



**PRESS RELEASE**  
Brussels, 20 May 2023

### Brussels Pride 2023 has already brought several thousands of people together

More than 150 000 people have participated in Brussels Pride - The Belgian & European Pride. The streets of Brussels were decked out in the colours of the rainbow on Saturday 20 May. This year, the event's theme is "Protect the Protest", a call to respect the fundamental right to demonstrate, which is still too often flouted throughout the world. With the Pride Village, the Pride Parade, the Rainbow Village and the stages at the Mont des Arts and the Bourse, everything is set to celebrate diversity and love without barriers.

**Brussels Pride** is an opportunity for citizen, intellectual and activist initiatives to put forward the demands of the LGBTQIA+ community and to re-launch political debates. **The theme chosen this year is "Protect the Protest"**, confirming that everyone, without hindrance and without violence, can exercise this fundamental right.

During **Pride Week**, inclusive and committed conferences, performances, sports activities and concerts were organised in several emblematic locations in the capital. Inclusive programming was also offered by various cultural centres and museums of the Brussels Capital Region.

Ce samedi, des artistes et DJ concerné.e.s par la cause performant **au Mont des Arts et à la Bourse**. Iels. Sur les scènes comme dans les institutions culturelles partenaires, le public a fait le plein de culture LGBTQIA+.

And the festivities are far from over! They will continue until the early hours of the morning in several of the capital's districts. From the **Pride Village** at the Mont des Arts to the street parties and performances at the **Brussels Rainbow Village (in the Saint-Jacques district)** and the numerous parties honouring the diversity of the Brussels queer scene, it will be impossible to miss **Brussels Pride 2023**.

visit.brussels, who is coordinating this year's event in collaboration with Belgian LGBTQIA+ organisations (Cavaria, Prisme and Rainbow House) and the Brussels Rainbow Village, is making a point of promoting Brussels as the LGBTQIA+-friendly capital of Europe. The city is home to a spirit of freedom supported by anti-discrimination legislation. **Brussels** is proud to be **the capital of the 2nd most LGBTQIA+-friendly country in Europe** according to the latest ranking by ILGA-Europe (International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association).

**Brussels Pride - The Belgian & European Pride** is an opportunity to celebrate diversity but also to defend and assert LGBTQIA+ rights, all with the aim of making society more inclusive and egalitarian. Indeed, beyond its festive character, Brussels Pride is, now more than ever, an opportunity to assert the rights and demands of the community as well as to stimulate political debate.

Throughout the year, a hundred or so partners, federations, associations and artists contribute to the fight for a more open and tolerant society.



For more information, visit [brusselspride.eu](https://brusselspride.eu)

“Protect the Protest” is an Amnesty International campaign.

For more information, visit [amnesty.org/en/petition/protect-the-protest](https://amnesty.org/en/petition/protect-the-protest)

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

**Photos:** photo library (keyword: Pride)

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