



PRESS RELEASE
Brussels, 9 May 2023

Brussels Pride reveals its programme

On Saturday 20 May, Brussels Pride - The Belgian & European Pride - will once again put the LGBTQIA+ community in the spotlight and decorate the streets of Brussels in the colours of the rainbow. This year, the theme is "Protect the Protest". A call to respect the fundamental right to protest, which is still too often violated throughout the world. From the Pride Parade and the Pride Village to the Rainbow Village, everything effort will be made to celebrate diversity and love without barriers.

Brussels opens Europe's Pride season. The organisers expect no less than 150,000 people to march in defence of their rights and to celebrate diversity in the streets of Brussels. This year, Brussels Pride is, more than ever, keen to underline the importance of this event to ensure that the fundamental rights of the LGBTQIA+ community are maintained.

Protect the Protest

Demonstrating is a human right. Today, this right is subject to all kinds of pressures all over the world. In Europe as well. This year, Brussels Pride 2023 has chosen "Protect the Protest" as its theme, to emphasise that everyone, without hindrance or violence, can exercise this fundamental right.

Pride Week – 10 to 19 May 2023

The traditional Mini-Pride on Wednesday 10 May 2023 marks the start of **Pride Week**. The procession will pass by Manneken-Pis, who'll be dressed in a costume designed for the occasion. The procession will also pass Grands Carmes, a venue that will host 10 days of conferences, concerts, performances and inclusive sports activities organised by LGBTQIA+ activists, associations and collectives. The Mini-Pride parade finishes at the LGBTQIA+ bars of the Saint-Jacques district. During **Pride Week**, an inclusive programme will also be offered by cultural centres, museums and emblematic places in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Brussels Pride – The Belgian & European Pride – 20 May 2023

Pride Parade

Floats are making their long-awaited return to the Pride Parade. The parade sets off at 14:00 on the Mont des Arts and makes its way along the streets of the city centre, passing, of course, close to the unmissable Saint-Jacques district. This year, the parade will echo loudly to the theme of Brussels Pride: "Protect the Protest", to claim the fundamental right to protest, which is too often flouted around the world.



The Pride Village

As every year, associations and institutions will be present. The associations will inform the public about their work and the current issues in terms of community rights at national and international level. The institutions will show their support to the community and their initiatives in favour of a more inclusive society, which is a daily struggle.

2 stages to celebrate and dance

LGBTQIA+ artists will be lighting up **two stages in the centre of the capital**. On the bill, among others, the Sing out Brussels Choir, DJ iNess, DJ Manz, DJ Shaft Crew and several candidates from Drag Race Belgium. Numerous other artists will be performing on the stages at the Mont des Arts and the Bourse. Needless to say, these concerts, DJ sets and performances are bound to be unforgettable.

The Rainbow Village and its LGBTQIA+ establishments, located in the Saint-Jacques district in the heart of the capital, are, once again, major partners of the event.

In total, some one hundred partners, associations and artists will be contributing to the fight for a more open and tolerant society.

Brussels Pride is an inclusive event open to all. To ensure the safety and well-being of all, **Safe Place and Safe Health** zones will be present at several strategic locations. These areas are open to anyone who needs to take a break (Safe Place) or to be taken care of by medical staff in case of discomfort and/or to report any inappropriate or offensive behaviour regarding their gender and/or identity (Safe Health).

The cultural sector is joining the event and programming LGBTQIA+ artists and projects in collaboration with Brussels Pride - The Belgian & European Pride. The Design Museum Brussels, among others, presents its Brussels Queer Graphics exhibition, produced in collaboration with the Structure for Interdisciplinary Research on Gender, Equality and Sexuality (STRIGES). The exhibition highlights the visual language of the LGBTQIA+ communities in Brussels, from the 1950s to today.

Finally, in the week leading up to Brussels Pride, many buildings across the Brussels-Capital Region will be illuminated and decorated in the colours of the rainbow flag.

Brussels Pride – The Belgian & European Pride is an opportunity to celebrate diversity but also to defend and demand LGBTQIA+ rights, all with the aim of making society more inclusive and egalitarian. Beyond its festive aspect, Brussels Pride is, more than ever, an opportunity to assert the rights and claims of the community and re-launch the political debate.

More information can be found on <https://brusselspride.eu/>.

“Protect the protest” is a campaign by Amnesty International.

More information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/petition/protect-the-protest/>



Brussels Pride is pleased to reinforce this global campaign, which focuses on LGBTQIA+ events around the world.

Press contact: Noémie Wibail: + 32 490 49 43 84 – n.wibail@visit.brussels