unions,
- f) fight against discrimination against bisexual, homosexual and transgendered people and prevention of manifestation of homophobia in society,
- g) popularisation of knowledge about sexual and gender identities, including publishing and IT activities, cultural-, recreation- and sport-related activities, research and development within social sciences and humanities,
- h) developing and introducing to public circulation antihomophobic discourse, susceptible to procedures of exclusion and social stigma,
- i) pro-healthy activities, including addiction preventing, promoting knowledge about safe sex and sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS,
- j) supporting human rights activities and promoting knowledge about them,
- k) promotion of equal opportunities, including prevention of unemployment, social integration, women support and development of professional training,
- l) arranging psychological help for people threatened with discrimination,
- m) arranging the legal help for people threatened with discrimination,
- n) granting psychological and legal help to people injured as a result of an accident, infringement of personality rights or threatened with offence.

Economic information:

The Association Campaign Against Homophobia does not pursue economic activity.
In 2008, in different periods, there were 5 people employed on a full-time basis.
Rewards, bonuses or other benefits were not given.
Members of the Board were not given benefits on basis of their positions.

The association did not performed payable services within the frameworks of statutory goals.

The association were not subjected to exemption from taxes and payments in relation to running public benefit organisation, including:

- corporate tax,
- property tax,
- tax on civil law transactions,
- stamp duty,
- court fee.

II. Projects carried out

1. Educational projects

Queer studies

Project's website: www.queer.kph.org.pl

In February 2008 the Campaign Against Homophobia started the realisation of an academic course under substantive supervision of dr Jacek Kochanowski. The course was carried out from March to June 2008.

Queer Studies are a part of so-called culture studies and follow gay/lesbian studies. The subject of research from queer perspective are processes of normative violence connected to forcing obligatory heterosexuality and the consequences of the processes that people with non-normative sexuality experience.

Hitherto the subject was brought up only in a couple of lectures at few postgraduate courses on Gender Studies in Poland or in various scientific groups.

Campaign Against Homophobia offered a semester of weekend course Queer Studies KPH of 128 hours of lectures given by most renowned Polish researchers of the subject. Among the lecturers there were, i.a. prof. Ireneusz Krzemiński, prof. Magdalena Środa, dr Agnieszka Graff, dr Bożena Umińska-Keff and dr Jerzy Krzyspiał.

The co-ordinator of the project was Patrycja Kulka.

The project was realised with financial support of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and in cooperation with Equality Foundation.

Queer Studies will be continued in 2009.

Schoolmates

Project's website: www.arcigay.it/schoolmates

Project Schoolmates was the initiative of following organisations: Arcigay (Italy), Antidiskriminierungsstelle für gleichgeschlechtliche Lebensweisen from Vienna (Austria), Campaign Against Homophobia (Poland) and Colegas (Spain).

The aim of the project was providing to students and school staff knowledge and tools to prevent and fight against verbal, physical and psychic violence towards any person because of any reason, with particular consideration of young homosexual people or people considered to be homosexual.

Within the framework of the project two manuals were published – for teachers and students – on the subject of preventing school violence.

The manual „Bullying in school. Students’ guidebook on how to prevent bullying” is distributed for free. It can be ordered via our website: www.kph.org.pl Publications section.

The manual „Bullying in school. How to prevent bullying? Guidbook for teachers” is distributed for free. It can be ordered via our website: www.kph.org.pl Publications section.

A report on research was also published, which was presented on the conference organised on the 12 April 2008 in Warsaw. Before that, 29 February – 2 March in Madrit there was the project’s preparatory meeting.

The project was carried out simultaneously in Bologna and Modena (Italy), Vienna (Austria), Warsaw (Poland) and Madrit (Spain).

The project’s co-ordinator in Poland was Robert Biedroń.

The conference that summarised the project’s completion and the published results of research on homophobia in schools drew attention of media. On the day of the conference newspaper „Polska” dedicated its first page to the problem of homophobia in schools.

Press release from „Gazeta Wyborcza”: <http://wyborcza.pl/1,76842,5115966.html>

The project was financially supported by European Commission within Daphne II programme.

The Academy of Anti-discriminatory Activists and Coaches

Project’s website: www.akademia.kph.org.pl

The Academy of Anti-discriminatory Activists and Coaches (AAAC) was a series of workshops conducted by experts on anti-discriminatory actions organised by Campaign Against Homophobia in partnership with Independent Initiatives Association „Mikuszewo” and in cooperation with Icelandic Human Rights Centre.

Owing to the participation in training, non-governmental organisations’ activists had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with anti-discriminatory law in practice, get to know the rules of gender mainstreaming, PR and cooperation with media, they could also learn how to provide psychological first aid and how to conduct anti-discriminatory workshops by themselves using the drama technique. The workshops was conducted by experts in their fields, for a long time related to services’ sector of economy: Monika Zima (law), Anna Kamińska (gender mainstreaming), Katarzyna Tołwińska (media and PR), Ewa Kownacka (psychological help) and Michał Pozdała (coach training)

First edition of the project: 5 – 14 July 2008

Second edition of the project: 25-26.10, 8-9.11, 15-16.11, 22-23.11, 29-30.11.2008

In each workshop there were at least 16 participants. In December 2008 the preparations for the third edition of AAAC took place.

Co-ordinators of the project: Marta Abramowicz and Patrycja Kulka

The project Academy of Anti-discriminatory Activists and Coaches was realised with financial help of Island, Liechtenstein and Norway from EEA Grants fund and Polish national budget within Non-governmental Organisations Fund.

Project „Workshop of Human Rights Supervision and Advocacy”

The project started in February 2008 and consisted in training of 20 people – workers and volunteers of non-governmental organisations dealing with human rights. The aim of the project was raising qualifications among people working in non-governmental organisations in fields like supervision and advocacy in order to make service sector participate in public debate, give opinions and create legal acts concerning particular social groups, lobbying, etc.

20 people from all over Poland were chosen for this project, from organisations such as Amnesty International, Polish Federation for Woman and Family Planning, La Strada International Association, TADA Foundation, Polish Association for Legal Education, Equality Foundation, Scouting Association of the RP, Trans-Fusion Foundation and members of KPH from Warsaw and other branches.

From March to October 2008 there were 12 trainings carried out by the experts in fields like law, psychology and human rights supervision and advocacy. The lectures was conducted by prof. Roman Wieruszewski (UW), dr Tomasz Kozłowski (UAM), dr Adam Bodnar (UW, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights), Łukasz Bojarski, Bogna Chmielewska, Agnieszka Mikulska (International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights), Krzysztof Śmieszek i Monika Zima (Polish Anti-discriminatory Law Association) and dr Katarzyna Bojarska (University of Gdansk).

Students of the workshops were provided with materials such as excerpts from legal codes, acts and their own presentations and studies.

After a series of workshops students were given certificates of participation.

Within the framework of the project a publication „Workshop of Human Rights Supervision and Advocacy” was published. The publication is distributed free of charge. It can be ordered via our website: www.kph.org.pl Publications section.

The co-ordinator of the project: Monika Nowak

The project was financed by EU within Transition Facility programme PL2005/017-488.01.01.01.

MultiKulti – web portal about diversity and tolerance

Website of the project: www.multikulti.org.pl

Part one: January-April 2008

The aims of the project were: creating a web portal MultiKulti that provided information about preventing discrimination on the grounds of gender, age, disability, race and ethnicity, religion and faith and sexual orientation; promoting social activity and values such as respect and tolerance towards other people and presenting diversity as a positive value; action and conference promoting the web portal for people actively involved in preventing discrimination and promoting equality in their areas (non-governmental organisations' members, teachers, school principals, etc.). All the goals were accomplished. The web portal still exists and is highly popular.

From January to April 2008 co-ordinator of the project and webmaster kept updating the web portal voluntarily.

The web portal MultiKulti – the web portal about diversity and tolerance www.multikulti.org.pl was launched on 16 November 2007 on International Day of Tolerance. In compliance with specification the web portal was divided in following sections: gender, ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation, diversity, European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, about us, organisation's database and news. The web portal was supported by prestigious organisations like International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Association „Open Republic” and Wirydarz Group. The portal has about 200 subpages. In March 2008 there were 60 articles on the web portal. The articles consisted of 3 – 12 subpages which in result gave about 450 subpages. At present there are 113 organisations registered in our base. In the update there were about 350 events added, what in the end gave expected number of 1000 pages. From 16 November 2007 to 31 March 2008 there were over 22,000 users of the portal, what gave approximately 163 users a day. According to google.analytisc the number of hits was nearly 86,000.

Part two: July – October 2008

For four months of regular updates (01.06.08. – 31.10.08.) the multiKulti portal provides new contents and articles on the subject of preventing discrimination in Poland. Most of the anti-discriminatory initiatives carried out in Poland from 01.07 to 31.10.2008 were publicized on the portal. Seven vast nationwide anti-discriminatory projects, i.a. „The Academy of Anti-discriminatory Coaches” organised by Krakow's Villa Decius Association or Polish premiere of the DVD „XXY” (Gutek Film) called for portal's patronage.

MultiKulti portal was also chosen by British Media Diversity Institute in EU Study on Media & Diversity as one of the best European initiatives linking mass media and prevention of discrimination.

The number of hits to the portal increased – in above-mentioned period there were about 38,000 hits. The number of organisations registered also increased. The number of events for organisations to add was several a day.

As expected the works at the portal started on 1st July 2008. New editor was elected – Anna Urbańczyk, a Tri-City journalist involved in works at the portal since the beginning. Adrian Wołczuk, the creator of the portal, was elected the administrator and graphic designer. Every month about 8 new subpages with new articles and photos were added. Many organisations (e.g. Foundation Autonomy, Independent Initiatives Association „Mikuszewo”, „Feminoteka”) registered in the portal to promote their initiatives and to call for the portal’s patronage (i.a. Villa Decius Association, GutekFilm). In total for 4 months there were 46 articles about events from all over Poland added (compared to 28 planned).

