

ANSO

quarterly
#1 2009

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The board from left to right Lorenzo Rasmussen, Chris Riddselius, Virga Prasmickaite, Aldis Olafsdottir, Vignir Freyr Helgason, Monika Grzywnowicz, Arnt V. Arntsen, Patrycja Kulka, Vilma Gabrieliute, Ann Kristin Fagerlund, Audun Gustavsen. Missing in the picture is board member Isabel Enström. (Virga and Audun have resigned.)

ANSO Quarterly #1

We are proud to be able to present you with our brand new newsletter. Here we want to tell you about what is happening with ANSO. Share our thoughts and give you an idea of what we together in ANSO are doing. ANSO is for collaborating, gaining inspiration, giving a helping hand and supporting each other. We are students and we demand equal rights in higher education.

ANSO was founded in 2004 by five Nordic LGBTQ student organizations. We have since grown currently counting 12 member organizations from 8 European countries. You can read about all our members on pages 18 - 21 and about the new member Estonian Gay Youth who is the first organization to deal with LGBTQ issues in Estonia. Throughout the years ANSO has hosted several conferences and study sessions and participated in Prides around Europe. In May 2008 we hosted the first European trans conference targeting students in higher education.

The conference was mainly funded by Youth in Action Programme and NORDBUK. The participants spent a week of intensive work in Aarhus, Denmark. You can read more about the conference and the ongoing project 'Students for Transgender Inclusion' later in the newsletter. You can also read about the annual ANSO conference which in 2008 took place in beautiful Iceland. The conference was titled 'Queer Wonderland' and aimed to envision our future utopia. In January of this year ANSO hosted a study session in Council of Europe Youth Centre in Strasbourg with young people from 21 different countries.

ANSO is constantly growing including new members from not only Nordic countries but also the Baltic States and Poland. To accommodate the growth of the organization and ease inclusion of future members there have had to be some structural changes within ANSO. Previously the board was comprised of representatives from

each country. The new board structure which was accepted in August 2008 consists of a presidium of four, two members elected independently of nationality and divides the member countries into three regions each with two representatives. The new board was elected in August with Monika Grzywnowicz as president. Monika has almost three years of experience as a board member and treasurer of ANSO and she has been in charge of the 'Students for Transgender Inclusion' project.

"I'm proud to be the new president of such a dynamic organization as ANSO and I'm really looking forward to all our projects and new challenges. I hope we're going to continue our work on fighting heteronormativity in higher education and transgender inclusion, which are our main focus points. I also hope we're going to be even more motivated and more inspired to make ANSO even stronger", says Monika Grzywnowicz.

Students for Transgender Inclusion



ANSO initiated the Students for Transgender Inclusion project in 2007 aiming to create awareness and knowledge on transgender issues among its members and the public in general. The project includes several activities, mainly funded by Youth in Action Programme, strengthening the inclusion of transgender people within ANSO and ANSO's contact with other LGBTQ organizations across Europe. The project is prepared by ANSO in cooperation with its partners and consists of three main parts; preparation of educational material which took place in Oslo, Norway, February 2008, the Trans conference in Aarhus, Denmark, May 2008 and the yearly event Transgender Day of Remembrance in November.

The Students for Transgender Inclusion booklet is published in several languages and will be free to download from www.anso.dk

One of the outcomes of the conference was the webpage www.transweb.wordpress.com



The first part of the trans project took place in Oslo in February 2008 and was aimed at preparing educational material dealing with transgender issues for use in all member organizations and hopefully more widely in European LGBTQ student organization. Issues, such as

terminology, health, support groups, legal situations of transgender persons, and links to different European transgender organizations as well as web pages dealing with trans were all compiled in a booklet which will play an integral role in trans inclusion work of LGBTQ student

organizations. Together with the booklet there is going to be posters and leaflets produced which will give the project needed visibility, both within the LGBTQ community and the general public, which will help to fight transphobia so distinctively present in European societies.

Conference in Aarhus, Denmark

In May 2008 ANSO held its first ever trans-conference. The place was Aarhus, Denmark and participants came from all over the Nordic and Baltic region. During five highly intensive and extremely interesting days the participants were working on issues connected with trans.

The goal was to inspire young people participating in the conference and by this creating space for new projects and new ideas which would help dissemination of information and knowledge about transgender issues. 25 people from 9 participating organizations came together to make a change within the LGBTQ student movement.

