



SOCIETY

EL PERIÒDICO



## 28J: The pride of being yourself

**LGTBIQ+ Pride Day is born** to claim the right of people who have fought against the status quo

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Yesterday was the International LGBTIQ+ Pride Day, a day to claim the rights of all those gay, lesbian, bisexual and transsexual people. Even today in many countries sexual diversity is persecuted and criminalized by the laws and the authorized. And although it has already been accepted in several countries, society is still a long way from accepting the reality of many people.

### International Pride Day

International LGBTIQ+ Pride Day is celebrated on June 28th to commemorate the Stonewall Inn pub riots in New York in 1969, which marked the beginning of the liberation of the collective, reports Isabella Vargas, member of the Diversand Association's board: **«There were often police raids in that pub, and on that day, June 28th, 1969, as a response to these, several riots arose spontaneously and demonstrations led by a group of trans women who revealed themselves against the status quo in order to be who they really were, without suffering any dis-**

**crimination»**, she explains. These riots were, along with some others, the first displays of the LGBTIQ+ collective in the United States and in the world.

Thus, 28J serves **«to remember all those people who have fought to be themselves and even lost their lives because of it, and so that today we have the freedoms we have»**, highlights Vargas, who adds that **«this it gives us strength to be able to fight against the injustices that are still suffered today. This is what Pride Day is for, to be able to look at the past, arm ourselves with strength to be the people we really are, and create community among us»**.

### Invisible groups

Within the LGBTIQ+ collective, there are several communities, and some are better viewed than others, for example in many societies a trans person is much more discriminated against than, for example, a homosexual boy. Even so, there are several cases that, rather than being discriminated against, are invisible, their reality is not so well known or understood. One of the cases is people of non-binary gender, who feel neither male nor female. Another very clear case, alt-

hough it is talked about, is bisexuality: **«it seems that there are people who think that you can only be attracted to women or to men», acknowledges Vargas, who adds that «even and sometimes within the same group they may think that bisexuality is transphobic, since the**

### Diversand was born from mothers of trans people to support the collective

**prefix 'bi' means two, but in reality a bisexual person is attracted to all other genders apart from their own»**.

Another invisible group is the asexual, that is to say, those people who do not feel sexual attraction or have very little, and currently several asexuality associations claim their role within the group.

Another of the most invisible communities are those intersex people, that is to say, people who are born with characteristics of both sexes, either physically, that is to say, they can have both female and male genitalia. **«What happens is that many of these intersex people, if they have the genitals of both sexes, are mutilated when they are small», informs the member of Diversand, adding that «we need to make visible and value these people and injustices such as mutilation, which exist only to fit a stereotype created only by society»**.

### Diversand and its function in Andorra

In the case of Andorra, between 2018 and 2019 the Diversand association was born by a few mothers of trans people, although they were the ones who wanted to expand the

association for the entire LGBTIQ+ group. There are currently around 30 members, says Vargas, and explains that every month they receive new membership cards. She attended her first assembly in 2019, and in 2020 she already started to be part of the board.

Diversand has several objectives, as Vargas explains: **«our main objective is education, specifically to make visible all the realities that exist and that exist here in Andorra, that's why we provide training in any educational center that wants it, whether for teachers themselves or activities aimed at students»**. In addition, she explains the importance of educating in diversity: **«it is essential that teachers know how to act when they have a student who is part of the group, especially in the case of trans children, since they are one of the most vulnerable»**.

The board member also details that the association is receiving more and more people, both adults and minors, who want to make the transition from one gender to another, and informs that name changes are not yet simple: **«it is a situation where sometimes the people who ask for it can feel uncomfortable at times, and we are working to**

## the keys

### 1 definition of genre

Form and way of expressing oneself, pleasures and behavior expected of a certain gender, which is imposed.

### 2 definition of sex

Set of biological and physiological characteristics that distinguish men and women.

### 3 definition of sexual identity

Identification of people with the roles and status that are socially attributed to men and women, regardless of birth sex.

### 4 definition of sexual orientation

Emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to people of the same gender or other genders.

**make these name changes much simpler». In addition, she explains that from equality a process has been initiated to facilitate the transition for trans people who wish to**

do so, but for this a much clearer implementation is still needed, and **«it is important that all groups of doctors are well informed».**

So, the idea of the association is that **«Andorra and the world know that we are here, that we exist and that we have specific needs», argues Vargas, adding that «many times it is thought that these minorities are just that, minorities; but behind each person there is a particular case that can affect them more or less».** And although the association was born in the hands of mothers of trans people and many of the people who ask for guidance are trans people, **«the association has always been aimed at all people in the group. That's why it's called Diversand», she says, «because we want diversity within the association».**

In Andorra, the LGBTQ+ collective is increasingly visible and its needs and those of the association are being heard more, despite this Vargas explains that **«there is still a lot of work and a long way to go».** When comparing the situation in the country with that of Spain, she explains that **«in the neighboring country there is a lot of talk about the trans reality, even so there are many groups of hatred towards these people. Perhaps in Andorra these hate groups are not so visible and this gives us hope to continue with our goals».** However, she recognizes that there is much more visibility in Spain, especially in big cities like Barcelona or Madrid, since the most important pride in Europe takes place in the Spanish capital, and the Chueca neighborhood



**ISABELLA VARGAS**  
DIVERSAND MEMBER

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«What is more common is non-physical violence: people who do not have the support of their family and their environment»



►► Celebration of «castellers» last year during LGBTQ+ pride day.

is full of venues and shows during the whole year that they don't do here.

Young LGBTQ+ people in Andorra show themselves more and more freely to be who they are: **«many people show themselves very freely, and often express themselves with fashion, which is more androgynous and is neither masculine nor feminine. Older people, on the other hand, have more difficulty coming out of the closet»,** explains Vargas.

On the other hand, Diversand does not usually receive witnesses who explain that they have experi-

enced cases of violence: **«We have received some cases in some nightclubs, but what is more common is non-physical violence: people who do not have the support of his family and his environment».**

This year, Diversand has not organized any demonstration for International Pride Day, since, as the board member explains, they are making internal changes: **«We decided to stop in order to return with more force to other events that we may have during year, and above all for the pride of the next year».** ≡

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