„Game of Life” promoting the portal was sent to history and social studies teachers from all over Poland chosen in the contest „Szkoła z Klasą” and to educational establishments cooperating with us. In September the game was shown during police training in Słupsk organised by ODIHR. After the meeting we were sent an e-mail which stated that the game aroused interest of child protection officers and police remand home tutors, who would like to use it during the lectures with young people conducted in educational establishments within the frameworks of legal education. As a result the game was distributed in district police units.

Due to huge interest in the portal’s initiative, especially „Game of Life” expressed during the first project by European Commission, The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and our foreign partners – non-governmental organisations and human rights’ institutes in Europe, we decided to publish the English version of the game along with the poster promoting tolerance and diversity.

The project was co-ordinated by Marta Abramowicz and Anna Urbańczyk.

The portal MultiKulti is ran by Campaign Against Homophobia in cooperation with International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Association „Open Republic” and Wirydarz Group. The portal is a part of the project realised in the frameworks of European Year of Equal Opportunities for All and is co-financed by European Commission and Ministry of Labour and Social Policy - Department of Women, Family and Counteracting Discrimination.

How to overcome prejudices? Theatre of Oppressed as a tool of work with local community

The project envisaged 7-day training for 23 people from Poland and other European countries, young activists and educators working with young people in non-governmental organisations. The idea of the courses was showing to the participants interactive method of working with a group – Forum Theatre and the opportunity to using the method in anti-discriminatory activities. Because the participants were prepared to conduct the workshops Forum Theatre by themselves, they appeared in two roles. On one hand they were participants of Forum workshops (they created improvisations, involved their body and emotions), on the other hand they were taught how to conduct the workshops (they participated in summarising talks, asked questions, wrote down their comments). The project was created based on „education through experience”.

Forum Theatre is a method of working with a group bordering on theatre and education for life created by Brazilian drama practitioner Augusto Boala. The basic part and the thing that distinguishes Forum Theatre from traditional theatre is allowing the spectators (spect-actors) to get on stage.

The audience is watching a short spectacle in which the main character (protagonist) is oppressed by other people (antagonists). The spectators watch how the situation becomes a vicious circle and it leads in the final scene to the critical point (e.g. running out of home). At this point the spectacle ends and Forum begins. The audience once more watches the spectacle. This time they can interrupt/break the course of events by clapping their hands and suggest what the protagonist could do to make the situation better. Joker – a person conducting invites the audience to get on stage. The spectators analyse the protagonist’s situation and by replacing them, they can experience it.

Forum theatre was used to indicate the problem of homophobia and discrimination on the grounds of gender. The participants of the workshop (spect-actors) created short sketches related to problems discussed and together they modified them looking for the best solutions.

The workshops plan was created by coaches from Training Group „Drama” in cooperation with Campaign Against Homophobia. Michał Pozdał, certificated coach of Forum Theatre was responsible for the plan. There were 3 preparational meetings.

Selection of workshop’s participants was made in consultance with co-operating organisations.

The conference of cooperational network of countries bordering on the Baltic Sea and Barents Sea. Benchmarking Studies Project

In January 2008 there was a meeting in Warsaw organised by KPH and RFSL which gathered representatives of organisations from the Baltic Sea region. In the meeting participated representatives from Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia. During the meeting representatives of LGBT organisations from the Baltic Sea region discussed the most important issues like education, work with young people, preventive medicine and HIV, managing non-governmental organisations, LGBTQ culture, psychological help for LGBT people, legal regulations involving equality and issues of transgendered people. Then the representatives of countries participating in the meeting interviewed the representatives of LGBT organisations, human rights organisations and people responsible for equality rights in their own countries. In Poland there were two people responsible for the interviews – Patrycja Kulka and Lech Uliasz – after a special training in Riga in 2008. The results of research were presented by Lena Mogensen and Yvor Broer at the meeting in Saint Petersburg in June 2008. During that meeting the participants learnt methods of evaluating the activities carried out by non-governmental organisations and how to strenghten organisational structure. Those methods were then implemented by Marta Abramowicz among the KPH volunteers and workers during international camp.

Roundtable – cooperational network of young people from countries bordering on the Baltic Sea

The project’s aim was to create international cooperation among LGBT youth organisations of the Baltic Sea region. In the project participated organisations from Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. In 2008 there were 4 meetings in Stockholm, Tallinn, Riga and Copenhagen. In each of the meetings participated 1 to 2 representatives who shared ideas about working with LGBT youth and preventing homophobia in their countries. The participants talked about the possibility of mutual support and sharing experience, which resulted in i.a. participation in Riga Pride. During those meetings the participants also prepared youth exchange „Summit” which took place in September in Tartu (Estonia). Many young volunteers from countries participating in the project came to „Summit”. During the youth exchange in Tallinn the representatives made presentations about their countries, prepared workshops about educating, transgendered issues and many more. The meeting had a special meaning for the newly created organisation „Tartu Gay Youth” because it helped to strenghten the organisation’s structure and enabled its members to integrate better.

Owing to the creation of „Roundtable” network the organisations was able to get to know each other and work on other projects.

GALE - an international meeting of experts in education

In November 2008 Campaign Against Homophobia organised a meeting of experts from The Global Alliance for LGBT education – GALE. During the meeting the participants from South America, Africa, USA, West and East Europe shared their experiences related to education of teachers and education in schools concerning prevention of homophobia and education of diversity. The meeting resulted in ideas for the joint educational projects. There was a 3-step training module for teachers and school counselors.

Especially crucial for KPH is a cooperation with countries from the Baltic Sea region. More information: www.lgbt-education.info

Activities for democracy – project of SFQ and KPH

Sweden student organisation SFQ uniting LGBTQ people invited Campaign Against Homophobia to participate in a project of activities for democracy. In February 2008 in Stockholm the meeting was organised during which there was a discussion about local activities in Sweden that were to include Polish and Romanian organisations. The meeting resulted in study visit of Sweden students in Warsaw during Warsaw Pride in June 2008 and visit of Polish students.

Other educational activities within „Tolerance Workshop”

The KPH volunteers participated in many educational activities all over Poland. There are a few examples of them below.

In January 2008 the workshops organised by international youth organisation IGLYO took place. The meeting concerned methods of peer education in preventing of homophobia.

In March 2008 a school group of Amnesty International in Tychy invited the representative of Campaign Against Homophobia, Lech Uliasz, to conduct a workshop about discrimination of homosexual and bisexual people in Polish society. Students found the workshops very useful.

In April 2008 Magda Abramowicz gave a lecture about diversity at the invitation of National In-Service Teacher Training Center in Warsaw.

In May 2008 there was a trip to Białystok at the invitation of Gender group. Marta Abramowicz gave 3-hour lecture „Social situation of homosexual people” for students of University in Białystok within Week of Humanities.

In September 2008 non-governmental organisation „Pryzmat” from Suwałki invited KPH member for discussion with local middle and high school students about the situation of homo- and bisexual people in Poland. The meeting was a part of movie show by International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights.

2. Health Projects

„Friendly Gynecologist” Project

Website of the project: www.kobieta.kph.org.pl

In 2008 the project’s website divided into two parts was created.

The first one is a base of friendly gynecologists who came up to expectations of people co-ordinating the project. Contacts to doctors are added by the internauts using a simple questionnaire. Among those people were experts of reproductive rights and feminists. Base is systematically updated. In specially assigned place, there are also information on free preventive examinations.

The second part of the project is a publication on health issues directed to lesbians and bisexual women. It contains topics such as sexually transmitted diseases, addictions, mental health and legal issues connected to health. The articles for the publication were written by specialists of psychology, sexology and law. Soon to the publication there will be added an article about the relation between transgendered people and gynecologist.

There are also calendars promoting the projects that are given to people visiting KPH office during meetings like Manifa 2008, Warsaw Pride 2008 and Equality March in Posen.

Financing of the project by Global Fund For Women ended on 31st March 2008. Monika Nowak was a coordinator of the project.

The project of HIV/AIDS prevention for men – „Red Hood”

Projects’s website: www.mezczyzna.kph.org.pl

„Here you will find your red hood” is a project of preventive medicine for a group of MSM (man who have sex with other men) financed by Capital City of Warsaw. In the frameworks of the project in 8 places in Warsaw where people form MSM group meet, 17,000 condoms and lubricants were distributed. Apart from that there was also an educational-informative action, including 10,000 brochures with guide to safe sex, promotional posters and website where you could find information about safe sex, places where you can get condoms and lubricants for free and where you can make a HIV test for free: www.mezczyzna.kph.org.pl. During the action there were 3 versions of brochures, posters and condoms and lubricants covers. Condoms and lubricants were packed by volunteers. Then they were distributed in cooperating locals. Locals’ owners told KPH that the action raised interest of clients and they emphasized the importance of that kind of action. Additionally in 3 issues of bimonthly „Replika” on the back cover there were an unpaid advertisements of the action.

Campaign Against Homophobia from their own resources purchased 20 plastic condom and lubricants machines that were placed in assigned locals. Owing to that, condoms and lubricants were more available and the action more coherent.

It must be stressed that the project „Here you will find your red hood” gained popularity at national and international conferences on preventive medicine and social campaigns. The participants of those conferences expressed their approval of that sort of action and hoped it would be carried in other cities as well.

Owing to the financing of Capital City of Warsaw the HIV preventing campaign could be carried up to European standard.

At the initiative of Campaign Against Homophobia in March in Warsaw there was created a group „healthy MSM” uniting non-governmental organisations dealing with preventive medicine among MSM and WSW (women who have sex with other women) groups, representatives from National AIDS Centre and representatives from City Hall of Capital City of Warsaw. In 2008 in different locations 5 meetings took place where participants presented actual projects and discussed common strategy for future. The group organised a panel „healthy MSM” during annual national AIDS conference that took place 1 – 3 December.

