

The background features a high-angle view of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco during the 'blue hour'. The bridge's iconic red-orange towers and suspension cables are silhouetted against a sky transitioning from deep blue to a soft orange glow. The city's dense urban landscape is visible in the distance. Overlaid on the image are vibrant, flowing, semi-transparent shapes in shades of red, orange, yellow, and cyan, which resemble stylized waves or abstract architectural forms. A thin white vertical line is positioned to the left of the main title.

LISBON BID BOOK

BRIDGING ACTIVISM & PRIDE

EPOA Annual
General Meeting
17-19 September 2021

WELCOME, SAUDAÇÕES!

Dear EPOA Board and Members,

It is with pride that we, ILGA Portugal, rede ex aequo, and Variações, with years of experience representing the LGBTI community, jointly declare our intent to host the 2021 Annual General Meeting of EPOA in **Lisbon on 17-19 September 2021**.

Our bid, **Bridging Activism & Pride**, reflects both, the synergy behind our joint effort by activist and Pride organisers, and a topic of growing priority: even as Pride becomes mainstream, much work remains in bringing full equality to LGBTI people across Europe.

To enact this vision, marking **30 years of EPOA's** role, we have included in the programme an exhibition, workshops and cultural events that show how Pride and activism do and could support each other.

We present this in the award-winning seaside setting of Lisbon. Our **4C's of climate, culture, convenience and costs** make Lisbon a top choice for meeting planners and visitors—and LGBTI guests in particular. Furthermore, our approach benefits from Portugal's strengths in terms of personal safety, health, and sustainability in a post-Covid-19 world.

With support from an array of national actors that includes government, LGBTI social and cultural organisations, and businesses, **we look forward to welcoming you in Lisbon next year!**

Sincerely,

ILGA
INTERVENÇÃO LÉSBICA,
GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS
E INTERSEXO
ILGA-PORTUGAL.PT


rede ex aequo
associação de jovens lgbti e apoiantes


VARIAÇÕES
ASSOCIAÇÃO DE COMÉRCIO E TURISMO
LGBTI DE PORTUGAL

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1. BRIDGING ACTIVISM & PRIDE

In 1946, the Shakespeare Club was founded in the Netherlands. The United Kingdom published the Wolfenden Report in 1957. And in 1969, New York witnessed the Stonewall riots.

These LGBTI milestones took place light-years from post-war Portugal, where dictatorship persecuted all nonconformity in Europe's last colonial empire, and "acts against nature" were condemned by Church, State and Science alike.

But if Portugal's time to address this injustice was long, the speed of its transition is surprising: 28 years, less than EPOA's lifetime — from decriminalizing sexual acts between men in 1982, to marriage equality in 2010. These 28 years would be marked by demands and achievements.

Today, rainbow families enjoy the possibility of same-sex adoption and equal access to medically assisted procreation techniques by single women and lesbian couples. More recently, law establishes the right to self-determination of gender identity and expression, as well as the protection of sexual characteristics.

Visibility was paramount to achieving this, and Pride (in Lisbon since 1997) is our most visible moment. But as it evolves from marches for activists to festivals for everyone, we must forge a moment where visibility and celebration are one with political pressure.

Pride's mainstreaming attests to the movement's success. Nurturing the activism of its origins will continue to ensure that joy comes with progress.

2. THREE-PART SYNERGY

Lisbon's bid to host the EPOA AGM in 2021 represents a **joint effort by three national organisations** that offer LGBTI people a path to self-determination, empowerment, and community in all aspect of life:



ILGA Portugal, founded in 1995, is the country's largest and oldest NGO pushing legislative change, community building, and social services for LGBTI people and their families.



rede ex aequo, founded in 2003, promotes social integration, non-discrimination and recognition of the needs specific to LGBTI youth through a nationwide education project and a network of local peer support and activism groups.



Variações, founded in 2017, promotes LGBTI economic empowerment. It helps LGBTI-owned/focused small businesses in Portugal, and employees and associations at larger firms.

3. PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

The EPOA AGM in 2021 falls on the eve of **EPOA's 30th Anniversary**. Over one hundred attendees from dozens of countries will come together representing thousands of accumulated years of political activism, business skills, and organisational acumen.

Our role as hosts is to let the participants take centre stage **in a setting to share**, learn from each others' experience, question assumptions, and consider new viewpoints. In this relaxed environment, work and fun balance, creating conditions for serendipity and happenstance.

