



Rainbow  
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Network

*PROUDLY  
PRESENTS*

# TRANS GENDER

2018

*AN  
INTERNATIONAL  
PHOTO  
EXHIBITION*

# THE RCN EXHIBITION TRANS\*GENDER

The Rainbow Cities Network (RCN), which today includes more than 30 cities, was established in 2013 on occasion of the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). The network aims to discuss local approaches in equality and anti-discrimination work for LGBTIQ persons, to learn from each other, and to develop joint strategies.

As a joint project, the Rainbow Cities have organised a photo exhibition with the title “trans\*gender” on occasion of IDAHOT on 17 May 2018: Fifteen cities participate and provide one photo each for the international exhibition.

When a baby is born, we are used to ask, if the baby is healthy and „is it a boy or a girl?”. Ideas about masculinity and femininity are deeply embedded in our society and root in expectations of certain behaviours associated with it. Society likes to keep it simple: male/female. These traditional, rigid, binary and heteronormative categories do reduce diversity of gender identities and may be appropriate for some people, but definitely not for all of us.

People who feel and identify as trans\* don't hide any longer, but have formed a liberation movement saying, “Here I am, look at me, I have nothing to hide!”. Some want medical treatment, others don't and concentrate on their feelings and identity and some say, “I am a migrant of gender”.

It's a shame that people who are trans\*gender, trans\*ident, non-binary, in-between or inter\*sex are often bullied in schools, discriminated in families and in society. Some are even harassed in the streets.

As Rainbow Cities, we emphasise that every single person has the right to experience any gender identity in freedom and that the public space belongs to all citizens. It's your right to be who you are and to love whoever you like, and it is our duty to promote respect and acceptance towards gender diversity.

This exhibition collects portraits of strong persons, shows demonstrations and individual transitions in private and at work. It proves that different genders are as colourful and as beautiful as the rainbow and do make our cities more beautiful, stronger and special.



Wolfgang Wilhelm, Vienna  
Curator of the exhibition

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# NO. 1, LEUVEN



## M/W? KEEP IT SIMPLE: WE ALL ARE HUMAN BEINGS.

by Danny Eraerts, Belgium

In pregnancy, the first ultrasound is eagerly awaited. Is the baby healthy and what is its gender? The first question on everyone's lips at a birth: "is it a boy or a girl?" Ideas about masculinity and femininity are deeply embedded in our thoughts and experienced as immutable and universal.

We have all sorts of expectations about certain behaviors associated with women and men. We often fall back on the classic man / woman patterns.

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

## NO. 2, TURIN



### TOGETHER! MOVING OUR RIGHTS FORWARD

by Danielle Tissot Kirby

The Trans Freedom March in Turin! From 2014, on Transgender Day of Remembrance (T-Dor), the local LGBT Associations, supported by the City of Turin, organize this parade in the historic centre. All citizens march together with trans persons to affirm their Rights and fight against transphobia. Violence against women and trans persons have the same root in the rigidity of gender roles. Transgender persons and women who fight against a binary, heteronormative, male-centred vision of society are often discriminated against and punished. Together we win!

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**TRANS**  
GENDER

## NO. 3, BRUSSELS



### BRUSSELS LOVES YOU AS YOU ARE #BXLOVE

by Wen-Chi Su (<http://wenchisu.com>)

This photo has been used for an awareness campaign by the Brussels Rainbowhouse, with the support of the Brussels Capital Region.

For this campaign, inclusive images have been elaborated and distributed throughout the city and the Brussels' public institutions to show that each individual has the right to experience in all freedom her-his gender identities and that the public space belongs to all inhabitants.

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

## NO. 4, PARIS



### I HAVE 2 COUNTRIES, MY PARIS AND MY GENDER!

by Sophie Robichon/Mairie de Paris

Look at me, I have nothing to hide ... I am a Migrant of Gender.

Pascale Ourbih is a Trans French-Algerian woman. Actress, she plays in movies and television series.