During the panel Lech Uliasz presented campaign „Here you will find your red hood”. During the panel organised by National AIDS Centre Lech Uliasz presented world social campaigns on preventive medicine among MSM group.

The next action in this field by Campaign Against Homophobia were two workshops about educational methods of preventing medicine conducted by Monika Nowak and Lech Uliasz. The first one took place during integrational camp of KPH in September and the second one took place during Equality Days in Posen in November.

Lech Uliasz was a co-ordinator of the campaign. The project of HIV/AIDS prevention for men „Red hood” is realised in years 2008-2010. The project is financed from Capital City of Warsaw resources.

3. Lobbying projects

The monitoring of discrimination of LGBT people in Poland

Project’s website: www.monitoring.kph.org.pl

On 1 January 2008 the new project by Campaign Against Homophobia „The monitoring of discrimination of LGBT people in Poland” was launched. The project will be carried for 3 years and its main goals are:

- minimalizing the level of intolerance, discrimination and homophobia in Polish society,
- monitoring of Polish legal system in terms of protection of homosexual, bisexual and transgendered people’s rights
- supporting people discriminated on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity,

- providing specialistic knowledge about protection of rights of people subjected to discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity to social organisations and national executive powers.

These goals are realised through:

- **monitoring**, consisted of complex activities – such as daily following of media reports (newspapers, television, etc.) and observing legislation works of government, parliament and self-government bodies.
- **lobbying** including actions in aid of changing the law and practices of state agencies in order to fully put into force the principle of equal treating in public, economic and social life.
- **litigation and legal advice** for victims of discrimination and violence on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity given by lawyers. Litigation will consist in KPH's involvement in legal cases in which there would be an element important for LGBT community in Poland. If it is necessary, Campaign Against Homophobia will ask for substantial help from other non-governmental organisations specialising in specific fields and external experts.
- **publications** on actions that would serve as educational and informational props for the project. Every three months there would be a newsletter with the most important information on the latest project's events. Every year there would be a report on all project's activities, recommendations prepared by project's workers and expert's reports of members of Consultation Board on the topic chosen for every year.

On 11 February 2008 the meeting between representatives of Campaign and members of Consultation Board took place. On Consultation Board's side in meeting participated, i.a. retired judge of Supreme Court Teresa Romer, president of the board of Lambda Warsaw Association - Krzysztof Kliszczyński, UJ's PhD student, now working in European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg – Patrycja Pogodzińska, PhD student of Freie Universität in Berlin – Jerzy Szczęsny, Anna Dzierzgowska, working in Amnesty International and lawyer working in Polish Society of Anti-Discrimination Law, Karolina Kędziora. To the Board belong also: prof. dr hab. Eleonora Zielińska, prof. dr hab. Roman Wieruszewski, prof. dr hab. Magdalena Środa, dr Agnieszka Graff, Wanda Nowicka, dr Sergiusz Kowalski, prof. dr hab. Ireneusz Krzemiński and mec. Wojciech Dobkowski.

The project is financed from Open Society Institute resources within Human Rights and Governance Grants Program.

Robert Biedroń and Gregory Czarnecki are co-ordinators of the project.

III. Festivals, film seasons, conferences, meetings

I Festival of Rainbow Families (Warsaw, 22-26 October 2008)

Project's website: www.rodzina.kph.org.pl

The aim of I Festival of Rainbow Families was showing the diversity of families created by people nowadays. So-called nuclear family with a husband, a wife and children is just one kind of family.

During the Festival families other than *traditional* were presented. Despite the fact that *untraditional families* have existed since forever among us, they often had to hide because they were stigmatised and discriminated. The Festival was a chance to get familiar with such families – during panels, workshops, film seasons, expositions and picnic.

Another goal of the festival was passing knowledge on the diversity of communities in XXI century and processes of change that new forms of families and groups undergo.

The Festival was realised in cooperation with Trans-Fusion Foundation with help of Rosa Luxemburg Foundation. Media support: LGBTQ portals, bimonthly „Replika” and portal multikulti.org.pl.

The conference about Yogyakarta Principles in Posen

On 27 October 2008 in Posen there was an academic conference „Sexual orientation and gender identity – problems and challenges of law”, organised by Posen Human Rights - Centre Legal Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Human Rights WPiA UW, Polish Section of Institute of Advanced Legal

Studies (IALS). The conference was dedicated to protection of LGBT rights in view of Yogyakarta Principles (www.yogyakartaprinciples.org) The representative of KPH was Krzysztof Śmiszek – head of KPH legal group and co-ordinator of legal activities within „The monitoring of discrimination of LGBT people in Poland”. In his speech Krzysztof focused his attention on equal treatment of LGBT people in employment with consideration of principles of Law of European Union and Yogyakarta Principles. The KPH representative, apart from discussing legislation and Law of European Union, presented also range of complaints that were filed by LGBT people in Legal Group of KPH.

The conference was divided in 3 discussion panels. The first one regarded selected problems of criminal law, administrative law and labour law in view of Yogyakarta Principles.

The second one – rights of homosexual people and their right to respect of family life. The third one regarded issues of transgendered people and their legal status.

The debate about the left 11 December 2008

The inquiry among delegates on provincial SLD congresses revealed that one in three considered homosexuality for being against nature. What is the attitude of the left in Poland towards gay and lesbian issues? Which of the left-wing circles consider homophobia a social problem and fight against it? Which ones are in favour of legalisation of same-sex civil unions? Where Polish gay, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered can look for real political allies? Who could be the Polish Zapatero? For these and other questions regarding lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered answered politicians during the debate of KPH. In discussion took part: Bartosz Dominiak – deputy leader of SdPL, Maciej Gdula – Political Critique, Tomasz Kalita – spokesman of SLD, Anna Kornacka – leader of Women’s Party, Katarzyna Matuszewska – Labour Union and Magdalena Mosiewicz – Greens 2004. The debate was ran by Anna Laszuk – journalist of TOK FM Radio and the author of the book „Dziewczyny, wyjdźcie z szafy” („Girls, come out of the closet”).

IV. Appeals, reactions to various events

Homophobia in NSZZ Solidarność KUL

In February 2008 KPH noticed alarming actions of management of trade union NSZZ Solidarność at Catholic University of Lublin. According to the news reports, after previous intervention of National Labour Inspectorate at Catholic University of Lublin there new work regulations were introduced containing i.a. entry on forbidding of discrimination including discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. The leader of NSZZ Solidarność KUL, Alina Rynio, ambiguously contested that entry by stating: „Nobody will employ a homosexual here and say that such deviation is not a big deal” (East Newspaper, 1st February 2008)

The address of Polish president and the arrival of Brandan Fay and Thomas Moulton in Poland

On 17 March on television in the address concerning Treaty of Lisbon the Polish president Lech Kaczyński used film materials in which the image of Brandan Fay and Thomas Moulton on their wedding was used. Assumedly the pictures were to discourage people from supporting the Treaty because its acceptance would lead to legalisation of homosexual marriages. On 28 March on invitation of the programme „Teraz My” (“Now We”) TVN Moulton and Fay came to Poland for a 3-day visit. Tomasz Szypuła and Gregory Czarnecki took care of organization of time in Poland of American couple (except for the interview in TVN). During those 3 days the couple and KPH representatives met Ryszard Kalisz – the chairman of Commission of Justice and Human Rights of Sejm RP, Janusz Palikot – deputy of Platforma Obywatelska and Jo-Anne Bishop – the chairman of Office for Human Rights OBWE in Warsaw. They participated in press conference organised in Sejm RP and in KPH office. They also went for a walk in Warsaw and a dinner with Tomasz Raczek and his partner, Marcin Szczygielski. The visit of Brendan Fay and Thomas Moulton was met with huge interest of media.

Volunteer blood donation

In April 2008 KPH once again intervened in a case of discrimination against homosexual people who voluntarily donate blood. This time the homophobic and discriminatory doings concerned “Wampiriada” – blood donation student’s action organised by Independent Students Union (NZS) in Toruń.

On the website of NZS UMK in Toruń there was an information that one of the contraindications in blood donating is, apart from psoriasis, drug addiction and alcoholism, homosexuality. According to the up-to-date medical knowledge and practice of Regional Centres of Blood Donation and Haemotherapy, homosexuality as a sexual orientation is not a contraindication in blood donating. Only frequent sexual intercourses with numerous partners is considered a contraindication because it increases the risk of infections, i.a. by HIV virus. In their letter KPH stressed that such risky behaviour was not synonymous to homosexuality and it was not characteristic only to homosexual people. Such information on the website of NZS UMK in Toruń did not only contradict up-to-date medical knowledge but it also violated constitutional right of all citizens to equal treating. Moreover it discouraged many homosexual students from donating blood. Such things, especially along with dramatic appeals for blood by hospitals, seemed to be unintelligible and highly unprofessional.

Action “Wampiriada” was held under the patronage of Ministry of Health.

Due to that fact KPH asked minister of health, Ewa Kopacz to explain the situation and informed Polish Ombudsman, minister Elżbieta Radziszewska – Commissioner of Equal Treating and Marek Balicki – vice chairman Sejm Health Commission.

In July 2008 KPH submitted letter to minister of health, Ewa Kopacz, with a request to explain the situation. The reply from Ministry of Health never came.

Statements of vice marshal Stefan Niesiołowski (Civic Platform)

In June 2008 KPH turned to Bronisław Komorowski, Sejm Marshal and Donald Tusk, Prime Minister with a request for an intervention concerning homophobic statements of vice marshal Stefan Niesiołowski from Civic Platform.

On 2 June 2008 during the TVN24 broadcast vice marshal Stefan Niesiołowski was asked for a comment about a recent verdict of Breslau family court by virtue of which a homosexual woman was not given full child custody. He opted for statutory taking away children from homosexual parents if they “invite other homosexual and their home is a place of permanent depravation”.