To achieve this, we have developed a framework to complement EPOA's AGM agenda with **workshops, cultural events**, and a **30 Years of EPOA exhibition** to enact our vision for Bridging Activism & Pride.





30 YEARS OF EPOA EXHIBITION

To celebrate EPOA's 30th Anniversary, we will create a **gallery space** in which EPOA members will be invited to exhibit photos, stories and other content from past Prides and the histories of their organisations.

Viewed by participants during the AGM, it will be a **platform to discover parallels** between past struggles and current challenges across borders.

After the AGM, the exhibition will continue to raise awareness as we explore opportunities for **public display** and to bring it to other cities.

WORKSHOPS

Complementing the AGM agenda we propose workshops in parallel sessions covering topics of interest and **practical use** to both Pride organisers and LGBTI activists.

The proposed workshops include:

- Funding Prides
- Prides as battlefronts
- The way forward on LGBTI issues
- Trans and intersex
- Intersectionality





CULTURAL AGENDA

Social events are an enriching party of any AGM, where attendees can process the day's work in relaxed company with others, and in the context of the city's surroundings and cultural offer.

We plan a **formal reception with government officials** to welcome the EPOA AGM as an occasion to hear their views on LGBTI politics and speak Queer truth to power.

Participants will also be invited to discover Lisbon's unique multicultural influences and famous views with guided **excursions and events with local activists.**

In addition, the **Queer Lisboa LGBTI film festival** will open the same day as the EPOA AGM, and welcome a joint event for Pride organisers, activists and artists to meet.

4. EPOA AGM 2021 SCHEDULE

Friday, 17.09

10:00 Registration opens
12:00 Session for first-timers
13:00 Formal opening session
15:00 Government welcome
15:15 EPOA30 Exhibition visit
15:30 Coffee break
16:00 AGM plenary
18:00 Free time
19:30 Official reception
20:30 Hosted dinner

Saturday, 18.09

9:30 AGM plenary
11:15 Coffee break
11:45 Workshops
13:00 Hosted lunch
14:00 AGM plenary
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 AGM plenary
19:00 Gala dinner
21:00 Queer Lisboa film
and afterparty

Sunday 19.09

9:30 Workshops
10:45 Coffee break
11:15 AGM plenary
12:30 Formal closing
13:00 Hosted Lunch
15:00 *Post-AGM event
(harbour cruise or city
tour with local activists)*

(Exact timings to be established.)



WORKSHOP: TRANS & INTERSEX

How to advocate for Trans and Intersex rights? This workshop will discuss strategies to advance these rights around Europe through **legal recognition, protection and anti-discrimination**, as well as how to fight for better conditions. It will offer advice from human rights entities and address standards of **medical care** for trans and intersex people.

WORKSHOP: INTERSECTIONALITY

Recognizing the intersecting struggles of the LGBTI community with **racism, functional diversity and privilege** within the LGBTI community, this workshop will focus on the importance of representation and visibility of diverse people in activism, and on building synergies between activist communities.

WORKSHOP: THE WAY FORWARD

This workshop will discuss social and political trends, such as **populism, extremism** and **growing anti-LGBTI movements** in Europe, and the role of Pride to respond and contribute to social and legal change.

WORKSHOP: FUNDING

Good practices in financing Pride and activism organization, and making partnerships are constant challenges. **Who to contact and how** to approach different entities? How to work with brands and companies in a way that is beneficial to the LGBTI movement with visibility that avoids pinkwashing.

WORKSHOP: THE BATTLEFRONT

While many European countries enjoy Pride as a celebration, in others it is still a perilous act. This workshop will look at **dealing with hostile contexts** when organizing Pride movements and events, as well as at managing opposition and legal obstacles.

QUEER LISBOA FILM FESTIVAL

Queer Lisboa's 25th Edition will open concurrent with the AGM, host an EPOA evening, and run all week.

Lisbon's oldest film festival began in 1997, the year of Portugal's first Pride, to become one of the most internationally recognised in its genre for the quality of its films and activities, and the guests it attracts. Queer Lisboa gives awards for Best Feature Film, Documentary, Short Film, School Film (short format), and Queer Art experimental formats.

Non-competition sections offer programmes dedicated to particular themes, filmmakers or cultures, retrospectives on the historical representation of Queer identity in film, sections dedicated to Queer Cinema subgenres, and panel discussions, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and art installations.



The background of the slide is a dark, aerial photograph of Lisbon, Portugal, showing the city's dense architecture and a large public square. At the top of the slide, there is a colorful, abstract graphic consisting of curved, overlapping bands in shades of orange, red, yellow, and green, resembling a stylized flag or a decorative header.