Topics of the conference

The program consisted of performances, workshops and lectures on a number of topics related to transgender. Among the guest speakers were Josephine Wilson, who addressed the issue of reclaiming transgender history and also did her performance piece "Being me, Performing Myself" for the participants at the local LGBTQ

club, Blender. Arawn Repka, participant of the conference, gave an interesting introduction to Representation of Transgender in popular culture. Alex Fridunger, also a participant of the conference, widened the perspectives on LGBTQ discrimination by taking an intersectional approach to the issue, in addition to screening his own movie "Are you a girl or what?". Among the other topics discussed were higher education and trans, health issues, queer theory and gender as a fluid concept.

The conference outcome

Reflecting upon the participating organizations' practices and improving them was an essential factor in the success of the conference. It resulted in several projects and project ideas such as a sticker campaign and the trans webpage. Material on transgender health was gathered, plans were made for the execution of Transgender Day of Remembrance, and strategies regarding changing rooms and gyms at schools were developed.

Participants came from student, youth and LGBTQ-groups to educate themselves on transgender issues and to discuss and exchange experiences on Transgender Inclusion. The conference focused on broadening young people's horizon concerning transgender issues as well as encouraging them to take up new initiatives on the topic through workshops, lectures, and group discussions. Plans have been made for continuation of the 'Students for Transgender Inclusion' project. Among other things it includes a book with young trans people's experiences.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 21st 2008 was the 10th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance commemorating those who were killed and/or suffered from transphobia and hatred. ANSO member organizations hosted activities marking the day and created awareness and visibility around all transgender people. Transgender people are

victims of hate crimes based on ignorance, fear, and lack of knowledge concerning trans issues. This is why the Transgender Remembrance Day is so important. The event focuses on trans history, activism, and further education. Movie screenings, lectures, and art exhibitions were part of the Remembrance day working on making

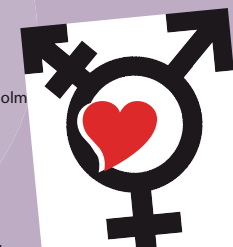
people familiar with transgender culture and making it an integral and accepted part of society.

Välkommen att visa ditt stöd!

Du inbjuds härmed att delta i **Transgender Day of Remembrance** för att högtidligt hålla minnet av alla som fallit offer för transfobiskt våld och för att lyfta transfrågor i samhällsdebatten. Arrangemanget äger rum för andra gången i Sverige, fredagen den 21 november, och kommer att markeras med en ljusmanifestation på Medborgarplatsen i Stockholm med start kl. 18.

Manifestationen kommer bland annat innehålla tal av följande personer:

- Carin Götblad**, länspolismästare i Stockholms län
- Anneli Svensson**, RFSLs brottsofferjour
- Linus Hedlund**, ordförande RFSL Ungdom Stockholm
- Lukas Romson**, transaktivist



Efter manifestationen inbjuds du att delta i mingel hos Sensus, också på Medborgarplatsen. Varmt välkommen att visa ditt stöd för transfrågor och protestera mot hatbrott riktade mot transpersoner, tillsammans med oss.

Med vänliga hälsningar,



ANSO was co-host of the Transgender Day of Remembrance in Stockholm. Norwegian ANSO member UgleZ from Bergen also marked the day.



Queer Wonderland

The annual ANSO conference which took place in August 2008 was hosted by Icelandic member organization Q in Reykjavik. The title of the conference, Queer Wonderland, hints a future utopia. The aim of the conference was to define this utopian society and thereby define what to strive for in our work with LGBTQ issues. What are we fighting for? What would the perfect queer future be? And what methods can we use to reach it? The 44 members from 11 member organizations came together for a week of intense and enjoyable work in the beautiful country of Iceland.

The overall concept of the Queer Wonderland conference was to create a vision for a queer utopian future. As an inspiration there participants got inputs in forms of lectures and workshops during the week. The subjects of the lectures were suggested and presented by our own members showing what knowledge and experiences we already have within ANSO. During the conference ANSO's future was discussed. ANSO is expanding including members from outside the Nordic Region. What should be the focus of ANSO? How can ANSO motivate its members and strengthen its member organizations? What is ANSO's vision?



Lectures and workshops

Structureless Organizations by Chris Riddselius, SFQ, Sweden.
Gender and Culture by Ann Kristin Fagerlund, Vice President, ANSO.
Polyamory by Monika Grzywnowicz, President, ANSO.
Best Practices Sharing in Project Management & Networking on the internet by Adrian Wolczuk, KPH, Poland.
Queer Space and Architecture by Martin Jensen and Ellen T. O'Gara, Blus, Denmark.
Introduction to the idea of a Queer Survival Kit by Vignir Freyr Helgason, Q, Iceland and Ellen T. O'Gara, Blus, Denmark.