The statement of Stefan Niesiołowski quoted above is not his first such statement. The vice marshal for a long time repeatedly without reason attack Polish gay and lesbian community and by his offensive statements breaks the basic standards of public debate. Polish Ombudsman also took the floor about hateful and homophobic statements of the vice marshal because he as well was alarmed by the discriminating statements of such high rank representative of Polish Sejm.

Appeal to Donald Tusk – Prime Minister

In November 2008 KPH appealed to Prime Minister Donald Tusk about the report “Homophobia and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in Member States of the European Union” published on 30 June by The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

KPH appealed for as soon as possible taking up the legislation work which would fulfill recommendations of The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. The recommendations are, i.a. full implementation of Directive 78/2000 forbidding discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in employment and at work, creation of independent office dealing with, e.g. cases of unequal treatment because of sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing civil unions made abroad by Polish citizens, introducing to penal law prohibition of homophobic hate speech and crimes motivated by hatred towards gay and lesbians, protecting transgendered people from discrimination and regulating according to law same-sex civil unions.

V. Actions concerning monitoring and lobbying for LGBT rights

National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations – Round Table

In January 2008 in Krakow “I National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations” was held. Foundation Culture for Tolerance was the organiser. For the congress came representatives of all Polish LGBT organisations. KPH was represented by all regional branches representatives. The result of the first congress was creating demands in the fields of education, civil unions, health and anti-discriminatory regulations. In September 2008 the next congress was organised by Lambda Warsaw. The participants of the congress continued their work on subjects from Krakow’s congress.

Both congresses were financed by Campaign Against Homophobia and Lambda Warsaw from funds gained from Dutch organisation COC.

Alternative report in comparison to government’s report from implementation of decisions of the European Social Charter of Council of Europe

Campaign Against Homophobia prepared shadow report for 7. governmental report from implementation of decisions of the European Social Charter from 18 October 1961 that was signed also by Poland.

In present report cycle European Committee of Social Rights dealt with, i.a. proper implementation of entries about the prohibition of discrimination in employment.

KPH focused European Committee of Social Rights attention to incoherence of Polish labour law with standards set by the Charter and Committee. Particular attention in alternative report was paid on acceptable in Polish labour law powers of employers to using unequal treatment in employment. That may have particularly adverse effect upon employment situation of LGBT people (lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people). KPH focused Committee’s attention on the lack of unambiguous entry in Labour Code prohibiting unequal treatment on the ground of gender identity.

Alternative report also stressed that anti-discriminatory labour laws are restricted to the relation employer – employee. However there is lack of unambiguous regulations in Polish legislation that would guarantee equal access to self-employed professions such as lawyers, legal advisers, doctors or architects, regardless of sexual orientation.

KPH pointed out that Polish government did not take up any systematic and strategic actions in the form of government programmes which aim would be minimization of discrimination of LGBT people in employment. KPH also pointed out that there was lack of trade unions and employers organisations action in that matter. According to KPH, National Labour Inspectorate did not take any actions that would popularise regulations prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity among employers and employees.

KPH focused Committee’s attention on homophobia and discrimination in educational sector and presented cases of discrimination and deterring among people employed in that sector. In the report most government actions from 2005 – 2007 focusing on spreading hatred towards i.a. homosexual teachers was mentioned. As an example the case of dismissal of Mirosław Sielatycki, the director of the National In-Service Teacher Training Center made by Deputy Premier and Minister of National Education, Roman Giertych was given.

As a proof of prevalence of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in employment KPH sent to European Committee of Social Rights prepared by KPH and Lambda Warsaw report “Social situation of bisexual and homosexual people in Poland. The report on 2005 and 2006.”

The intervention on executing the sentence of The European Court of Human Rights

In its letter from 3 April KPH intervened with Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration about adjusting Polish law to verdict of The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg concerning prohibition of Warsaw Pride. Polish legislation still does not provide effective appeals from potential ban on assembly.

In May KPH received an answer from Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration for a letter about executing the sentence of the European Court of Human Rights concerning the ban of a Warsaw Pride 2005 – *Bączkowski and Others v Poland*. Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration in its answer reassured that at present in Ministry works on amendment on a right to assembly are in motion and the effect of the works in the form of a bill would be finished within couple of months when it would be presented in Sejm as a government initiative. KPH would still supervise progress of works on the bill adjusting Polish law to European human rights standards.

The intervention in European Parliament

Campaign Against Homophobia sent to President of the European Parliament and to Committee on Petitions a petition for the intervention of the Parliament concerning discrimination of practices of Polish registry offices.

KPH in its petition informed about problems Polish citizens encountered when they want to perform same-sex civil union or marriage abroad with a citizen of a state that allowed them to. Polish registry offices which, according to Polish legislation, deal with vital records, refuse to issue needed vital records for those Polish citizens who apply for them in order to perform a civil union or marriage abroad. Such vital records are required in most EU countries which allows same-sex unions.

In KPH's opinion such doings of Polish public administration violate basic human right to found a family that are also gay and lesbian right. Moreover, they are against the basic rule of European Union which is the free movement of persons. Refusing to issue vital records prevents great number of Polish citizens from free movement within the territory of European Union. As for KPH such doings show features of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation because it is the sexual orientation that prevents the applicants from choosing their place of stay freely.

KPH submitted the petition in conformity with the right to submit a petition on the basis of art. 194 of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union that all citizens of EU are entitled to. Every citizen of European Union who is or is not a resident of any membership state, can individually or with other persons submit a petition to the European Parliament concerning European Union's activities and relating directly to the person or persons.

Lobbying among Members of the European Parliament

In May 2008 KPH sent a thank-you letter to Polish MEP for voting on 20 May in favour of resolution on the strength of which the report "in a case of progress achieved in equal chances and non-discrimination in EU" was accepted.

In its letter KPH stressed that the vote in favour of accepting the report appealing to European authorities to spare no effort in fighting against any kind of exclusion i.e. on the grounds of sexual orientation, was a proof that Polish gays and lesbians experiencing, especially in recent years, many forms of discrimination and intolerance, may count on protection of their rights from Polish MEP. For KPH accepting the report is also the proof that unequal protection from discrimination particular social groups and hierarchisation of human rights present in law of the European Union should be stopped as well.

KPH sent also letters containing regret and astonishment to those Polish MEP who voted against the acceptance of the report.

Human Rights Council about Poland

On 10 June 2008 Human Rights Council of UN finished the procedure of evaluation of abiding human rights in Poland within the new monitoring of the condition of human rights in the world. Within the frameworks of **Universal Periodic Review** every four year the situation in every country would be evaluated on the basis of report presented by the governments of those countries and documents prepared by the Office of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (i.a. on the basis of reports presented by non-governmental organisations).

On UN session, Polish delegation lead by Ambassador Permanent Representative of RP, Zdzisław Rapacki presented voluntary commitment by Poland in respect to human rights and (in writing) referred to the recommendations from 14 April by membership countries of the Council. In his final speech the representative of Polish government did not refer to issues raised by non-governmental organisations during previous works of Human Rights Council and during consultance meetings in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the session of the Council non-governmental organisations had 20 minutes for oral presentation of their opinion concerning Polish report. 5 non-governmental organisations (International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Polish Federation for Woman and Family Planning, Campaign Against Homophobia, Amnesty International, International Commission of Jurists) took the floor and criticised the final report of Polish government.

Campaign Against Homophobia and Amnesty International emphasised the importance of adopting anti-discriminatory law that would relate to every reason of discrimination, including sexual orientation, and to all sphere of life (horizontal directive). Present government's propositions do not satisfy criterions. KPH's representative stressed that the government still did not put into force the decision of European Court of Human Rights in the case of **Bączkowski and Others v Poland** concerning freedom of assembly. They focused attention on the fact that, despite the government's guarantee that human rights education was a part of the school curriculum, the manual COMPASS censored by Roman Giertych, a former Minister of Education, was not available in schools.

Meetings with politicians

In 2008 representatives of KPH participated in a number of meetings with politicians.

On 8 May Robert Biedroń, the president of KPH, met with Izabella Jaruga-Nowacka, an Democratic Left Alliance deputy. On 27 May Robert Biedroń participated in a meeting on the situation of LGBT people organised by Social Democracy of Poland.

On 26 August KPH met with a representative from Bundestag.

Meetings with government:

- a) 22 April, Robert Biedroń and Gregory Czarnecki from Campaign Against Homophobia met with Plenipotentiary for the Equal Treatment, Elżbieta Radziszewska. During the meeting current issues related to homosexual people's situation and future collaboration perspectives were discussed. Minister Radziszewska was enthusiastic about closer co-operation in resolving problems connected with discrimination and intolerance on the grounds of sexual orientation. She promised she would actively participate in fighting against homophobia and react to every case of intolerance or discrimination reported in her office. In a few days, the Prime Minister Donald Tusk is due to sign a decree with the appointment of the plenipotentiary's office.
- b) 14 May there was a meeting between Robert Biedroń and Marta Abramowicz from KPH and under-secretary of national education, Krzysztof Stanowski. During the meeting the demands of LGBTQ Round Table were presented and promotion of Schoolmates project and a problem with school manuals were discussed.
- c) On 6 June the representatives of Campaign Against Homophobia – Robert Biedroń and Gregory Czarnecki participated in a meeting organised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs concerning the latest recommendations of Human Rights Council of UN. The recommendations were prepared within the frameworks of a new procedure, Universal Periodic Review. The meeting was the result of an appeal made by non-governmental organisations dealing with human rights (including KPH) to the Prime Minister several weeks earlier. Poland is one of the first countries that would undergo that procedure.

During the meeting organisations were concerned about a response to the recommendation of Human Rights Council of UN prepared by Polish government. Unfortunately, the Minister of Foreign Affairs did not pass any specific information on Polish government position on the recommendations.