5. MEET LISBON: THE 4C'S

Since 2015, Lisbon ranks among the world's top destinations, particularly for **LGBTI visitors** and for meetings and **international events**, according to Conde Nast Traveler readers, American Express Global Business Travel, European Best Destinations, Cvent Supplier Network and more.

Every year the city hosts several hundred academic congresses, corporate retreats, trade shows and festivals organised from abroad. These include annually repeating events, from the prestigious **Disquiet International Literary Program**, to the top-level **Estoril Conference**, to the 70,000-person **Web Summit**.

In making their decision, event planners cite a combination of factors unique to Lisbon. We call these our 4C's: **Culture, Climate, Convenience** and **Costs**.

PORTUGAL

#1 LGBT Destination 2019

Spartacus International Gay Guide

#7 Rainbow Map and Index 2020

ILGA-Europe

First Covid-19 Safe Travels Label 2020

World Travel & Tourism Council

#3 Safest Country in the World 2019

Global Peace Index

LISBON

#1 World City Destination 2019

World Travel Awards

Top-10 European Meeting Destinations 2019

American Express Global Business Travel





CLIMATE

The original City of Seven Hills, Lisbon inspires with dozens of viewpoints to enjoy vistas of red rooftops, blue seas, and golden sunsets. And it offers 300 days of annual sunshine, with summers stretching long into October, with days at the beach and dinners under the stars. Come for business, stay for pleasure.

CULTURE

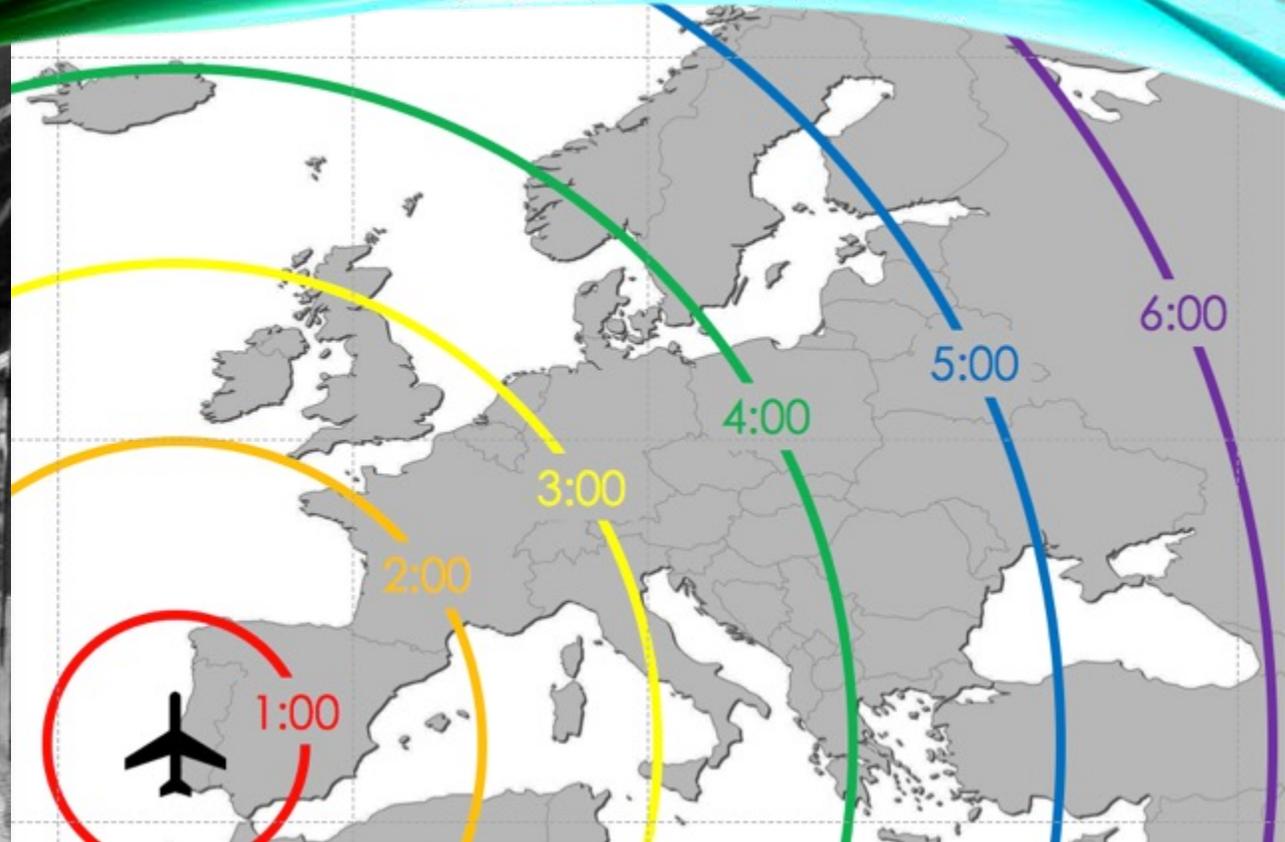
All visitors—particularly LGBTI visitors responding to the *Proudly Portugal* survey of travelers—highlight the warmth of Portuguese people. This experience, with roots in a history of internationalism and respect for diversity, propels Lisbon to top lists of the safest and most LGBTI-friendly destinations in the world.





