

**RCN**

**Rainbow  
Cities  
Network**

*PROUDLY  
PRESENTS*

**FAMILIES**  
2017

*AN  
INTERNATIONAL  
EXHIBITION*

# THE RCN EXHIBITION

## FAMILIES

The Rainbow Cities Network (RCN), which today includes more than 30 cities, was established in 2013 on occasion of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). The network aims to discuss local approaches in equality and anti-discrimination work for LGBTIQ persons, to learn from each other, and to develop joint strategies.

As a joint project, the Rainbow Cities have organised a photo exhibition with the title “Families” on occasion of IDAHOT on 17 May 2017: Sixteen cities participate and provide one photo each for the international exhibition.

Families have special meanings for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. All too often, our family of origin stands for non-acceptance, conflict and rejection, rather than for a safe haven where we find love and emotional security. The original family is a frequent source of conflict and denial, and often “belonging to a family” becomes a subject of lifelong yearning. For many of us, friends become our chosen families, our new home. In a family, people take care of each other – though many LGBTIQ people do not experience this feeling until they become part of the LGBTIQ community. The community makes us feel that we belong; it gives us appreciation, love, and a chance to talk about everything – not in spite of who we are, but on the contrary: because of who we are. It is where we can be ourselves, get in touch with our feelings, and develop our full potential as individuals.

In the past years, rainbow families have increasingly come out into the open, emerging from the shadows of a society that has long failed to see them. More and more LGBTIQ people long to start a family, with biological children, stepchildren, foster children or adopted children. They show that queer life and parenthood are not mutually exclusive, and can indeed become an asset for our society.

Families are important for each and every one of us – and as different as the colours of the rainbow. But one thing holds true for everyone: family is where love is.



Wolfgang Wilhelm, Vienna  
Curator of the exhibition

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# NO. 1, BRIGHTON & HOVE



## ALL FOR ONE & ONE FOR ALL

by Catalina Z. Balan

Call it a clan, a tribe, a family. Whatever you call it, you need one. We are all parents of our dreams and children of destiny, our city introduces us to new family, to lost siblings, to visions of ourselves complete. We learn the true history of our family, who walked with brilliance in a darker world. We all come from somewhere else, this city by the sea, calls out to us, Brighton & Hove is a rainbow beacon and whispers, 'your family is here'. To us, family means putting your arms around each other and being there.

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# NO. 2, SÃO PAULO



## LUCIANO'S INSPIRATION: LOVE WINS PREJUDICE

by Luiz Rocha Pombo & Leonardo Hirai

The picture was taken during Luciano's wedding this year. He's one of the beneficiaries of the Transcitizenship Program of São Paulo's Municipality. In his words, „I understand by family a group of people who love and support each other in any situation. My family is my wife, my mother, my brothers and sisters and my friends. One of the most important moments I shared with them was when I got my Mastectomy surgery. We were surprised by life and I renewed my hope”.

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# NO. 3, AMSTERDAM



## WE ARE EXPECTING

by Daan Stringer

Many children in Amsterdam grow up in a non-traditional family. For example, they have two mothers. These women are expecting their first child together.

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# NO. 4, VIENNA



## RAINBOWCHILD

by Lisa Pohl

Our son has two mothers. He made us a big family and coloured our lives. We wish a colourful world full of diversity and love for all of us. Can you imagine a summer rain without a rainbow?

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# NO. 5, BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION



## OUT-IN-THE-STREET

by Wen-Chi Su

The science is clear: there is no evidence at all that children raised by same-sex parents will be significantly any different than children raised in traditional families in all areas of their psychological development.

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## NO. 6, LJUBLJANA



### DAJA, TIBOR AND JEDRT

by Jasna Klančičar

Daja and Jedrt during a stroll on the Ljubljana's central Butchers' Bridge with their son Tibor. The well-known "love locks" on the bridge are tokens of long-lasting and loving relationships, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. Ljubljana itself means 'the loved one' and as we all know, home is where one's love is.

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# NO. 7, MEXICO CITY



## DIVERSE FAMILIES IN MEXICO CITY

by Karina Buendía Monroy

Mexico City, the capital of Mexico, is well known for being a metropolis that guarantees and protects LGBTTTI people's rights. That's why today all types of families are protected by the government through their recognition in the local Constitution and other legal dispositions.