KPH presented issues important from the point of view of LGBT people, which were the focus of attention of international human rights authorities in the past as well:

- 1) The status of a bill on equal treatment. KPH reminded that in 2004 Canada recommended adopting non-discriminatory horizontal directive that guaranteed protection of LGBT people. A representative of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy admitted that in a current bill on equal treatment the protection on the grounds of sexual orientation was included. At the same time the representative of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy claimed that Polish government still had been waiting for the final decision of European Commission concerning the initiative of preparing non-discriminatory horizontal directive.
 - 2) Education: KPH reminded that the manual for teachers about human rights – COMPASS, was still not on general release. KPH once again asked the government about the status of a bill forbidding homosexual propaganda in schools created by Roman Giertych. Unfortunately, there was no representative of Ministry of Education on the meeting. Ministry of Foreign Affairs guaranteed that the bill was withdrawn from government's works.
 - 3) Freedom of assembly: KPH once again asked about implementation of the sentence of European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Bączkowski and Others v Poland* (ban on Warsaw Pride 2005). The representative of Ministry of Foreign Affairs reassured that the legislation procedure on that case would be initiated soon.
 - 4) Anti-discriminatory and anti-homophobic trainings for representatives of justice. The representatives of the government said that we could not forget that judges and prosecutors were at the same members of Polish society, which still was full of biases against LGBT people. At the same time they informed that such trainings for the representatives of system of justice were made and the issue of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation was mentioned.
 - 5) Hate speech: KPH reminded about previous recommendations that concerned the demand to strengthen the protection of human rights activists and inclusion of sexual orientation as a feature that was protected by law from hate speech. Unfortunately, the government did not give a clear answer on that.
- d) 9 – 11 June the president of KPH, Robert Biedroń participated in Human Rights Council session in Geneva which accepted the final recommendations for Poland.
- e) On 13 June Robert Biedroń met with Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Jolanta Fedak. They discussed the discrimination of LGBT people in employment.
- f) On 17 October Robert Biedroń met with a president of the Department of Women, Family and Counteracting Discrimination in Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Berenika Anders.
- g) On 4 November Robert Biedroń met with minister Elżbieta Radziszewska, Plenipotentiary for the Equal Treatment.

Meetings with Polish Ombudsman

On 22 July there was a meeting between representatives of non-governmental LGBT organisations, i.a. KPH, and Polish Ombudsman, dr Jacek Kochanowski. In the meeting participated also Plenipotentiary for the Equal Treatment, Elżbieta Radziszewska. The LGBT organisations presented problems Polish gays and lesbians encountered.

Meetings with representatives of international institutions

- a) On 29 May the representatives of KPH - Robert Biedroń, the president and Gregory Czarnecki, the coordinator of the project 'Monitoring of discrimination of LGBT people in Poland' participated in a meeting with Thomas Hammarberg, **the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe**. The meeting was organised by International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights.

The representatives of KPH focused the Commissioner's attention on several basic problems Polish LGBT people encountered including:

- Hate speech, which was permanent in everyday speech of politicians. They gave an example of the recent homophobic address of Polish President Lech Kaczyński and consent of ruling party - Civic Platform on Stefan Niesiołowski's homophobic comments in public discourse.
- Problem with COMPASS manual which still had not returned as a teaching prop
- Homophobic sex education in schools that promoted negative stereotypes about LGBT people
- Still not executed sentence of European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Bączkowski and Others v Poland*, i.e. lack of proper, consistent with human rights standards regulations on freedom of assembly

- Lack of anti-discriminatory horizontal directive. The representatives of KPH presented the current government's works on a bill on equal treatment in which LGBT people would be deprived of protection in access to goods, services, education health care and social security.
 - LGBT people's fear of Polish Ombudsman
 - Campaign Against Homophobia focused the Commissioner's attention on recent recommendations of Human Rights Council of UN for Poland in which several demands were made concerning the need to improve the situation of LGBT people and fight against homophobia and on the lack of government's reaction to those recommendations
- b) **Cooperation with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**

On 14 November 2008 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights invited over 40 representatives of non-governmental organisations to discuss legal analysis concerning homophobia in societies of EU countries. The discussion was held under the title: "Homophobia and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in membership countries of EU, Part I – legal analysis". After the series of discussion panels, the representatives were divided into two working groups in which they discussed the main issues like:

1. The role of anti-discriminatory horizontal directive concerning goods, services, health care and education.
2. The need to create an extensive package programme of EU in order to prevent homophobia and transphobia in crimes and hate speech.
3. The necessity to acknowledge LGBT families in view of free movement within the territory of European Union.

Since the beginning of 2008 KPH is involved in design studies carried by EU Agency for Fundamental Rights concerning homophobia. In the first place KPH offered its help with social research which results were to be published in 2009. Subsequently, in July 2008, KPH started actively participating in meetings which purpose was to work out the best practices in preventing homophobia and methods of effective lobbying use.

In 8-9 December 2008 in Paris international conference on freedom of speech was organised by European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights. During two-day conference people like: French minister of justice, Rachida Dati and Vice-President of the European Commission, European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, Jacques Barrot took the floor. Minister Dati emphasised that "freedom of speech is one of the most sensitive and indispensable kinds of freedom in a democratic country". Commissioner Barrot agreed with her and reminded that freedom of speech was an important part of Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

During workshops there was a discussion about freedom of speech in democratic societies, the role of new media and promotion of diversity with their help and challenges of freedom of speech.

In conference participated representatives of governments, non-governmental organisations and media. KPH was represented by Robert Biedroń (president) and Marta Abramowicz (vice-president).

Programme of cooperation between city council of Warsaw and non-governmental organisations

On 9 July Robert Biedroń met with Sławomir Paszkiet, the spokesman of city council of Warsaw.

On 13 November 2008 the city council of Warszawa enacted a cooperation programme between capital city Warsaw and non-governmental organisations in 2009.

KPH actively participated in the consultances on the project of the programme. As a result the entry was accepted stating that priority issues in cooperation between Warsaw and organisations in 2009 would include activities in order to prevent social exclusion and discrimination on the grounds of, i.a. sexual orientation.

For several years KPH had proposed including equality and non-discrimination in city council of Warsaw's activities. The programme accepted on 13 November was first in Poland such an act that acknowledge issue of non-discrimination of LGBT people as a priority.

Full text of the programme: <http://www.um.warszawa.pl/ngo/index.php?id=672>

Coalition on accepting the good act on equal treatment

KPH prepared comments for a bill on equal treatment. From initiative of KPH the coalition of non-governmental organisations in favour of accepting the good act on equal treatment was created. The coalition consisted of several non-governmental organisations. The leading organisation is Polish Association of Anti-discriminatory Law.

On 7 November in KPH's office the meeting between the coalition and underscretary of work and social policy, Agnieszka Chłoń-Domińczak and Berenika Anders, president of the Department of Women, Family and Counteracting Discrimination was held.

Campaign for 1 per cent for KPH

That year as usual KPH carried a campaign for submitting 1 per cent of income tax for KPH. The slogan of the campaign was "Spite homophobes. Submit your 1 per cent for KPH". Within the frameworks of the campaign KPH prepared leaflets, posters, website and adverts in magazines and newspapers. 1 % advertisements were published in, i.a. Gazeta Wyborzca, Przegląd, Trybuna, NIE and Fakty i Mity.

VI. Co-operation with other non-governmental organisations

Below we present organisations which in past year we co-operated with most often. Besides, we co-operated within the frameworks of the coalition with many more non-governmental organisations from Poland and abroad.

Lambda Warsaw

KPH continued its longterm co-operation with Lambda Warsaw. The co-operation was discussed at meetings of boards on 23 April, 10 August and 16 December.

Equality Foundation

KPH continued co-operation with Equality Foundation in 2008. Several meetings with the president of the foundation, Tomasz Bączkowski were held and representatives of KPH participated in meetings of foundation's board.

Coalition for healthy MSM in Warsaw

From KPH's initiative in Warsaw the coalition of non-governmental organisations dealing with promotion of safe sex between men was created. The coalition united several organisations operating in Warsaw and other cities within the area of Poland. It is first such extensive initiative in that area.

Trans-Fusion

In 2008 KPH was involved in supporting the newly found foundation for transgendered people called Trans-Fusion. The foundation operated by some branches of KPH and it carried cyclical meetings in Warsaw's and Breslau's offices of KPH. Robert Biedroń, the president of KPH became a member of the foundation's board. More about Trans-Fusion Foundation: www.transfuzja.org

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights

On 13 February Robert Biedroń, the president of KPH conducted lectures for representatives of non-governmental organisations from post-soviet states on the topic of gay-lesbian minorities all over the world.

In November 2008 in Budapest 2008 European Pro Bono Forum was held during which non-governmental organisations and lawyer's offices from Europe and United States could share experiences in pro bono legal help. Campaign Against Homophobia was appointed to participate in the conference as the only organisation representing LGBT interests.

During the two-day conference representatives of over 20 non-governmental organisations and 15 lawyer's offices emphasised the importance of developing pro bono activities and analysed the possibility of effective

implementation of existing kinds of legal help. During the fares of non-governmental organisations KPH presented its activities focused on organised legal help, preventing discrimination and popularising LGBT rights. The 3-year project 'Monitoring of discrimination of LGBT people in Poland' received enthusiastic receipt from the participants. The exchange of comments with the consideration of specific nature of every nation created an opportunity to start co-operation on an international level in the area of pro bono legal help.

VII. International co-operation

- 24-28 September Robert Biedroń and Marta Abramowicz from KPH gave lectures in methodology of social research and lobbying for non-governmental organisations in Kazakhstan at the invitation of Soros Foundation.
- 4-5 October in Kiev took place an international conference "Lesbian and Gay Rights Are Human Rights!" in which participated representatives of organisations from Middle-East Europe. Poland was represented by Campaign Against Homophobia.