Reykjavik Pride

The conference took place during Reykjavik Pride Week and ANSO walked together with Q, the icelandic queer student organization, in the parade also known as the biggest small Pride Parade. Our floater at the saturday parade was in form of a Queer Travelling Agency; Wonderland Express and our destination was set to a Queer Wonderland. The lucky spectators were given a boarding pass with instructions kindly asking them to leave all their prejudices behind and some information about the conference, heteronormativity, Q and ANSO.

The Icelandic Pride Parade is one of a

kind. It goes under the name; 'hinsegin dagar' or 'the queer days'. Everyone is welcome at this family friendly event. It is an event with 50-70.000 of Reykjavik's 120.000 inhabitants in the streets celebrating the diversity of queer people. Grandparents, parents, cousins, children and grandchildren all take part in the event either as audience or in the actual parade.

It was an amazing experience to participate in this celebration and feeling the warm support of the Icelandic nation.

The Gay Pride festivities in

Reykjavik, have been a great success since 1999. It has expanded from being a small demonstration to become a festival of 5 days with not only the parade itself but also numerous lectures, parties and other events.

The queer rights campaign in Iceland has a history of thirty years (since 1978). A chronicle of struggle and victory almost unique in the world. From being an invisible group of an oppressed minority, Queers in Iceland have now gained social and legal rights which is comparable to the best of its kind in the world.

Facts of Iceland

Population
300.000

The country
Iceland is an island of 103.000 km² (39,756 sq.miles), about one-third larger than Scotland or Ireland.

Energy
Situating on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, Iceland is a hot spot of volcanic and geothermal activity.

Queer organizations
Q - organization of queer students, *The Organization of 1978* - the National Organization of Lesbians and Gay Men in Iceland, was founded in 1978, at a time when prejudice and discrimination forced many gays and lesbians to immigrate abroad. The success of the new organization was remarkable. In just a few years, it managed to set up an extensive dialog, the media came out in support of gay rights

and fighting prejudice became a family issue among the Icelanders where family connections are still strong in a population of only 300,000.



Queer bars
Q-bar is the only gay bar in Iceland but several other venues host gay events.

Queer rights
The first milestone victory on the legal front came in 1996 with the passing of laws on confirmed cohabitation, but even so, gays and lesbians were still barred from adopting or seeking assisted pregnancies in Iceland's free public hospitals. On Christopher Street Day, June 27 2006, laws improving the

Links

- www.samtokin78.is (Organization '78)
- www.qbar.is (Only Queer bar in Iceland)
- www.queer.is (Q, organization of Queer students)
- www.gayice.is (Information on Iceland for Queer travellers)

legal status of gays and lesbians in Iceland took effect. Important changes included changes to the statutes on confirmed cohabitation from 1996 granting gay and lesbian couples full rights to adoption and lesbian couples to assisted pregnancies. Confirmed cohabitation now in effect grants the full legal rights of marriage. Same-sex cohabitants also gain the right to register their cohabitation with the authorities without full confirmation or marriage - a right which opposite-sex couples have enjoyed for many years already.

Class <input type="text" value="One class"/>			Seat & Class <i>Wherever</i>
Flight & Date <input type="text" value="Q-101 ... 09.08.2008"/>			Destination <i>Wonderland</i>
Boarding Time: Now and in near future			Remarks <i>We kindly ask all our passengers to leave their prejudices behind before boarding.</i>
Departing from <input type="text" value="Hlemmur"/>	Destination <input type="text" value="Queer Wonderland"/>		
Passenger Name <input type="text" value="Me, you and everyone we know"/>			
BOARDING PASS			



Participants

The participants came from the Council of Europe member states, Lebanon and Kyrgyzstan. It was a diverse group of young people with different nationalities, sexual identities, gender expressions and educational backgrounds. Some were active in LGBTQ organizations and others in student unions. The legal rights for LGBTQ people in the represented countries are very different. In some they are believed to be non-existent, LGBTQ people are simply not

recognized or they are criminalized and in other countries LGBTQ people have attained what in comparison could initially seem like equal rights. It was highly motivating and inspirational to share experiences across borders and be able to share resources and best practices. The mixture of LGBTQ activists and student union workers was very beneficial for learning how the two groups can work together to improve the student environment and create Gay-Straight Alliances. The situations for

LGBTQ people in the represented countries proved to be so different that it at times became difficult to find a common ground for discussion and especially common methods for acquiring human rights. Still the knowledge gained from having so diverse countries represented was valuable not only in understanding how heteronormativity works independent of borders and cultural differences but also for strengthening the knowledge and understanding of each participant's country's own situation.

