

9 - 12 May 2011  
LOW Building, Galerie Sud, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

# Photo exhibition **WALK WITH PRIDE**

**International Day Against Homophobia 2011**

Opening by  
**Jerzy Buzek**, President of the European Parliament, on **10 May at 6.30 pm**  
organised by  
the **Intergroup on LGBT Rights** and  
the **Committee on Equal Opportunities and Diversity (COPEC)**

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## Walk With Pride

This is a **gay** issue.  
This is a **straight** issue.  
This is a **Human Rights** issue

Charles Meacham, WWP Photographer  
Sarah Baxter, WWP Project Manager

<http://www.walkwithpridenow.com>  
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## Project Summary

**Walk With Pride: A one-year project to document gay pride marches around the globe to bring a spotlight on the Gay Rights movement.**

Each year pride festivals are held around the globe with the purpose of empowering those in the LGBT community to be proud of their sexual orientation & gender identity, and to increase their visibility within the wider community. Annual pride marches have become a powerful part of pride festivals, as they serve as a positive and entertaining way to unite a diverse group of people, while bringing out family, friends, and heterosexual supporters in a demonstrative show of solidarity.

However, prides can be very different depending where they are held. In some countries, it is not only difficult to hold pride marches, but dangerous as participants face the threats of physical attacks and arrest in order to march.

The images that make up the 'Walk With Pride' (WWP) photo collection were taken by photographer Charles Meacham during the 2009 and 2010 pride season, and showcase 15 different global prides. The images reveal the diversity of pride, as well as the extent homophobia can manifest itself within societies.

The WWP project is currently partnering with the IDAHO Committee to organize exhibitions of this collection in cities around the world in awareness of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia on May 17. This includes an exhibition to be held at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France opening May 9, 2011.

## Photographer's Statement

*"We are born into a world of homophobia, and I am wondering what we can do to change that."*

*~ Louis-George Tin,*

*Founder of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.*

That is just one of the many things Louis-George said to me in the small kitchen of the secret Moscow Pride 2010 headquarters. If you have ever met Louis George, you know that his voice and his words will stay with you. These words have been repeating in my mind since I heard them.

For well over a year now, work on the Walk With Pride project has pretty much dominated my days and nights. This project has grown into one of those things that once you have it you can't remember how your life was without it. So I often find thinking back and remembering how the project started a strange experience. I had no idea at the time that the mention of a tiny little picture in the local Taipei newspaper would shape the following years of my life.

Sitting in our favorite breakfast shop, my girlfriend Sarah was going through the Sunday paper when she came across an article with a picture of a young man carrying a huge wooden cross. The story was about how a local church was protesting against the annual Taipei Pride. We had been following the situation in the US on same-sex marriages and the Don't Ask Don't Tell laws, and found it odd that the same fight was going on right here in the city and society around us. The Pride was to take place the following Saturday and I just casually said that I would go and photograph it, and so I did.

Over the next 12 months I would photograph 15 very different Prides around the world, meeting hundreds of people and taking thousands of images. I quickly discovered that I knew nothing about the true meaning of the Pride Movement, or the situation that many people face in their daily lives. There were a lot of times, when I felt I was in over my head, in the middle of a fight that I was hardly even aware of before. However, it was always in the toughest situations where I found the most support, and formed the closest friendships.

The most dangerous thing about homophobia is that it doesn't need to be extreme to be effective. We have homophobia in our everyday lives, and it has been there for so long that most of us don't even see it anymore, or we've just come to accept it. Now, almost two years after photographing that first Pride in Taipei, I can't help but to see it, and wonder what we can do to change it.

## **About the WWP Founders**

Charles 'Chad' Meacham is an American photographer currently based in New York City. Over the last 10 years, Chad's projects have won recognition from some of the photography industry's top judges. He has received over 20 international photography awards including those from National Geographic Traveler, Smithsonian, the IPA, PX3, and PDN magazines. Already several of the homophobia images from this collection have received Honorable Mention status in the 2010 IPA awards, a professional level global competition with over 20,000 entries.

The WWP project was co-founded by Sarah Baxter, who served as the project's coordinator and blogger. Outside of taking the images, she did everything else possible to make this project happen.

## **About the IDAHO Committee**

Louis-Georges Tin, a French university lecturer, founded the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, IDAHO, in 2004. The IDAHO Committee's objective is to use the Day for global awareness, and mobilization by activists, to promote social change.

The committee supports local organizations to develop strategies in advocacy, awareness raising, and public campaigning around the Day. They also believe that media attention the Day receives can be used to promote these local events, while spreading a universal message against homophobia and transphobia.

The IDAHO Committee decided to make the exhibition of Walk With Pride images a global initiative for 2011. They are currently helping to organize exhibitions in 15 cities across the globe, including a gallery at the European Parliament building in Strasbourg, France.