Due to the localisation of the conference great emphasis was put on Ukrainian issues. Ukraine was one of the first Soviet Republics that decriminalised homosexuality. The Ukrainian Constitution, just like Polish, forbids discrimination. Like other countries from our region, in Ukraine higher level of intolerance towards marginalised groups can be seen. It is connected with the intensification of spoken and physical aggression. In Ukraine there is 25 LGBT organisations.

Robert Biedroń, the president of KPH in his presentation described the situation of LGBT people in Poland and the sentence of European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Bączkowski and Others v Poland*.

- 30 October – 2 November representatives of KPH participated in ILGA-Europe conference in Vienna. At the conference Tomasz Szypuła and Gregory Czarnecki prepared and made workshops on the monitoring of LGBT rights in Poland.
- EVS – European Voluntary Service and Campaign Against Homophobia extended accreditation number issued by National Agency Youth in Action. Owing that KPH can send its volunteers for European voluntary works.
- Campaign Against Homophobia is a member of such international organisations:
 - **ILGA/ ILGA-Europe** - The International Lesbian and Gay Association

ILGA was created in 1978 in Great Britain and is the only global LGBT organisation. Nowadays ILGA's headquarters are situated in Brussels. ILGA has its regional representatives on every continent: ILGA-Europe, ILGA-Asia, Pan Africa ILGA, ILGA-LAC, ILGA-ANZAPI and ILGA-North America.

ILGA-Europe was created in 1997 in UK and since the beginning its headquarters has been situated in Brussels. Since October 2006 Tomasz Szyper, secretary of KPH's board has been a member of ILGA-Europe board. More information: www.ilga.org and www.ilga-europe.org

- **ILGYO** - International Lesbian and Gay Youth Organisation

ILGYO was created in 1984 in the Netherlands. Since the beginning it has focused its attention on preventing the exclusion of LGBT people on every level of education and on the access of young people to proper knowledge about sex education. Currently IGLYO's headquarters and office are situated in Brussels. More information: www.iglyo.com

- **ANSO** - Association of Nordic LGBTQ Student Organizations

ANSO unites youth organisations of LGBT people from nordic countries and from Baltic states. The organisation focuses its attention on fighting against homophobia at universities and in academic discourse. ANSO's headquarters are situated in Copenhagen. Patrycja Kulka, the coordinator of KPH's projects is a member of ANSO board. More information: www.ansoblog.wordpress.com

VII. Other activities

Co-operation with media

People related to KPH co-operated with media in 2008 giving plenty interviews for both Polish and foreign media.

Cooperation with representatives of diplomatic posts

On 29 April Robert Biedroń, the president of KPH met with the Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. They discussed the co-operation between KPH and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

On 17 June the president of KPH, Robert Biedroń and the co-ordinator of KPH's projects, Monika Nowak participated in a party organised by the embassy of the United Kingdom on the occasion of Elisabeth II birthday.

On 30 June Robert Biedroń met with Helen Miller, the representative of the Embassy of the United Kingdom in order to discuss the current situation of LGBT people in Poland.

On 7 August Robert Biedroń met with a representative of Flanders in Poland.

On 24 November Marta Abramowicz met with Helen Miller, the representative of the Embassy of the United Kingdom in order to discuss the current situation of LGBT people in Poland.

Co-operation with labour unions

On 22 June 2008 in Warsaw KPH organised a conference titled "The role of labour unions in preventing discrimination at work on the grounds of sexual orientation". In the debate participated approximately 60 people including representatives of NSZZ Solidarność and The Polish Teachers' Union. There were also representatives of two foreign labour unions: British Unison and German Ver.di, and representatives from Ministry of Work and Social Policy and Member of the European Parliament, Lidia Geringer de Oedenberg (Democratic Left Alliance).

It was first such event in which representatives of labour unions, government, politicians and non-governmental organisations discussed prevention of discrimination at work on the grounds of sexual orientation.

The publication containing the most interesting presentations of the conference's participants is due to be published in 2009.

The conference and the publication afterwards were financed by Rosa Luxemburg Foundation – Polish Representative.

The next meeting with representatives of labour unions from UK, Germany, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic was held on 2 October 2008. The meeting in KPH's office and the panel discussion were the part of foreign labour unions study visit organised by Friedrich Erbert Foundation.

Tomasz Szypuła, the secretary of KPH's board was the co-ordinator of co-operation between KPH and labour unions.

IX. KPH Media

Internet websites

In November 2008 Campaign Against Homophobia launched a new website of the association: www.kph.org.pl The website presents all currently realised projects of KPH and the previous achievements of the association. The website's goal is also to present people creating KPH.

Moreover KPH administer several websites:

www.1procent.kph.org.pl
www.akademia.kph.org.pl
www.festiwal.kph.org.pl
www.kobieta.kph.org.pl
www.mezczyzna.kph.org.pl
www.mlodzi.kph.org.pl
www.monitoring.kph.org.pl
www.queer.kph.org.pl
www.replika.kph.org.pl
www.rodzina.kph.org.pl
www.sezonnagumy.pl
www.multikulti.org.pl
www.homoseksualizm.pl
www.homoseksualizm.org.pl
www.niechnaszobacza.queers.pl
www.mojeprawa.info

Adrian Wołczuk was a person in charge of the websites.

Bimonthly “Replika”

Campaign Against Homophobia is a publisher of the socio-cultural bimonthly “Replika” which editor is Ewa Tomaszewicz and managing editor is Mariusz Kurc. In 2008 the publishing of “Replika” was financially supported from the funds of Rosa Luxembourg Foundation. In 2008 six issues of the bimonthly were released.

X. The activities of KPH branches and groups operating within KPH

KPH branches

- On 22 June a meeting between KPH board and KPH branch co-ordinators was held.
- 30 August – 7 September KPH organised an integrational training camp for people related to KPH.
- 13-14 December there was a meeting between KPH board and KPH branches co-ordinators.

Theme groups in KPH Warsaw

Legal Group – in 2008 Legal Group KPH consisted of 5 members – 4 lawyers and 1 student of law.

KPH's lawyers were involved in activities such as:

1. Legal guidance for victims of discrimination.
2. Activities on the national level.
3. Activities on the international level.

Legal Group KPH was involved in giving an opinion on the project of changes in criminal code prepared by participants of the National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations.

KPH's lawyers were experts in particular projects realised by the association, i.a. in the project The Academy of Anti-discriminatory Coaches and the Workshop of Human Rights Supervision and Advocacy.

The representatives of the Legal Group conducted a workshop for LGBT people from family law within the frameworks of Rainbow Families Festival organised in Warsaw. In the workshop participated 16 people – parents and candidates for parents.

The activities of Legal Group since the beginning of 2008 have been closely related to the project “Monitoring of discrimination of LGBT people in Poland” realised by KPH. Krzysztof Śmiszek was the leader of the Legal Group. More information: www.mojeprawo.info

Youth Group

In 2008 the youth group KPH focused mainly on the outside actions made in Warsaw and on integration within the group.

The Youth Group gathered every week on Wednesday at 7 p.m. to get to know each other better and discuss issues important for young people.

Events in 2008:

- II Festival of Equal Rights to Love that was held 14 – 17 February. The main message of the event was that the Valentine's Day was an occasion that homosexual couples celebrated as well. In the capital city parties in clubs were organised and there was a literary evening with i.a. Mariusz Szczygielski and Tomasz Raczek.
- On 25 April we participated in Day of Silence organised by students group.
- International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO), 17 May. The group organised a happening in the centre of Warsaw during which the same sex couples danced to the music and volunteers gave out leaflets and discussed with passers-by.
- The Youth Group organised a picnic in order to get to know each other better and present the spectacle of Forum Theatre. It was organised on 22 June in Wilanow.
- Participation in Warsaw Pride and assistance by the platform.
- Participation of members of the group in the exchange “Family Portrait” that took place 13-21 July in Ghent in Belgium. It was an important experience in building relationships with young people from other EU countries who actively work in various youth organisations.
- On 22 October the tournament in table football was organised within the action Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE),
- On 22 November the party “Sweet November”.

Jan Świerszcz and Aleksander Dejnarowicz were the co-ordinators of the Youth Group in 2008. More information: www.mlodzi.kph.org.pl

Students Group – main events of 2008:

- 10 January – first meeting of the Students Group, 10 people participated => discussion about visions and plans concerning activities of the group that met every Thursday at 7 p.m. in KPH's office

- 26 April – first official action of the group, “Day of Silence” organised under the Warsaw Metro Centre, in the action participated also members of the Youth Group KPH, event mentioned in media
- August – during the annual general assembly of ANSO (Association of Nordic LGBTQ Student Organizations – an organisation that united LGBT students organisations from nordic countries such as Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia) election of a co-ordinator of the group for the organisation’s board
- 23 October – reactivation of the group after holiday break preceded by promotional campaign in the Internet => an increase in the number of members to about 15 regular members, creating a mailing list in order to post reports from meetings and exchange ideas for action and campaigns
- 28 November – Rainbow St.Andrew’s Day => organised in KPH’s office the evening of St.Andrew’s Day in which participated also people from the Youth Group
- 15 December – submitting to Foundation for the Development of the Education System an application for an exchange of Polish-Lithuania youth in Wilno in April 2009

Lech Uliasz and Patrycja Kulka were the leaders of the group.

Library Group – consisted of 5 volunteers

The goals realised in 2008:

- help for people who write licentiate’s thesis and master's thesis (about 10)
- providing information via e-mail
- creating an electronic base of press released concerning LGBT issues (about 250)
- creating LGBT magazines base

In 2008 about 60 books were lent. In library archive there were over thousand books. Monika Gronczewska was the leader of the Library Group.

International Group – the goal of the group was to maintain contacts with many foreign LGBT organisations that KPH co-operated with. Apart from LGBT organisations, the group contacted international institutions such as European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe or OSCE.