COSTS

Whether 5-star hotels or youth hostels, gourmet restaurants or street food, shopping or museums, Lisbon's value for money is famous. Some of the lowest prices in Europe put Lisbon's experiences within reach of visitors from across the continent—and make it a favourite among younger travellers.



CONVENIENCE

Lisbon airport offers non-stop flights to almost every big city in Europe on both traditional and low-cost airlines. Only 7km brings you to the city centre via abundant, fast, and easy to use transportation. The centre is all in walking distance, with transport and infrastructure to aid with accessibility.



AROUND TOWN

1. Avenida da Liberdade, shopping
 2. Baixa, historic downtown
 3. Cais do Sodré, nightlife
 4. Chiado, shopping and dining
 5. Bairro Alto, LGBTI nightlife
 6. Alfama, medieval district
 7. Príncipe Real, shopping and dining
 8. Estrela, gardens
 9. Graça, views over the city
 10. Mouraria, the home of Fado
 11. Intendente, multicultural enclaves
- ★ EPOA AGM venue



6. VENUES & ENVIRONMENT

Fans of Lisbon know its ability to mix big-city seriousness and a holiday atmosphere into an inspiring, productive whole.

Iberostar Selection Lisboa, a short distance from both the airport and historic downtown, offers versatile, large-scale meeting facilities and resort amenities. It offers good-value rooms, catering, on-site space to work without distraction, and dedicated areas for rest, reflection and recreation.



MAIN VENUE

- 5-star city-centre hotel
- Certified Covid-19 Clean & Safe
- 166 guest rooms
- 11 meeting rooms, 24-300 sq m
- Exhibition space, 200 sq m
- Outdoor space, 500 sq m
- Additional space, 800 sq m
- Restaurant, pool / lobby bars
- Gym, indoor / outdoor pools
- Wheelchair accessible
- Airport – 7km
 - 30 minutes (metro)
 - 15 minutes (taxi)

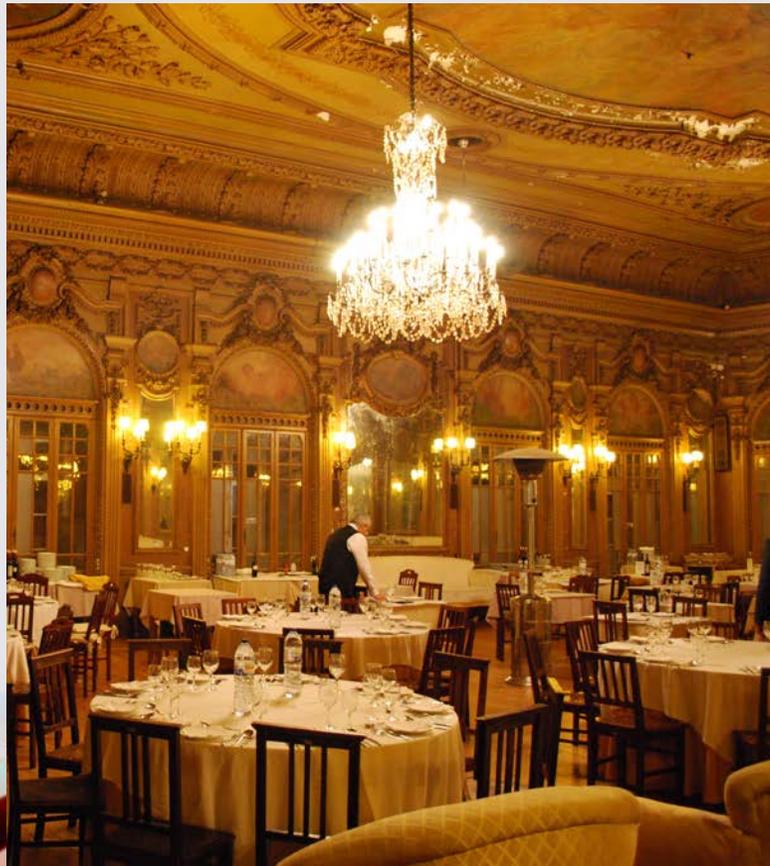


OUT AND ABOUT

(Clockwise from top-left)