To learn more about IDAHO please visit their website at:  
[www.dayagainsthomophobia.org](http://www.dayagainsthomophobia.org)

## Upcoming WWP Exhibitions

The WWP project is partnering with the IDAHO Committee to display an exhibition of 'Images Against Homophobia' in over 20 cities worldwide.

### Exhibitions are planned at the following locations:

*European Parliament Building  
Strasbourg, France*

*BED Manila  
Manila, Philippines*

*State Parliament Building of Brandenburg  
Potsdam, Germany*

*La Lune hosted event  
Strasbourg, France*

*Palais de l'Europe  
Council of Europe Exhibition  
Strasbourg, France (June)*

*Included in 'Fragility exhibition' at Pine  
Street Gallery  
Sydney, Australia*

*Maison Arc-en-Ciel  
Liège, Belgium*

*Part of GayFest 2011  
Bucharest, Romania*

*Parliament Building of the French  
Community of Belgium  
Brussels, Belgium*

*Lambda Istanbul event  
Istanbul, Turkey*

*Berlin East Railway Station  
Berlin, Germany*

*Circulating exhibit among Cambodian  
NGOs, opening in Phnom Penh followed by  
exhibits in Siem Reap, Battambang,  
Kompong Som, and Ratanakiri*

*National Theater  
Sofia, Bulgaria*

*Castro Venue – TBD  
San Francisco, California*

*Zagreb Student Centre Club  
Zagreb, Croatia*

*Exhibitions to be held in 4 cities  
Taiwan*

*Additional exhibit locations may include Warsaw, Minsk, and Moscow. To get up-to-date information visit: <http://walkwithpridenow.com/upcoming-exhibitions/>*

**An online version of the exhibition can be seen (and linked to) on the IDAHO and Walk With Pride websites:**

**[www.dayagainsthomophobia.org](http://www.dayagainsthomophobia.org), [www.walkwithpridenow.com](http://www.walkwithpridenow.com)**

## Images from Walk With Pride (Available for Media Use)



Taipei, Taiwan (October, 2009) - One of our first and favorite images of Pride. His fist would later become the Walk With Pride's logo.



Sydney, Australia (March, 2010) - A man dresses up as his favorite Avatar character for Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.



Minsk, Belarus (May, 2010) - Skinheads block the door of the hotel hosting the opening of Slavic Pride.



Moscow, Russia (May 29, 2010) - Moscow Pride. Participants carry the Rainbow Flag for several hundred meters.



Istanbul, Turkey (June, 2010) - Several men assaulted this young trans woman the day before we arrived.



Zagreb, Croatia (June, 2010) – Hundreds of riot police form a human shield around Pride participants.



## **FAQs**

### **Why did you start the Walk With Pride project?**

The project was developed both from following the debates on gay right issues in the news, and experiencing the energy of Taiwan Pride. We had the goal of using images that we collected to share the human stories behind each Pride, especially the smaller and lesser-known ones, as well as increase awareness regarding basic human right issues.

### **When did the project start, and how long did it last?**

The first pride march photographed was Taiwan Pride in October 2009. The vibrancy of 25,000 people gathering in Taiwan to support LGBT rights led us to really start thinking about pride from a global perspective. During the Walk With Pride project, we spent one year documenting Prides in 15 different countries in Asia and Europe. We finished the project back at Taiwan Pride 2010, but with a whole new appreciation concerning the importance of pride.

### **What were some of the biggest challenges you faced during the project?**

This is a huge project and the logistics were sometimes staggering. There were visas, airline flights, language barriers, hotel rooms, late night taxicabs, and more than one night sleeping on airport floors. Finding media outlets is also a huge challenge. Our main goal is to get as much media attention for these groups as possible, but LGBT Rights aren't always front page news, and many LGBT publications focus more on fashion and happier social aspects of the community.

### **What are you doing with the images you collected?**

We are working with IDAHO, organizers of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, to exhibit images from the project simultaneously in cities around the globe in recognition of May 17 as IDAHO Day. We have also put together a book sharing some of our experiences. Ordering information can be found on our website, [www.walkwithpridenow.com](http://www.walkwithpridenow.com)

### **What was your most memorable experience?**

Our experiences in Minsk and Moscow will always stay with us. Both of these Prides are banned by their governments, so the LGBT activists in these countries are operating in extremely repressive and difficult conditions. There are skinheads and the police to worry about, and you get paranoid not only about who may be watching or following you, but also about the quality of the work you are producing. The organizers there really trusted us, and we wanted to make sure to do a good job so that their stories could be shared.

