CYPRUS PROPOSAL TO HOST
ILGA-Europe Annual Conference 2016
Our Main Aim.

Our proposal comes as an attempt to raise awareness of the cultural variances which are reflected in the progress of the LGBTI rights throughout Europe. The geographical position of Cyprus renders the island a vital connecting point which lies at the crossroads of three continents (Europe, Asia and Africa) entailing various cultural effects from both the Western civilizations as well as the Mediterranean ones, due to the long history of the island. Cyprus has shown significant progress on the promotion of LGBTI rights and we are now proud enough to celebrate the accomplishment of a lifetime goal for some of us, having hosted our first ever pride in May 2014. Cyprus Pride 2014 has been embraced by political parties, state officials, and former presidents, National MPs as well as MEPs, affiliated allies and a plethora of people. We do believe that we have the capacity to host one of ILGA’s most memorable -to be- Annual Conferences. Our main focus interrelates with ILGA’s strategic objectives being the promotion and establishment of fundamental human rights by eliminating discrimination of any kind based in particular on sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. Following the huge success of our first Pride, we envision a country where LGBTI rights do finally receive the significance and the attention they deserve throughout the entire island regardless of any dividing lines. We envision an island where everyone receives respect and dignity for who they are. We are quite convinced that Queer Cyprus, our Turkish Cypriot allies will also have a determinable role in this project.

George Markopoulitis Head of Representation of the European Commission in Cyprus, George Vassiliou former president & MP S. Kyriakidou – Cyprus Pride 2014
Cyprus.

The Capital of Cyprus is Nicosia which is the Europe’s last divided capital. The barbed wire and guard-towers of the Green Line cuts the town in two, with the northern side being the capital of the self-proclaimed Northern Cyprus and the southern half being the capital of the Republic of Cyprus. Take a walk along the Venetian Walls of the old city and do not miss the Green Line, the dividing line that now divides North from South. Being the financial and administrative centre of the island, Nicosia is also one of the best places for serious shoppers.

Interestingly enough, in 2013 approximately 60 beaches of the island have been given the prestigious Blue Flag, rewarding their compliance for criteria that include environmental management, water quality, and safety.

Must Visit

The Municipal Arts Centre

Housed in the old Power Station building, a typical example of industrial architecture in Cyprus at the beginning of the 20th century, it has been awarded with the Europa Nostra Award for its sensitive restoration. It hosts some of the most important art exhibitions on the island and has managed to establish itself as one of its most forward-thinking institutions. In the courtyard, you can have dinner (or brunch on Sundays) at the Palia Ilektriki Reastuarant, which offers quality Cypriot and international cuisine and you will enjoy your meal surrounded by art and artists who frequent there. (19, Palias Ilektrikis, 1016 Lefkosia, T. 22797400)
Leventis Gallery

Housed in a modern 4,500 sqm² environment friendly building in Leonidou Street, in the centre of Nicosia, and comprises over 800 works, including paintings, drawings, watercolours and objets d’art. (5 Leonidou Street, 1097 Nicosia. T. 22668838)
MEDIA & ALLIES

Following the significant success of our first pride, we have established an ideal relationship with both national and international media via which we will aim to promote and advertise the Conference. We are quite convinced that hosting such an event in Cyprus will automatically render it important enough to go viral internationally similarly to what had happened with the Cyprus Pride 2014. We are also convinced for the support of both the European Commission Representation in Cyprus as well as from the European Parliament Office in Cyprus along with other national and international allies that have been supporting us since our first endeavours to promote LGBTI rights.

“THE CHURCH SHOULD KNOW BETTER.”
WHOOPY GOLDBERG

“KEEP GOING FORWARD ....STAY THE COURSE”
OLYMPIA DUKAKIS
CONFERENCE ORGANISING TEAM

Our plan is to create a team that has valuable experience in organizing big events similar to the honorary event to Alecos Modinos and Cyprus Pride 2014. The coordinating team will consist of 4-5 people who will be in charge for all the organizational issues relating to the Conference. Assistance will be sought from Queer Cyprus, our Turkish Cypriot allies, similarly with what happened for Cyprus Pride 2014, along with other organizations such as the Family Planning Association, Aequitas Cyprus, and Rainbow Youth Cyprus.

Costas Gavrielides, the current president of Accept LGBT Cyprus with long expertise in event organization, public relations and the media along with Ioanna Constantinou who holds the position of international relations in one of the island’s biggest semi-governmental organizations have organised the first Cyprus Pride with huge success. We are assured they have the knowledge and expertise to coordinate and make the Cyprus ILGA Conference 2016 one of the most well organised Conferences that ILGA has ever experienced.
FUNDRAISING

We are now in a position to have sponsors that have supported us in our first pride who we will be approaching for fundraising for the ILGA Conference 2016 as well. These consist of NGO’s, Embassies, and private companies.

Following the success of the first pride, several companies have shown interest in our organisation expressing their willingness to contribute financially in the future. Additionally, we will be approaching Cyprus Tourism Organisation who requested our co-operation already for our second pride. We are quite confident that the embassies with whom we have excellent and very close relations can contribute significantly for the required fundraising covering the needs of the Conference.
CONFERENCE SITE

Accommodation will be arranged by approaching the hotels we have already worked with for all the international events that we have organised so far.

Cyprus is a touristic attraction, also famous for hosting several international conferences that can host 300 people which thus, covers the needs for the ILGA Conference.

We have very close relationships with the all the Universities of the island that have the space to host conference meetings of 200-250 people but we certainly aim to work with specific hotels that we have in mind so that we combine accommodation and conference rooms all at the same place.

Access to wheel chairs throughout the entire conference is very vital and something that we have taken in mind very seriously.
We will be inviting the mayor of the respective City since we have excellent relationsh with the vast majority of mayors with whom we have worked in the past.

We also aim to have Alecos Modinos as one of our speakers. Alecos is by far the most important LGBTI rights activist of the Republic of Cyprus whose contribution was determinable for the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the Republic of Cyprus.

We believe a high profile event as this could attract the interest of the Government Spokesman.

Our main aim is to invite Cypriot academics that have been active within the sphere of LGBTI rights the recent years as well as representatives from all political parties, the government and MEPs.

Last but not least we wish to have the Cyprus Ombudsperson (the National Body for Discrimination) as a prospective local person who much knowledge and expertise on the field of LGBT rights.
SOCIAL EVENTS

Social event shall include a reception that will more likely be hosted by the Mayor of Nicosia who has done the same before in one of the most beautiful locations of the Capital.

Additional social events may include city tour and crossing the dividing line in order to visit the North part of the island. We consider this as a means to bring awareness of the long-standing problem which keeps the capital divided and which makes things for LGBTI rights even more difficult to progress.

We also consider visits to the North such to Kyrenia and Famagust that have few of the most beautiful beaches of the island.
Volunteers

We have active volunteers that are constantly assisting us and who are willing to make the ILGA Conference in Nicosia a lifetime experience for every single attendee.

We maintain a list of volunteers separated based on the area they are competent to volunteer and we are confident we will have 10-20 people that will be assisting for everything.
CYPRUS ILGA CONFERENCE 2016
SEE YOU THERE!!!