- Alfama, Lisbon's most historic quarter and waterfront
- Bairro Alto, the hub of Lisbon's nightlife and LGBTI community
- Cinema São Jorge, home to the Queer Lisboa Film Festival
- Casa do Alentejo, a traditional Portuguese food experience

All within a 20-minute walk of the main venue and hotel!



SECURE

Rated the **third safest country** in the world by the Global Peace index in 2019, Portugal enjoys a reputation for friendliness and respect. This famously extends to **LGBTI visitors**, particularly in the major cities of Lisbon and Porto, where visible communities have led LGBTI people from around the world to call Portugal home.

SANITARY

Portugal was praised as a leader in **responding to Covid-19**, taking early, decisive action that kept the worst of the pandemic at a distance. Portugal was also first to implement protocols to keep visitors safe in moving toward a more sustainable **post-pandemic future**. With guidance from the national health service, we will ensure that measures to protect the health of attendees meet the highest standards.

SUSTAINABLE

Bridging Activism & Pride also means being **exemplary in our environmental impacts**. For this reason, the EPOA AGM 2021 will work to reduce/eliminate event swag; favour recycled materials; prioritise mass transit; prioritise clean and renewable energy; raise awareness about pollution and waste disposal; and prioritise local sourcing.

7. BUDGET & FUNDING

Costs	€
Hotel and main AGM venue	30 000
Off-site venues and events	17 500
Catering	15 000
Materials and logistics	5 000
EPOA30 exhibition facilities	5 000
Solidarity fund	5 000
Speakers, guests	5 000
Advertising	2 000
Other costs	5 000
Total	89 5000

Financing	€
Registrations (125 delegates @ EUR 300)	37 500
Government support	20 000
Tourism of Portugal support	15 000
Variações (Proudly Portugal sponsorships)	7 000
Private sponsorships	5 000
Solidarity fundraising	5 000
Total	89 500

REGISTRATION FEES	Double occupancy (€/person)	Single occupancy (€/person)	Conference only (€/person)
Early (1 January to 31 March)	225	325	150
Basic (1 April to 30 June)	275	375	160
Late (1 July to 1 September)	325	425	170

Included

- 2 nights w/breakfast
- 2 on-site lunches
- 3 coffee breaks
- 2 hosted dinners
- 2 hosted receptions
- Conference registration
- Admission to Queer Lisboa
- Public transportation pass
- Visitor attractions pass
- Sunday post-AGM event

Alternatives

- Rates for hotel-only guests of EPOA attendees TBC
- Solidarity funding available on a limited basis by application
- Host matching for home stays available on a limited basis

EPOA – European Pride Organisers
Association
Rue du Marché au Charbon 42
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Lisboa, 29th July, 2020

Ref^a: EPOA General Assembly – Lisboa 2021

Dear EPOA Members,

It gives us a great pleasure to know that ILGA Portugal, Variações and rede ex aequo are bidding for the organization of the EPOA General Assembly in Lisboa in September 2021.

We would like to emphasize our interest in hosting this LGBTIQ+ Event in our city and therefore we will provide all possible support to its materialization and success.

The light and beauty of Lisboa, the advantage of the prevailing mild weather, the historical heritage of the city, the existing hotels, modern meeting facilities and the professionalism of our Incoming Travel Agencies and Conference Organizers, certainly will contribute to make Lisboa the ideal venue for your event.

Hoping to hear from you in the near future,

Yours sincerely,



Vitor Costa
General Manager
Turismo de Lisboa – Visitors & Convention Bureau

**TURISMO
DE LISBOA,
VISITORS &
CONVENTION
BUREAU.**

PESSOA COLECTIVA DE
UTILIDADE PÚBLICA
NOS TERMOS DO
DECRETO-LEI 460/77,
DE 7 DE NOVEMBRO
NIF: 501 800 160

R. DO ARSENAL, N.º 23
1100-038 LISBOA
TEL: (+351) 210 312 700
FAX: (+351) 210 312 899
www.visitlisboa.com

8. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

LETTER OF SUPPORT
European Pride Organisers Association
Annual General Meeting, 2021

On behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Digital Transition and as Secretary of State for Tourism, I would like to join those that highlight the astonishing contribution given to the public by ILGA Portugal and Variações to develop and promote LGBTI communities and tourism in Portugal.