### **What's next for the WWP?**

Chad will be returning to photograph the 2011 Prides in Minsk and Moscow, May 17 and May 28 respectively. The images taken during these two prides will be used as part of The Inside Out photography project, which we hope will gain even more attention for these organizations. To read more about the Inside Out project visit their website at [www.insideoutproject.net](http://www.insideoutproject.net)

**To keep up with the Walk With Pride project, visit: <http://www.walkwithpridenow.com>**

## Participating LGBT Organizations



Organized: Taiwan Pride  
[www.twpride.info](http://www.twpride.info)



Organized: GayFest  
[www.accept-romania.ro](http://www.accept-romania.ro)



Organized: Sofia Pride  
[www.deystvie.org](http://www.deystvie.org)



Organized: Manila Pride  
[taskforcepride.blogspot.com](http://taskforcepride.blogspot.com)



Organized: Moscow Pride  
[www.gayrussia.eu](http://www.gayrussia.eu)



Organized: Pride London  
[www.pridelondon.org](http://www.pridelondon.org)



Organized: Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras  
[www.mardigras.org.au](http://www.mardigras.org.au)



Organized: Athens Pride  
[www.athenspride.eu](http://www.athenspride.eu)



Organized: Budapest Pride  
[www.budapestpride.hu](http://www.budapestpride.hu)



Organized: Baltic Pride  
[www.lgl.lt](http://www.lgl.lt)



Organized: Trans Pride  
[www.istanbul-lgbtt.org](http://www.istanbul-lgbtt.org)



Organized: EuroPride '10  
[www.lambdawarszawa.org](http://www.lambdawarszawa.org)



Organized: Slavic Pride Minsk '10  
[www.gaybelarus.by](http://www.gaybelarus.by)



Organized: Zagreb Pride  
[www.zagreb-pride.net](http://www.zagreb-pride.net)



Organized: Jerusalem Pride  
[www.joh.org.il](http://www.joh.org.il)

## About the Countries



### Taiwan - Taiwan Pride

First organized in 2003, the parade attracts over 25,000 participants a year making it one of the largest in Asia.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**



### The Philippines - Manila Pride

The Philippines is home to the longest running Pride march in Asia, with annual marches since 1994.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**



### Australia – Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras has grown into a huge two-week long festival that attracts visitors from all over. During the 2010 Sydney GL Mardi Gras more than 800,000 people attended.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **Yes**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **Yes**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**



### Lithuania – Baltic Pride

Baltic Pride is an event jointly organized by LGBT groups in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The first Baltic Pride took place in Riga, Latvia, in 2009, while the 2010 Baltic Pride was held in Vilnius, the country’s first ever Pride.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**



### Belarus – Slavic Pride

The 2010 Slavic Pride took place in Minsk, Belarus, and was the country’s first Pride. Despite a government ban, a brief but symbolic Pride march took place. It lasted 10 minutes before anti-riot police stormed the area.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **No**



### Romania – GayFest

Bucharest’s annual Pride is called ‘GayFest’, and the 2010 march was the country’s 6th. Due to aggressive homophobic behavior that had taken place at past Prides, the march is now held in a safe but isolated location. Few people witness the march other than participants and the media.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**

## Russia – Moscow Pride



Each year Moscow's mayor bans the annual Moscow Pride march. However, in 2010 the European Court of Human Rights unanimously ruled that banning the Prides was a breach of the European Convention. The legal status of Moscow Pride 2011 has not yet been discussed by the Russian Courts.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**

## Greece – Athens Pride



The Athens Pride parade marches through the city's center. Over 10,000 participants took part in the 2010 Athens Pride, whose theme was, 'We Are Everywhere.'

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **No**

## Turkey – Istanbul Trans Pride



Prompted by the increase in hate crimes and the lack of anti-discrimination legislation, the Istanbul Trans community organized their first Pride march in 2010.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **No**



### Croatia – Zagreb Pride

While the Pride march in Zagreb has been going on since 2002, it has not been an easy journey. Many of the past marches have been marred by violence, and organizers continually have to battle with government officials concerning the route.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**



### Bulgaria – Sofia Pride

Sofia Pride has grown considerably since the country’s initial march in 2008. The 2008 Pride faced fierce opposition from neo-Nazi protestors throwing Molotov cocktails, with 88 protestors arrested by the police.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**



### England – London Pride

Thousands of people each year participate in Pride London, with several hundred thousands more coming to watch.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **Yes**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **Yes**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**

## Hungary – Budapest Pride



While previous marches were held in public view, since the violence of the 2007 and 2008 Budapest Prides, the march now takes place on a closed off section of one of the city's main thoroughfares, Andrassy Street.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **Yes**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**

## Poland – EuroPride 2010



While only 5 years ago the city's mayor had previously banned the Warsaw Pride march, in 2010 over 10,000 people turned out to celebrate EuroPride hosted in central Warsaw.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**

## Israel – Jerusalem Pride



The 2010 Jerusalem Pride march was held in remembrance of the 2 people tragically killed at the 2009 LGBT youth center shooting in Tel Aviv. Thousands of participants marched to the Parliament building where a rally was held asking the government to promote equality and help end the violence toward Israel's LGBT community.

- Homosexual Acts Legal? **Yes**
- Same-sex Relationships Recognized? **No**
- Same-sex Marriages Allowed? **No**
- Same-sex Adoption Allowed? **No**
- Can Gays Serve Openly in the Military? **Yes**