Psychologist – owing to the funds from the city council of Warsaw, KPH ran in 2008 a regular duty of qualified psychologist, Anna Kozak.

Most often people had troubles with their coming out, problems in relationships, with their identity – anxiety as for their own sexual orientation or gender identity, problems with hostility and aggression of parents towards their partner or child, homophobia at work, at school and place of residence.

Krakow Branch

January

- initiative group of KPH became a branch
- the website was created: www.krakow.kph.org.pl
- co-ordinator of the branch participated in I National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations

February

- first Rainbow Valentine’s Day took place in Krakow. KPH organised a happening on Main Market Square, the event was reported by e.g. Gazeta Wyborcza and Radio Kraków
- start of discussion movie events that took place every two weeks in Kawiarnia Naukowa
- internal branch of KPH Krakow was established, apart from the co-ordinator, it consisted of Mirek Ustrzycki and Karolina Golimowska

March / April

- KPH Krakow was involved in organising the March of Tolerance and volunteerily helping in the Culture for Tolerance Festival. Aleksandra Sowa and Majka Sokal from Culture for Tolerance were leading the march, excerpt from KPH’s statement appeared in several media, i.a. Gazeta Wyborcza and Gazeta Krakowska
- At KPH’s initiative I Krakow Day of Silence took place

May

- Krakow branch of KPH participated in Non-governmental Organisations Day and presented the organisation at Main Market Square during an event sponsored by the city council of Krakow

KPH Krakow were to participate in the project “Living Library” within the action “Everyone different – Everyone equal” but is was refused to take part because it was an organisation that brought up “issues that could not be appreciated by the rest of the participants”. After the refusal KPH Krakow submitted an open letter to the organisers of Krakow edition of “Living Library” which caused a keen reaction of Krakow media.

June

- in co-operation with Political Critique, KPH Krakow organised a debate “Homosexuality in PRL” in Bunkier Sztuki in Krakow. In the event participated Piotr Oczko and Krzysztof Tomasik. The discussion was lead by Aleksandra Sowa
- Aleksandra Sowa made her appearance in Kronika Krakowska and commented the article in “Dziennik” about the restrictions that gays, lesbians and bisexuals encountered in volunteer blood donation

July / August

- due to the absence of members of KPH Krakow, the branch took a two-month break in its activity
- at the end of August Michał Mężyk and Mirek Ustrzycki participated in KPH camp

September

- Aleksandra Sowa and Michał Mężyk participated in the II National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations
- Aleksandra Sowa gave an interview for “Krakow POST” about “gay tourism”

October / November

- KPH Krakow (Piotr Wójtowicz, Aleksandra Sowa and Mirek Ustrzycki) became members of a committee that organised the March of Tolerance (KPH, Culture for Tolerance, Lambda) and accompanying events. Every two weeks we met, raise funds, contacted other organisations/people and planned events KPH would be in charge of during the march festival
- At the request of Marzanna Pogorzelska and AI group, KPH Krakow held an informational meeting in Lambda’s office about KPH’s activity and the situation of LGBTQ people in Poland

December

- KPH Krakow organised an action of giving out condoms in Krakow clubs and cafes. It also submitted a statement for media about World AIDS Day
- KPH Krakow started its cooperation with Teatr Nowy and expanded the idea of discussion movie events in Kawiarnia Naukowa. Every month similar event is held in more intimate place

Other activities:

- regular distribution of “Replika” (i.a. in Spokój, Cocon, LaFa, Bunkier Sztuki, Cafe Szafe, Massolit, RE)
- the branch participated in two meetings of KPH branches / co=ordinators that took place in Warsaw
- every two weeks the branches’s meeting were held
- KPH Krakow participated in feminist / LGBTQ events that took place in Krakow and were organised by other organisations / institutions. The branch co-operated, i.a. Teatr Nowy, Culture for Tolerance, Lambda Krakow, TIK, Autonomia Foundation, Political Critique and Bunkier Sztuki (Ha!Art.)

Szczecin Branch

January

Organising a meeting with Robert Biedroń, the president of Campaign Against Homophobia. Promotion and discussion of the book “Tęczowt elementarz”, discussion panel about myths and stereotypes in society.

27 January – Participation in I National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations in Krakow

February

14 February 2008- Valentine's Day – Giving out valentine's cards on the streets of Szczecin

Karaoke at Club Enigma along with the debate whether love could be divided into 'hetero' and 'homo'

April

11-13 April 2008 – Queer- No Fear! Days in Szczecin organised in co-operation with Greens 2004, Lambda Szczecin, FMS and Stara Cynkownia Club.

May

17 May 2008 – Conference on the occasion of International Day Against Homophobia. At Inferno Club the debate was held about current problem which was discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

June

7 June 2008 – Participation in Warsaw Pride

Participation in the debate organised by the Young Socialists and meeting with LGBT activists from EU countries.

December

1 December 2008 – Giving out leaflets and condoms on the streets of Szczecin with the youth organisation Young Socialists.

Breslau Branch

January

Workshops from discrimination to tolerance

February

Replacement of the co-ordinator and election of the new one.

Kitsch Valentine's Party

Entering into close co-operation with the police through Plenipotentiary for Human Rights Protection

April

Submitting a declaration about the statement of Jerzy Skoczylas, a member of Civic Platform

Joining the observation of the trial on limitation on parental rights of lesbian mother, Anna K.

Organising Day of Silence.

Participation in March of Tolerance in Krakow.

Participation in anti-fascist manifestation – 12 April

May

Joining the action of Amnesty International organised on International Day Against Homophobia. The actions's goal was to collect signatures under the petition to Latvia authorities in order to legalise and ensure security for participants in Gay Pride in Riga.

Participation in Non-governmental Organisations Fares – 15 May 2008

Launching the project of Internet television

June

Anti-Guy Happening – Desire for good shoes

Participation in Warsaw Pride

Help in organising “Living Library”

Announcing the sentence in Anna K. case – media’s interest in Breslau branch of KPH

Participation of representatives of KPH Breslau in a conference in Warsaw about the role of labour unions in prevention of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation. (21 June)

Participation in a meeting of the representatives of local branches (22 June)

July / August

During summer holidays TFK and discussion meetings were stopped

Participation in an integrational training camp in Bieszczady

Organising women evenings in Wagon club

September

Reactivation of TFK and discussion club

October

Co-organising VI edition of the festival against exclusion – Lesbians, Gays and Friends (16-21 October)

Breslau KPH Youth Group “Młodzi” was created.

First meeting of self-help group

Participation in a picket against unambiguity of drastic anti-abortion exposition (30 October)

November

Celebration of Transgender Day of Remembrance (20 November) – movie show and discussion

Resignation of main coordinator of KPH Breslau

Organising the St.Andrew’s Day party by KPH Youth

Helping Tri-City branch of KPH in organising anti-discriminatory guidance service

December

Participation in celebration of Worlds AIDS Day (1 Dec.)

Participation in a meeting of KPH branches (13-14 Dec.)

Christmas Eve with parents (20 Dec.)

Other activities:

Help (legal, psychological)

Library

Distribution of “Replika” during open meetings in H2O club

Regular cooperation:

Trans-Fusion, Amnesty International, Scientific Group Queer Studies “Nothing The Same”, Main Anti-guy of RP, anarcho-feminists group Sisters to Sisters.

Temporary cooperation: Young Socialists

Premises we used belonged to W.Z.Z. Sierpień 80’ and Polish Labour Party. Polish Communists Party also gathered there.

In a room we used, every 3 weeks on Sundays there were services of LGBTQ friendly Reformed Catholic Church. It is one of the Independent Catholic Churches that do not recognise Pope’s primacy.

Regular events:

- During the first half of a year:
Every two weeks on Tuesday – organising LGBTQ discussion meetings and Rainbow Movie Club (TKF)

- Since September:
TKF and discussion meetings held every 2 weeks on Wednesday

- Since October:
Self-help group – every 2 weeks on Tuesday

KPH Youth meetings – every Thursday

Regular working sessions (at first every first Friday of a month, then every two weeks on Tuesday – during summer holidays as well)

Tri-City Branch

Events:

12 January 2008 (Saturday) 5 p.m.
EMPiK – Galeria Bałtycka, Al. Grunwaldzka 141, Gdańsk Wrzeszcz
A meeting with Anna Łaszuk, the author of the book “Girls, come out of the closet!”
Co-organisation: Lorga Foundation

January 2008: the production of KPH’s Valentine’s card “Everybody can love”

14 February 2008: distribution of KPH’s Valentine’s card “Everybody can love” in clubs and on the streets of Sopot

8 March 2008: Gdańsk Główny – Campaign Against Homophobia along with Scientific Group Gender Studies UG (www.gender.edu.pl) and socially involved feminists organised Manifa

19 March – 19 April 2008: LGBT Movies Festival in Sopot with a discussion panel. Co-organisation with DKF Marcello and UG Sexology Group.

25 April 2008: Day of Silence. Co-organisation with Tri-City branch of Amnesty International

17 May 2008: International Day Against Homophobia: Happening – Anti-homophobic guidance service

13 September 2008: Anti-discriminatory guidance service within 'Window into the World' Festival of World Cultures organised by The Baltic Sea Cultural Centre in Gdańsk.

15 November 2008: Workshops of personal development for LGBT people

27-30 November 2008: Showing queer movies “A milion Different Loves” along with other attractions: workshops, happenings, video art shows, drag queen and drag king shows, cabarets. Co-organisation: “A milion Different Loves” Łódź, Academic Cultural Centre DKF Love of a Blonde, Wyspa Institute of Art and “Faktoria” Queer Club.

30 November 2008: Worlds AIDS Day – giving out leaflets and condoms in clubs and during the festival “A milion Different Loves”

16 December 2008: Workshops “When will you finally get marry? How to fight against (hetero)normes?”

Regular activities:

Regular meetings of members and supporters were held every 2 week/ month in one of Tri-City clubs or in the office of the organisation City Culture. Since October 2008 owing to obtaining City Culture office, the meetings were held regularly.