In this image, you can appreciate Mauricio and Leonardo, a married gay couple who adopted a child in Mexico City. This picture is part of a video made by COPRED to promote the rights of diverse families.

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# NO. 8, ZURICH



## ZURICH CELEBRATES FAMILY DIVERSITY: «SURPRISE ACT: IFED CAKE»

by Ida Schmieder

The Swiss Rainbow Family Association and the City of Zurich's Equality Office invited all rainbow and other families and friends to join them in celebrating IFED 2016 in Zurich. The day provided a rich programme of fun and conversation for kids and grownups alike. The World Café in the morning was dedicated to discussing the challenges of the various family constellations and framing the demands for policymakers, educators and society as a whole. IFED concluded with a circus act that the children had rehearsed throughout the day in a workshop run by Circus Luna.

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# NO. 9, COLOGNE



## FAMILIE EINHORN

by Emma Behrends (10 years old)

The picture of the City of Cologne was painted by Emma Behrends (10 years old), the winner of a painting competition for children. She wrote the following text: "FAMILY UNICORN - Mama and Papa Unicorn enjoy together with their Rainbow child the rainbow on a colorful beautiful flower meadow in Cologne. Everyone likes Unicorns!"

The competition- jury consisted of: Sarah Dionisius (Rubicon e.V. Cologne), Alex Wehrle (Managing Director of 1. FC Cologne), Georg Siep (artist from Cologne), Nina Rehberg (Head of diversity-department), Christian Rahmfeld (Head of LGBTI-office).

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# NO. 10, HANNOVER



## FAMILY IS WHERE LOVE IS

by Landeshauptstadt Hannover

This photo was taken in september 2016 at the „Entdeckertag“ in Hannover. A family festival initiated by the Region of Hannover. The frame was used for all visitors in several languages and invited people to take a picture for theirselves while holding and looking through the frame.

It is a clear statement from the City of Hannover because it is all just about love.

Special thanks to Silvia, Matilda and Michaela  
(on the photo: from left to right).

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# NO. 11, GENEVA



## SOLID FAMILY NEVER FALLS APART

by Irina Popa

Mauro, Matthew and their family in front of the famous Jet d'eau fountain in Geneva.

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# NO. 12, BERLIN



## RAINBOW FAMILY AT TEMPELHOFER FELD IN BERLIN

by Anja Weber

There are many rainbow families living in Berlin: Lesbian mothers, gay fathers, transgender parents, patchwork and Queer families with biological, adopted and foster children. To support Rainbow Families, Berlin has established a support infrastructure and is funding a Rainbow Family Center that offers many services for Rainbow Families.

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# NO. 13, TURIN



## FAMIGLIE PER TORINO\_FAMILIES FOR TURIN

by City of Turin Centre for Relationships and Families

In 2010 the City of Turin opened its Centre for Relationships and Families, a place where all citizens can receive information, orientation and counselling in respect to their interpersonal relationships and families. This collage panel welcomes all visitors and depicts all different meanings of relationships and families for Turin. The LGBT Office contributed to the panel with two Turin rainbow families' photos. Each letter stands for a word expressing feelings, relationships, families.

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# NO. 14, MUNICH



## INTERNATIONAL FAMILY EQUALITY DAY AT MUNICH ZOO, 2015

by Barbara Stenzel

Every first Sunday in May is International Family Equality Day - the day for rainbow family pride and visibility. LesMamas, Munich's organization for lesbian moms and prospective moms, have been inviting rainbow families and their friends to the zoo for some speeches and a day of family fun since the inception of IFED.

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# NO. 15, LEUVEN



## UNDER OUR RAINBOW UMBRELLA

by David Reynvoet

Under our rainbow umbrella everybody is welcome ... because the fight for equality must include all of us: Think inclusively!

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# NO. 16, BARCELONA



## BARCELONA FAMILIES

by Mar C. LLop

Just before 2005 words like marriage, children, heritage or family, could not belong to LGBTI people. We grew up to learn our parents wishes projected on us would never be fulfilled. Frustration needed to be alleviated. We wanted to have OUR OWN FAMILY and in doing so we included new words to our reality: struggle, challenge, rejection, homophobia, prejudice... but we also added a good bunch of happiness, future, empowerment and pride. (FLG)

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15. LEUVEN: **UNDER OUR RAINBOW UMBRELLA** BY DAVID REYNVOET
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