As a representative of the Portuguese Government I also want to highlight our strong support to ILGA Portugal and Variações, to bring the EPOA Annual General Meeting in 2021 to Lisbon.

Since the XV century that Portugal is connecting people and cultures around the world and hospitality and well receiving is part of our DNA.

It is therefore natural that Portugal has been awarded the World's Leading Destination by the World Travel Awards three times in a row in the last three years. We are also proud that Portugal is in the top 3 of the 2020 Global Peace Index, the ranking of the safest countries in the world.

According to ILGA Europe latest information and with regards to respect of human rights and full equality, Portugal ranks 7th among 49 European countries and 4th if we consider legal gender recognition only. In 2010, Portugal became the 8th country in the world to legalise gay marriage and adoption is permitted since 2016. In 2011 we passed the Law of Gender Identity which is one of the most advanced transgender friendly laws in the world.

One of the main spots in Portugal for LGBTI tourism is Lisbon with its fantastic gay scene including bars, clubs, hotels and parties all around the city but particularly in Bairro Alto and Principe Real neighbourhoods.

On the other hand, in 2020 and according to ICCA, Lisbon is the 2nd city in the world in terms of big international Meetings and Congresses, which makes it the perfect place to host EPOA's 2021 AGM.

Regarding all the above I am sure there are good reasons to EPOA to choose Lisbon for its 2021 AGM, allowing staff, delegates, press, sponsors, providers and other participants to a memorable experience in Portugal.

Lisbon, 22nd July 2020

**Rita Baptista
Marques**

Assinado de forma digital
por Rita Baptista Marques
Dados: 2020.07.22
17:55:35 +0100'

The Secretary of State for Tourism of Portugal
Rita Marques

V/Ref*

N/Ref* SAI 18316/DAV/DMTN/FM
Data 24/07/2020

Subject: Letter of Support | Annual General Meeting of EPOA 2021

Dear Sirs,

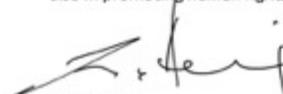
On behalf of Turismo de Portugal we welcome the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA) to take place in 2021 in Lisbon.

Raising Portugal's profile and boosting the destination's visibility in the international markets has been constant undertaking for Turismo de Portugal.

Promoting Portugal as a tourist destination worth visiting, as a place to invest, live or study in, and as a venue capable of hosting major and international events, have been our main goals.

Our strong experience in organizing and hosting major national and international events, allows us to gain international visibility, and by hosting the AGM of EPOA in 2021, the affirmation of Portugal as a tourist destination committed to the prevention of discrimination.

We are certain that this event will have a major impact not only in the tourism activity, but also in promoting human rights.



Luís Araújo
President of Turismo de Portugal



Letter of Support

Portugal's Candidacy to Annual General Meeting (AGM) Lisbon 2021
European Pride Organizers Association

Lisbon, July 22, 2020

BJWHF Sports Club is an association that aims to promote diversity through inclusion in sports in Portugal. We strongly support the candidacy of Portugal (**Rede Ex Aequo** together with **ILGA-Portugal** and **Variações**) to organise **Annual General Meeting (AGM) Lisbon 2021 – EPOA**.

Although the LGBTI+ rights in Portugal are currently among the best in the world, there is still a considerable social prejudice towards the community, especially outside the capital city. This leads to people remaining closeted, to choose to have a life apart from their families or even hide their sexual identity or orientation for fear of being rejected or bullied. We all, as a society, need to talk about this, and the Annual General Meeting is the perfect place to bring these issues in the spotlight. It is not just an opportunity to celebrate, it is an opportunity to discuss and raise awareness.

We take the opportunity to express our full support in a future candidacy for the organization of EuroPride in Portugal.

Sincerely,

Álvaro Cardoso – Vice President

ASSOCIAÇÃO DESPORTIVA BOYS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN – SPORTS CLUB

www.facebook.com/bjwhf | <http://bjwhf.org/>

Associação Desportiva, Recreativa e Social, Sem Fins Lucrativos

CAE 93120 | NIPC 509 891 268

AND
MORE TO
COME...

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