Regular cooperation:

COC Rotterdam, Gladt ev Berlin, City Culture Association, Academic Cultural Centre, Scientific Group Gender Studies UG, AEGEE-Gdańsk, NEWW-Poland, Greens 2004, Young Socialists, Samba RoR Tri-City, Lustra Druga Strona Theatre, Wyspa Institute of Art, Institute of Psychology of UG, Sexology Group of UG, clubs: Faktoria Club, ul. Rzemieślnicza 26, Sopot, www.faktoria.net, Niebieski Kot, al. Niepodległości 771, Sopot, www.niebieskikot.com, ENTERPUB, Al. Niepodległości 806 Sopot, <http://enterpub.pl>, Łaźnia Inferno Sopot, Absynt Gdańsk Główny, La Dolce Vita Gdańsk Główny, Pub Szafa Gdańsk Główny, Pub Flisak Gdańsk Główny.

Trainings, seminars, etc. in which we participated:

I National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations Krakow 26-27 January 2008: Anna Urbańczyk

LGBT Barents-Polbalt. Capacity development in LGBT organisations. Warsaw 7-9 February: Anna Urbańczyk

Intercultural Youth Meeting ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN YOUTH WORK Tbilisi, Georgia 17-22 February: Anna Urbańczyk

March – June 2008: Queer Studies KPH (Warsaw): Anna Urbańczyk

Holidays: workshop in Iceland: Katarzyna Banucha

September: Summer camp of KPH: Anna Urbańczyk, Katarzyna Kalinowska, Katarzyna Banucha

Fall: Ania Setnik, workshops from the youth programme in Romania

Fall: II National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations Warsaw: Anna Urbańczyk, Zofia Łapniewska

Silesia Branch

January 2008:

- organising and conducting anti-discriminatory workshops by two representatives from KPH (11 Jan 2008)
- participation of 2 representatives of KPH Silesia in I Round Table for LGBTQ Organisations in Krakow

February 2008

- organising transgendered workshops conducted by members of Trans-Fusion Foundation (17 Feb. 2008)

March 2008

- co-organising and participating in III Silesia Manifa (8 March 2008)

- making an introduction to showing the movie “XXY” within Feminostrada festival in CSF Katowice by representative of KPH Silesia

April 2008

- organising (along with Amnesty International) Day of Silence in Katowice (25 April 2008)
- participating in March of Tolerance in Krakow (25 April 2008)

May 2008

- organising and conducting I Silesia Days of Equal Chances for Everyone and I March in Silesia:

Thursday (15 May 2008)

- 12:00 – 12:30/ Press conference – KaFOS
- 1:00 – 1:30/ Opening ceremony of photographic exposition “Spouses for Life” – Korez Theatre
- 5:00 – 7:00/ Anti-discriminatory workshops – dr Aleksandra Banot – KaFOS

Friday (16 May 2008)

- All day/ Exposition “Spouses for Life” – Korez Theatre
- 4:30 – 7:00/ Gay identity workshops – Rafał Majka - KaFOS

Saturday (17 May 2008)

- All day/ Exposition “Spouses for Life” – Korez Theatre
- 12:00 – 2:00/ March of Equal Chances
- 3:30 – 6:00/ Movie show + discussion panel – Korez Theatre
 - “Their the same world” – Ewa Chwalczyk 8 guest Anna Zawadzka

Sunday (18 May 2008)

- 11:30 – 11:45/ Exposition “Spouses for Life” – FINAL – Korez Theatre
- 12:30 – 2:30/ Political debate “After march and what next?” – Korez Theatre

Conducting and moderation: Arnika Kluska

Participants of the debate:

- dr Małgorzata Tkacz-Janik (Przestrzenie Dialogu Foundation, Greens 2004)
- Anna Zawadzka (AnkaZetStudio Foundation; the producer of the movie “Their the same world”)
- Yga Kostrzewa (Lambda Warsaw)
- Mirosław Neinert (director and creator of Korez Theatre)

- organising a movie show “Trans-Mission” in Katowice (25 May 2008)

June 2008

- participation of newly elected co-ordinators in a meeting of co-ordinators in Warsaw

July – August 2008

- holiday break

September 2008

- participation of representatives from KPH Silesia in integrational training camp in Smrek in Bieszczady

October – December 2008

- finding a new place for meetings
- conducting regular meetings of KPH Silesia
- 25 October 2008 – participation of representatives from KPH Silesia in discussion panel “Do you know you have gender?” on the occasion of publishing Judith Butler’s “Gender Trouble: Feminism and The Subversion of Identity”

Other activities:

- distribution of “Replika” in clubs in Katowice
- keeping an account of KPH Silesia at www.nasza-klasa.pl
- running the website www.kphslask.yoyo.pl

Toruń Branch

Regular activities of the branch in 2008:

- conducting a discussion group for members and volunteers of KPH and for others <http://groups.google.com/group/torun-kph/>
- distribution of the bimonthly “Replika”
- running a website (blog) on Wordpress servers and a newsletter of KPH Toruń. <http://www.torun.kph.org.pl>
In August the website was actualised
- running an SMS service for members and volunteers of KPH Toruń
- informing about current events
- Psychological help. Conversations via communicator gadu-gadu, so-called HelpGAD
- Running a Mini-Library in Przestrzeń Alternatywna LaLucza (ul. Podmurna 30/4)
- Legal help. Help in writing letters, conversations with people interested, communicating the police. (kph_torun_lex@wp.pl) Since October stationary duties in Social Centre of Young Socialists, every Thursday 6 – 8 p.m.

Activities finished in 2008:

- Toruń Rainbow Cinema – finished in March

More information about shows of TRC: <http://kphtorun.wordpress.com/category/torunskie-teczowe-kino-ttk/>

- Information Point – ended in July. More information: <http://kphtorun.wordpress.com/2008/03/01/punkt-informacyjny-kph-torun/>

Main events in 2008 in KPH Toruń:

- **15 January**

The final of the case KPH Toruń v Radio GRA. After a broadcast of “Homosexuals present” and KPH Toruń protest, the radio admitted its mistake and apologised

- **26-27 January**

Participation in I National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations in Krakow – Przemek Szczepłocki and Paweł Fischer-Kotowski

- **1 February**

Intervention in Regional Blood Donation Centre in Bydgoszcz in order to change the questionnaire for blood donors that eliminated MSM and WSW. Questionnaires in Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship were changed.

- **14 February**

III edition of the action “Rainbow Valentine’s” in Toruń

- **16 February**

4. birthday of KPH Toruń in RAFA Club – 16 February 2008 – party and dq Tatiana show

- **6 – 8 March**

Co-organising II Toruń Manifa along with human rights and freedom organisations in Toruń (MSKN GENDER, LaLucza, MS, Amnesty International, PAH)

- **15 March and 19 April**

Workshops “Group work – your place in a group” for members and volunteers from KPH Toruń in Toruń (15 March) and Bydgoszcz (19 April)

- **25 April**

III Day of Silence in Toruń and Bydgoszcz (co-organising). March – Bydgoszcz and demonstration – Toruń. COC grant.

- **16 – 18 May**

III IDAHO in Toruń – two discussion panels “Polish politicians about homosexuals and their problems” and “Polish media about homosexuals and their problems” with participation of Maria Szyszkowa, Marian Filar, Eliza Michalik, Adam Ostoloski and Jarosław Najberg. Three workshops – gender, queer and asertive in Toruń and in Bydgoszcz.

- **21 May**

Election of a new co-ordinator, Szymon Biliński who replaced Agnieszka Szpak. The co-ordinator was elected for a year tenure.

- **3 – 7 June**

Visit of the Netherlands’ radio reporter from RVU Netherlands. Coverage on the situation of LGBT people in Poland - interviews with members and volunteers from KPH Toruń.

- **7 June**

Participation of 11 members and volunteers from KPH Toruń in Warsaw Pride

- **14 June**

Training “HIV/AIDS prevention and estimating the risk of sexually transmitted infections” for members and volunteers of KPH Toruń – conduct: MD Adam Koleśnik and mgr Agnieszka Górka (Lambda Warsaw)

- **10 July**

Taking up a case of homophobic form with a symbol “3-90/86A-Mz” – “referral to HIV test” in which Ministry of Health used outdated term “groups at risk of infection” including “homosexuals” and “bisexuals”.

- **19 – 21 Spetember**

Participation in II National Congress of LGBTQ Organisations in Warsaw – Przemek Szczepłocki and Szymon Biliński

- **4, 11, 18 October**

Anti-homophobic guidance service in cities of Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship (Grudziądz, Włocławek) – COC grant

- **11 and 30 November**

Internal trainings of KPH Toruń on strategic planning and tools that improved it. Conduct: Paweł Szmit (11 November) and Kasia Smulek (30 November)

- **22 November**

Faces of KPH Toruń. Publishing faces of people from KPH Toruń on the website

- **1 December**

HIV/AIDS/homophobic workshops by Katarzyna Smulek and Katarzyna Drozd for students of I Highschool in Grudziądz

- **6 – 13 December**

Queer Fest 3 in Toruń. In co-operation with Trans-Fusion Foundation and “A milion Different Loves”. Urszula Kijewska, Wojciech Szot, U.L.I.C.E., Trans-Mission, Barbie Girls, “Forgotten history of LBTQ”, “A milion Different Loves”, Bridge Markland, Daruma. Grant from the fund of 1% of income tax submitted to KPH.

The report for 2008 about activities of Campaign Against Homophobia Association was accepted during general assembly on 21-22 February 2009.

Marta Abramowicz, president of the board

Tomasz Szypuła, vice-president of the board

Robert Biedroń, member of the board

Mariusz Kurc, member of the board

Warsaw, 31 March 2009