



Opiskelijavainokkaat - OVI ry

Q? Q! Q.



ANSO - Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt
LGBTQ Student Organisations

in cooperation with

Ovi - University of Helsinki LGBTQ Students

and

Queer Aalto - Aalto University LGBTQ Students

call for participants for

**“Reach out and
touch me”**

-

Queer Politics

ANSO Annual Conference
Helsinki, Finland
5 - 10 August 2013
Deadline for applications: June 16th



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Reach Out And Touch Me

ANSO, Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Student Organizations, would like to invite you to an annual conference called *Reach Out And Touch Me – Queer Politics*, with the aim of creating knowledge and tools to develop skills in queer political activism, social inclusion and visibility of LGBTQ student issues. It will be held in Helsinki from 5th to 10th August 2013. This conference is organized together with and hosted by Opiskelijavinokkaat (Ovi) and Queer Aalto, the queer student organizations of the University of Helsinki and Aalto University.

This year our conference is concentrated around the sphere of political queer activism. We will together plan activities for two upcoming annual international queer events:

- Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20th 2013.
- International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO), May 17th 2014.

The conference focuses on non-formal education and active participation. We will have peer-to-peer teaching, workshops, guest speakers, loads of interesting free-time program and a panel discussion open for public with speakers from the political and queer spheres of Finland.

ANSO

ANSO is working in the interest of LGBTQ students all over the Nordic and Pol-Balt regions. ANSO fights discrimination based on homophobia and transphobia in universities and aims to increase the quality of higher education by fighting heteronormativity. ANSO supports local student organizations so they can both be safe places for LGBTQ students and be an important part of its local university community.

ANSO believes in solidarity across borders and that's why we work for LGBTQ rights internationally, creating networks for our member organizations and being part of Pan-European networks. ANSO is a member of IGLYO, ILGA Europe, TGEU and ESU.

Ovi

Ovi brings together members of sexual and gender minorities by providing a safe place within the University where people can meet, the main idea being to empower the members to be proud and active agents in the society. Ovi organizes weekly meetings that offer participants a chance relate and to get and give support to people facing similar difficulties.

Ovi introduces its members to the queer culture around Helsinki and Finland and organizes events where its members can be part of creating this space for queer activism. Important part of Ovi's agency is to promote equality in large scale, in and outside the University. Ovi is a member of Seta, the national non-governmental advocacy organization for LGBTI rights.



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Queer Aalto

Queer Aalto organizes activities in Aalto University area in the Helsinki region. Queer Aalto offers like-minded company and support to the LGBTQ community members, primarily to Aalto University students. Queer Aalto organizes events that vary from discussion nights to cultural activities.

The association also does LGBT visibility work and promotes awareness of sexual minorities in the university setting and takes action against discrimination. Queer Aalto organizes events in cooperation with other student LGBTQ associations and takes regularly part in international cooperation.

Practical information

Travelling: Participants should arrive to Helsinki **on Sunday, August 4th** and departure on **Sunday, August 11th**.

Costs: Provided that the cheapest means of transport have been used, travel costs will be 70% reimbursed. A small participation fee (between 20-50 EUR) will be deducted from the participant's travel reimbursement. All participants must be able to attend the full duration of the conference in order to be reimbursed. Accommodation and meals are free for the participants.

Venue: We will be gathered together in the hearth of Helsinki in the historical New Student House, which belongs to the Student Union of the University of Helsinki.

Accommodation: Participants will be staying at Hostel Academica (www.hostelacademica.fi) in triple rooms. Breakfast will be served at the hostel.

Food: We will serve lunch and dinner at the conference venue daily. We are prepared to offer mostly vegetarian and vegan food.

Free-time program: The planning team has been designing for you for example a trip to beautiful Nuuksio forest nearby Helsinki, a gender-neutral sauna evening and a public panel discussion.

Criteria for participation

We are able to accept **5 participants per country**. Out of this number **4 participants must be of the age 18-25, one can be older**. Participants should preferably be students or working in higher education or a student/youth environment. Former experience of international work or issues related to the theme of the conference is not necessary. Participants must be able to communicate and work in English and it will be a benefit if the applicant is interested in taking part in future ANSO work and projects.

Each member organisation is in charge of selecting participants from their organisation and country.



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The selection process will be based on the application form below. Each organisation should appoint a contact person who will forward the forms and a ready-made participant list to **seela@anso.dk before June 16th, 2013**. Ovi will confirm participation before July 1st when we have all details of our grant confirmed.

The distribution of participants is as follows. Note that in countries with more than one ANSO member organization the division of participants has to be done between the organizations.

SFQ, Sweden – 5
BLUS, Denmark – 5
Skeive Studenter and Skeivt Forum, Norway – 5
Ovi, Queer Aalto and Homoglobiini, Finland – 5
LGL and TYA, Lithuania – 5
Trans-Fuzja, KPH and ANSO, Poland – 5
EGN, Estonia – 5
Q, Iceland – 5

We strive for diversity of genders, sexual orientations, (dis)abilities, religious beliefs, and ethnicities. ANSO is aware of different power structures related to these factors and would like the conference to be a sphere with a high level of awareness regarding these issues, where everyone feels included. Any special needs regarding hearing aids, guidance or diet are to be communicated with the participant list, and the preparatory team will do their best to accommodate for the needs.

How to apply?

Below you will find the attached participation form. Fill it and send it to your member organization. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at joonas.kinnunen@helsinki.fi or at pat@anso.dk.



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Application form

Name:

Gender:

Date of birth:

Address:

Phone number:

Email address:

Name of the sending organization:

What is your motivation for participating in the conference?

Do you have any related knowledge / experience that you would like to share during the conference?

How would you like to use the gained knowledge in the future?

Are you able and committed to work for the realizations of the future ANSO events in November 2013 and May 2014 in your sending organization?

Do you have any special needs? (regarding food, disabilities etc.)

Do you have any preference regarding gender of your room mates?