In addition to her work as an artist, she advocates for human rights, as for Trans and LGBT, but also for the ecology and fight against AIDS. She presided the festival "Chéries Chéris" of LGBT films from Paris from 2008 to 2013.

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

## NO. 5, MEXICO CITY



### I'M LIKE YOU, FREE AND WITH RIGHTS

by Jazmín Morales Castelan

Nathan Ambriz was part of the campaign "Vive Trans" (Live Trans), launched by the Council to Prevent and Eliminate Discrimination of Mexico City (COPRED). It's aim was to promote the respect towards gender diversity based on the recognition of the trans population.

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**TRANS**  
GENDER

## NO. 6, COLOGNE



### MEN WITH VAGINAS

by v g g - koeln

This photo was taken in July 2016 at Cologne's CSD (Christopher Street Day) demonstration – the city's annual pride parade, which is one of the biggest in Europe. Dany and Sam are both female-to-male trans\*gender activists, who wrote on their bodies: „Man with vagina“. Dany is holding a sign which translates „Gender is in your head, not between your legs“. Sam's sign demands „more AccepTrans\* for all“!

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**TRANS\***  
**GENDER**

# NO. 7, GENEVA



## FREE TO BE YOURSELF AT ANY AGE

by Magali Girardin, Ville de Genève

Lynn is one of the models of the annual 2018 City of Geneva campaign against homophobia and transphobia « Pouvoir être soi à tout âge » (Free to be yourself at any age), dedicated to LGBTI elderly people. [www.17mai-geneve.ch](http://www.17mai-geneve.ch)

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**GENDER**

# NO. 8, MANNHEIM



## CHANGE

by Alexander Kästel

Livia works at a kindergarten in Mannheim. And she just started her transition. Choosing her new name, Livia, was one of the first steps. This journey will definitely bring a lot of positive change for her life. But her story also shows how the society has changed, that her employer, the protestant church, is supporting her on this way. Promoting coexistence in diversity and ensuring equal opportunities for its LGBTI citizens is a core value of the City of Mannheim.

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

## NO. 9, BRIGHTON & HOVE



### FREE HUGS

by Sharon Kilgannon

Image taken of Loretta at Trans Pride Brighton 2017. It was the 5th anniversary of TP and in that time, everything has changed for Loretta. 'I have been through so much hardship, and it has developed me into the woman I am today. I trained my voice, developed my look, learnt makeup and hair skills; basically worked hard to make my outside match my inside, and now it almost does. I couldn't be prouder of myself, how far I've come, and what I've managed to overcome'.

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**TRANS**  
GENDER

# NO. 10, ZURICH



## ZURICH: EQUALITY PRIZE 2014 FOR TGNS

by Renate Wernli

The Legal Service of the Transgender Network Switzerland (TGNS) received the Equality Prize of the City of Zurich in 2014.

The City Council acknowledged the unique and professional commitment of the association regarding the legal and social equality of trans\* people in Zurich.

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

# NO. 11, BARCELONA



## LET'S BUILD A BETTER WORLD

by Mar C. Llop

Let's build a better world, one which is more diverse, with more colours. Even though we sometimes have to suffer from the discrimination of those who live life in a rigid and disrespectful way, we know this lack of respect often comes from ignorance and fear of others and also ourselves. Trans\* people are a driving force for social change. By deconstructing gender patterns - this gender that also constricts cisgender people-, we make society progress. Let's build a gentler and freer world!

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**TRANS\***  
**GENDER**

# NO. 12, VIENNA



## BLOOMING BEAUTIFUL

by Katharina Koberger

No matter how long it rains, it needs earth and sunshine to grow the most beautiful flower. That's all I want to give to you. And I wish you could see yourself one day the way I do.

