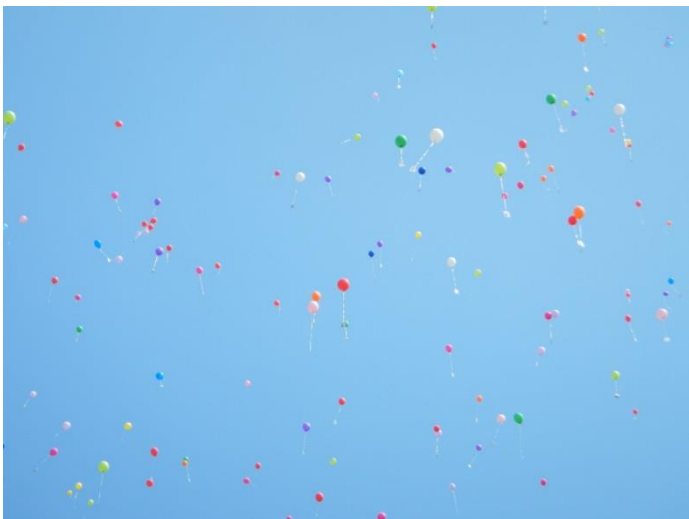


The StadtAG LST (city-consortium LGBT)

For guidance and advice of lesbian-, gay- and transgender-related topics at the municipal level, the City of Cologne established the StadtAG LST (city-consortium LGBT). The unit for Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender works closely with the non-profit organizations represented in the StadtAG. The management of this advisory board is executed by the unit for LST. It carries the decisions taken at the StadtAG into politics and the city administration.

Publications

- "Combating Homophobia "- A European White Paper
- "We are parents" - study on the living situation of Rainbow families in Cologne
- "The City consortium for Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender"
- "Cologne - City of Diversity" - the diversity process in Cologne



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Stadt Köln



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Stadt Köln



The unit for lesbians, gays and transgender



The unit for
lesbians, gays and
transgender

Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender in Cologne

Lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender are present in Cologne in all areas of society. It is estimated that five to ten percent of the people are attracted to their own sex. The urban society thrives on the diversity of the citizens. The well-being of all who live here or visit the city is positively affected by a climate of acceptance, openness and trust.

With its reputation as an open and tolerant city, Cologne has become a stronghold of lesbian and gay life that prides itself on a dedicated community. But even in Cologne, living free of discrimination cannot always be taken for granted. Although much has been achieved on the road to equality, homosexuals or transsexuals still suffer from discrimination and exclusion.

We set ourselves the goal of combating discrimination and to recognize and to promote the diversity of people living here. For this reason, we established a unit for lesbian, gay and transgender matters and issues in 2010. The tasks of this unit are as diverse as the group of people to which it is dedicated.

Tasks of the Service for Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender

- Representing the interests of lesbian, gay and transgender people inside and outside the city administration
- mediator between politics, administration and population
- Working closely with the City Consortium for Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender (StadtAG LST)

Coordination and management of work for lesbians, gays and transgender

A focus-oriented management of topics is to enable the City administration to be in a position to communicate goal-oriented with the non-profit organisations of the community, media and investors.

External representation and public relations

The unit for Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender may, within their area of responsibility, represent the city administration to the outside. It aims to work closely with members of the City consortium Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender. The Public Relations refers mainly to:

- Discussion Events
- Self-organized events in the community
- Nationwide, inter-communal and international meetings
- intensify and improve connections between the city administration and community
- Campaigns

Contact partner for organizations

The unit is to be understood as the addressee for all concerns of the community, the members of the City consortium for Gays, Lesbians, and Transgender (StadtAG LST) and for national organizations. The department may collect, manage and provide statistical data relating to the community; it can make this data available to interested parties.

Ombudsman, advice and guide function for LGBT within the city administration

The unit serves as a point of contact for people with individual experiences of discrimination. It acts as a guide for those seeking advice, forwards them to the counseling centers and organizations responsible for them. The department helps the affected person to make sure their issues are being heard. Support may relate to the communication with the offices of the city administration, legal issues and personal assistance.

Intercommunal and international cooperation

Most large cities in Germany have some type of services for same-sex lifestyles and advisory boards which are comparable with the StadtAG LST (City Consortium). The unit for LGBT in Cologne will use the experience gained there in the development and optimization of concepts through close cooperation. For this, there is a regular exchange and mutual support.

Representation of interests of lesbian, gay and transgender people in city-committees

The unit for lesbians, gays and transgender advocates for its target group in:

- Council Committees
- The internal administrative working group on the city-consortium
- Other municipal committees