



# WHEN TIMES GET DARKER, WE SHINE BRIGHTER

PRESS RELEASE  
Brussels, 22 April 2026

## Brussels Pride unveils its programme

The streets of the European capital will be decked out in the colours of the rainbow for Brussels Pride. This year's event will be the 30th anniversary of this celebration of diversity in Brussels, marking three decades of campaigning and raising the profile of the LGBTQIA+ community. This year, RainbowHouse Brussels has chosen the theme 'When Times Get Darker, We Shine Brighter' – a powerful and unifying slogan that is more important than ever in today's uncertain global climate, where the rights of LGBTQIA+ people are still too often challenged.

Brussels kicks off European Pride season and organisers are expecting no fewer than 200,000 people to take to the streets of the capital to defend their rights and celebrate diversity.

### When Times Get Darker, We Shine Brighter

This year, the theme chosen by **RainbowHouse Brussels** for Brussels Pride is **When Times Get Darker, We Shine Brighter**. For thirty years, Brussels Pride has embodied struggle, resilience and progress. As the capital of Belgium and Europe, Brussels has a responsibility to continue moving towards greater equality. It must combat multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination. Our Constitution and laws must be adapted to combat hate speech online and across all media (hate is not an opinion). Brussels must clearly reaffirm the need to protect all LGBTQIA+ people, whether they are visible or rendered invisible. It must finally support, develop and enforce international human rights conventions. For 30 years, Brussels Pride has been shining a light on those who are invisible, those who demand the right to safety, health, family and protection, as well as the advancement of rights for all.

**"When times get tough, we shine brighter, prouder, more united and more visible. We become unstoppable."**

### Brussels Pride Week et Pride in XL

During **Pride Week**, organisations, activist groups and artistic collectives will present a packed programme across a dozen venues in Brussels, including Les Grands Carmes, RainbowHouse Brussels and many others. Over the course of ten days the public will be treated to concerts, film screenings, performances and workshops. In total, no fewer than twenty events focusing on themes close to the hearts of the LGBTQIA+ community will be proposed. The aim is to bring together and raise awareness among all citizens and institutions, whether governmental and/or cultural, of each individual's fundamental rights. **At 17:30 on Thursday 14 May**, the **Mini Pride** parade will wind its way through the streets of the Saint-Jacques district to mark the start of the **Brussels Pride** weekend festivities. Along the way, it will pay tribute to the Manneken-Pis, who will be wearing an outfit designed especially for the occasion.



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## New: [Pride in XL, on Friday 15 May](#)

This year, for the first time, the commune of Ixelles, in collaboration with **RainbowHouse Brussels and Brussels Pride**, will welcome a number of **leading DJs from Brussels' queer scene** to kick off Brussels Pride weekend. **VTT, Rokia Bamba, Legolane and Azo** will take turns behind the decks from **17:00 to 23:00** and will **have place du Luxembourg jumping**. **Several organisations (Amnesty International, Le Refuge LGBTQIA+, BGS, Rainbow Ambassadors)** will take the floor to discuss the **struggles and key challenges the community faces**. A brand new, socially conscious and unmissable festive event.

This event is organised with the support of Romain De Reusme, Mayor of Ixelles, Nevruz Unal, Deputy Mayor for Equality and Human Rights, and the members of the College of the Mayor and Deputy Mayors of Ixelles.

## [Brussels Pride – Saturday 16 May 2026](#)

### Pride March

From 14:30, **Pride March** – the highlight of Brussels Pride – will set off from the Mont des Arts and take over the streets of the city centre, passing close to the unmissable Saint-Jacques district. It celebrates diversity, tolerance and acceptance of everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This year, the March will be loudly and proudly championing the theme **When Times Get Darker, We Shine Brighter** in support of a society where all LGBTQIA+ people are protected, whether they are visible or invisible.

### [The Pride Village](#)

As they do every year, **organisations and institutions are stepping up**. The organisations will be reaching out to the public to share their causes and raise awareness of current challenges facing LGBTQIA+ rights, both in Belgium and internationally. For their part, the institutions will be clearly demonstrating their support for the community and highlighting the actions they are taking to build a **more inclusive, safer and fairer society for everyone**.

### [Concerts and DJ sets](#)

Belgian LGBTQIA+ artists and allies will take to the **stage at Mont des Arts**. The line-up features the **Sing Out Brussels!** choir; drag shows from the **inimitable La Big Bertha, Valenciaga and La diva Live**; and musical acts including **Andrei Stan, Blacksapho, RAQL and Chose**. The whole event will be hosted in style by the fabulous **Susan & Edna**. Performances that are already shaping up to be unforgettable.

### [Safer Pride](#)

To allow everyone to enjoy Brussels Pride in **the best possible conditions and in complete safety**, a **Safer Pride** initiative will be in place throughout the day. In practical terms, a **Safer Zone** will be set up at a strategic location, at **Mont des Arts**. This quiet space, staffed by volunteers and trained

BRUSSELS  
**PRIDE**  
IN THE CAPITAL OF EUROPE



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professionals, will offer a sympathetic ear as well as **psychological, social and medical support** where needed. In addition, a **mobile Care Team** will patrol the entire Pride area so that they can respond quickly if necessary. This important initiative, set up with the support of **Solidaris**, is the result of collaboration between **Plan SACHA** (Safe Attitude Against Harassment and Assault), **Modus Fiesta** (the prevention of risks associated with drug use through information and empowering users), **Sex&CO**, **RainbowHouse**, and the teams at **visit.brussels**.

**The Brussels Rainbow Village** and its LGBTQIA+ establishments, located in **the Saint-Jacques district in the heart of the capital**, will bring the streets of the city centre to life throughout the weekend. **DJs and artists** will also be performing in the district.

**In total, some 100 partners, organisations and artists will be helping to champion the cause of a more open and tolerant society.**

Last but not least, to mark **Pride Month**, numerous buildings across the Brussels-Capital Region will be lit up and decorated in the colours of the rainbow flag.

**Brussels Pride** is an opportunity to celebrate diversity, but also to defend and advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights, all with the aim of making society fairer and more inclusive. Indeed, beyond its festive atmosphere, Brussels Pride has increasingly become an opportunity to champion the rights of the community and to stimulate political debate.

Brussels Pride would like to thank its main sponsors: la Loterie Nationale, Solidaris, the European Union and Viage.

More information at [www.brusselspride.eu](http://www.brusselspride.eu)

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