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

# NO. 13, SÃO PAULO



## TRANS-VISIBILITY WINS THE POLICY

by Bruna Sveltic and Ricardo Bezerra

Brazilian and born in Rio Grande do Norte, Janaina Lima is 42 years old. At the age of 16, she discovered herself a transgender. Due to intolerance, she left school. She became a militant in favor of transgender. Transformed by militancy, she finished high school and graduated in pedagogy. Today, Janaina coordinates the largest project of inclusion of trans people in Brazil: Transcidadania Program. "Transgenders in inhumane situations is my inspiration to continue to struggle", she says as she prepares for the picture in front of São Paulo' City Hall's building."

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**TRANS**  
**GENDER**

## NO. 14, LJUBLJANA



### MASHA

by Jasna Klanđišar

The main idea of the project 30" – Portraits of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Persons was to raise the general public's social awareness and eliminate prejudice against transgender people through images of true and real people.

The part of the title 30" (thirty seconds) refers to the photographic technique – light painting. With the portraits author wants to show Masha and others as brave, with strong self-awareness, proud and real self, even though their lives are often woven with difficulties, depressions and rejections.

The project was done with TransAkcija Institute.

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**TRANS**  
GENDER

# NO. 15, AMSTERDAM



## FREEDOM TO BE WHO YOU ARE, AMSTERDAM TRANSPRIDE 2017

by Edwin van Eis, Beeldbank Amsterdam

In Amsterdam you have the freedom to be who you are and love whoever you like. Amsterdam supports gay men, lesbian women, bisexuals, transgenders and people with an intersex condition in their fight for equal rights and social acceptance. Every young person, every tourist and every Amsterdammer must know that being 'different' just adds to our city. It makes Amsterdam more beautiful, stronger and special.

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Rainbow  
Cities  
Network

**TRANS**  
GENDER

# LIST OF REFERENCES

1. NO. 1, LEUVEN: **M/W? KEEP IT SIMPLE: WE ALL ARE HUMAN BEINGS.**  
BY DANNY EERAERTS, BELGIUM
2. NO. 2, TURIN: **TOGETHER! MOVING OUR RIGHTS FORWARD**  
BY DANIELLE TISSOT KIRBY
3. NO. 3, BRUSSELS: **BRUSSELS LOVES YOU AS YOU ARE #BXLOVE** BY WEN-CHI SU
4. NO. 4, PARIS: **I HAVE 2 COUNTRIES, MY PARIS AND MY GENDER!**  
BY SOPHIE ROBICHON/MAIRIE DE PARIS
5. NO. 5, MEXICO CITY: **I'M LIKE YOU, FREE AND WITH RIGHTS**  
BY JAZMÍN MORALES CASTELAN
6. NO. 6, COLOGNE: **MEN WITH VAGINAS** BY V G G - KOELN
7. NO. 7, GENEVA: **FREE TO BE YOURSELF AT ANY AGE**  
BY MAGALI GIRARDIN, VILLE DE GENÈVE
8. NO. 8, MANNHEIM: **CHANGE** BY ALEXANDER KÄSTEL
9. NO. 9, BRIGHTON & HOVE: **FREE HUGS** BY SHARON KILGANNON
10. NO. 10, ZURICH: **ZURICH: EQUALITY PRIZE 2014 FOR TGNS** BY RENATE WERNLI
11. NO. 11, BARCELONA: **LET'S BUILD A BETTER WORLD** BY MAR C. LLOP
12. NO. 12, VIENNA: **BLOOMING BEAUTIFUL** BY KATHARINA KOBERGER
13. NO. 13, SÃO PAULO: **TRANS-VISIBILITY WINS THE POLICY**  
BY BRUNA SVELTIC AND RICARDO BEZERRA
14. NO. 14, LJUBLJANA: **MASHA** BY JASNA KLANČIŠAR
15. NO. 15, AMSTERDAM: **FREEDOM TO BE WHO YOU ARE, AMSTERDAM TRANSPRIDE  
2017** BY EDWIN VAN EIS, BEELDBANK AMSTERDAM

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