Brought together for a week in the European Youth Centre 28 participants took part in an intensive program of workshops, discussions, group work and lectures. Heteronormativity; Intersectionality; Policy making; Advocacy and Lobbying; Team Building; Organizational Fairs and a visit to the Council of Europe Palais building were included in the

program. ANSO's own members led workshops and we were also lucky to have two guest speakers: Elin Rosenberg, the former president of Swedish National Union of Students and Marco Perolini, equality officer at the European Youth Forum.

We would like to thank the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg for accommodating us and Sabine Klocker,

the Educational Advisor at the European Youth Centre for her assistance and time. The final report will be available at www.anso.dk



The "Queer Survival Kit" which was initially introduced at the Queer Wonderland conference in Iceland, was further developed at the study session in Strasbourg. The Survival Kit will act as a tool for LGBTQ people to counteract heteronormativity in Higher Education. It can be used by students; young people

and even teachers. Throughout the week of the study session the participants worked in groups on their ideas preparing them as either physical products or ideas. At the end of the study session we had group presentations of the work. There were several ideas of which some have been developed into concrete tools. They include an ANSO Calendar; Open-source Website containing LGBTQ related PHDs and other papers; brochures with political strategies; strategies for creating alliances with Student Unions and finally

a heteronormative board game. All this was accomplished in just a week! The tools are currently in the funding and improvement stage and we are hoping to have the tools implemented A.S.A.P! The 'Queer Survival Kit' exists as an ongoing project which everyone will be able to contribute to on ANSO's website www.anso.dk. In the near future you will be able to download your own trial version of the heteronormative board game 'Game of Norms'.



member organizations

ANSO was founded in 2004 by five Scandinavian member organizations. Today we have 12 members from eight European countries. The youngest member and newly established organization, Estonian Gay Youth, is the 12th member of ANSO.

Estonian Gay Youth (EGN) is the only youth organisation dealing with LGBTQ issues in Estonia. It started out as a motivated youth group representing the town of Tartu, Estonia in March 2008 and was registered as an official organisation in November 2008. EGN has two target groups: the LGBTQ community and the society in general. For the community we have organised documentary nights, parties and sports activities in the hope of bringing people together. As far as the society is concerned, we are dedicated to bringing the invisible LGBTQ issues out of the closet in Estonia. www.tartu.vikerliit.eu

The Swedish Federation of LGBTQ Student Organizations (Sveriges Förenade HBTQ-studenter, SFQ) is a federation for local LGBTQ student organizations at universities and university colleges in Sweden. Today, SFQ has 18 member organizations, from Malmö in the south to Piteå up north. The main goal of SFQ is to improve the situation for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer students at Swedish universities and university colleges. www.hbtqstudenterna.se

Lithuanian Gay League is a national non-profit, nongovernmental organization uniting homosexual, bisexual, and transgender persons. Our values and principles are respect and diversity; equal opportunities for participation in organization activities; voluntary participation and transparency. We follow our vision to create a respectful, open and inclusive Lithuanian society that is free of discriminatory homophobic attitudes. www.lgl.lt

BLUS is an organization run for and by LGBT students in and around Copenhagen. BLUS organizes parties, debates, excursions, movie nights and other events. Every Tuesday we host a café in Copenhagen University student house. These nights are excellent for meeting up with friends for a drink in a relaxed environment. We have approximately 200 members on our mailing list who are active and attend our events. BLUS have recently started an international committee whose focus is working with ANSO and IGLYO, getting more people involved in the international work. www.blus.dk

Telehpy is an organization for gay and lesbian students at Helsinki University of Technology. We have about 40 members and focus mainly on social events. As Helsinki has numerous gay bars and clubs, we try to provide something different: mainly a social space for people to get to know each other and spend time together. We also organize a few bigger parties each year and events such as movie night, game nights etc. www.telehpy.tky.fi

Skeivt Forum, or Queer Forum, is a student organisation based at the University of Oslo and was founded in 2006. Our main aim is to create meeting places for students who wish to engage in activist work of any kind, or who just want to have a good time with other students. We have focused on seminars, panel debates focusing on a wide range of topics such as living with HIV to cinematic portrayals of transpersons. However, we also organise quizzes, parties and the like. Throughout Queer Forum's couple of years, the little student organisation has developed and taken clearer political stances outward whilst not forgetting who we are there for; namely the students.



Q- Organization of queer Students in Iceland was founded the 19th of January 1999 by gay students in the University of Iceland. Since then the organization has been growing steadily and is now open for all LGBTQ students as well as all people between 18 and 30 years old. The organization has three departments, the international department, the social department and department of education. Q is a social forum for queer students in Iceland, every other Friday we have Q-days where our members and those interested in the organization can come together. Q works within various organisations such as Reykjavík Gay Pride committee, Reykjavík lesbian and gay film festival and ANSO. www.queer.is

Friðarbogin is the first and only organization working for LGBT rights in the Faroe Islands and was founded October 17th 2003. It is the only organization in ANSO that is not only aiming at students but the community in general. What makes it though fit so well in ANSO is the fact that most of its activists are students. The main goal for the organization was to work for political, cultural and social liberation for homo- and bisexuals in the Faroe Islands. Friðarbogin has worked closely with ANSO for quite some time, for example when organizing the first Pride in the Faroe Islands, in August 2005. www.fridarbogin.com

Homoglobiini was founded in 1990 by students. We have more than 50 members and around 5-10 exchange student members every year. We have meetings twice a month. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet new people, discuss and make friends. As tradition requires, we party on the first of May, and we also arrange other parties, such as new members' nights, festive annual celebrations with speeches, drinking songs and all those traditions. We have also arranged regular trips abroad and within Finland - often to Helsinki. We go to museums, movies, the theatre, we play laser war in Megazone and do all kinds of fun things. Sometimes we have guest lecturers, too. In the past these have included makeup training and BDSM-introduction (a lecture). www.homoglobiini.fi

Campaign Against Homophobia was founded in 2001 and is a LGBTQ non-government organization operating throughout Poland. Our main goals are; publicizing the discussion on the subject of sexual minorities' problems; shaping tolerant attitudes towards people of other than heterosexual orientation and removing prejudices and stereotypes concerning them; promoting awareness of sexual and gender identification; abolishing in the Polish legal system regulations discriminating against sexual orientation. To reach the goals we are taking several actions including: legal and psychological advisory, education in schools, publishing awareness-raising materials, consisting of statistics based on countrywide research and sociological analysis, promoting non-heteronormative culture, political lobbying etc. www.kph.org.pl

TJA (Tolerant Youth Association) is youth organisation dedicated to protecting human rights in Lithuania. Founded in 2005, TJA has quickly become the largest and only human rights organisation among youth organisations in Lithuania. In 2007 TJA had 10 branches in several districts of Lithuania, since 2007 it also is IGLYO member. The main objectives of TJA are to: combat the discrimination including discrimination against LGBT and seek for equality for all people. TJA works to influence Lithuanian institutions to support LGBT youth and get their life better. We are writing educative articles, organizing camps, film views, discussions, reacting on events associated with human rights. Our vision: tolerant youth in tolerant society. www.tja.lt

UgleZ is a student organization, a social forum and a place to meet for queer students in Bergen. One of the most important functions for UgleZ is to be a network for those who just want to get to know other great people, and for those who are not "out of the closet" yet, or those who are still questioning their sexuality or gender identity and/or expression and would like a way into the community. UgleZ has biweekly meetings and social gatherings, such as Queer movie nights and parties, where we try to create a safe space for LGBTQ students. We also have events of academic or activist character, aimed at educating and broadening the minds of our target group, but also the rest of the local community. The organization has 50 members. www.uglez.wordpress.com



ANSO has launched a new website where you can read about ANSO, the history of ANSO, past and current projects, check out our member organizations, look at photos and much more.


Check it out www.anso.dk

ANSO

Association of Nordic LGBTQ Student Organizations

Loosening the Grip of Heteronormativity

February 23, 2009



During the month of January ANSO (Association of Nordic and Baltic Student Organization) hosted a study session called "Loosening the Grip of Heteronormativity" in Strasbourg, France. With 28 participants from all over Europe representing many different NGO's coming to learn the basics of heteronormativity; possible ways of challenging heteronormativity in Higher Education and learning more about the Council of Europe (COE), in particular the Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS).

The Prep-Team consisted of Monica Grzywnowicz (President of ANSO), Ann Kristin Fagerlund (Vice President), Vilma Gabrieliute (Board Member) and myself (Treasurer). Sabine Klocker was the Education Advisor assisting and steering the team.

The program included an Introduction to Heteronormativity; Intersectionality; Policy Making; Advocacy and Lobbying; Team Building; Organizational Fairs and a visit to

PAGES

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LINKS

- Council of Europe
- IGLYO
- ILGA
- Transweb

PHOTOS

