

Some people are gay! Get over it!

On April 10th the Ombudswoman's report on gay marriages was published as a result of a complaint filed in the past. Through the report, the Ombudswoman requested from the Cypriot government to respect the rights of homosexuals and engage in the discussion for creating a law on gay marriage.

Three days later, facing a visible threat to the establishment, Andreas Themistocleous, a member of DHSY party, "spontaneously" expressed his homophobia by threatening that any legalization of gay marriage, will be almost the same as accepting and legalising zoophiles, paedophiles and criminals! For the first time, the mask came off and showed the true face of the conservative right on the issue.

The reactions ruined their plans!

Themistocleous's statement, was not ignored; on the contrary, it has triggered a reaction, and a movement for homosexuals. For the first time, through blogs and websites, people reacted and spoke about homosexuality. LGBT people themselves found a cause to fight for equal treatment and equal rights with heterosexuals! One of the first moves was for a group on Facebook to be created, which already counts 1600 members.

No party to this day has still commented officially on the matter. Only AGONAS, student wing of EDEK, published two announcements and DHSY only announced that would consider the statements and will announce their positions at some point.

The statements of Themistocleous and the position of DHSY are not unforeseen

The statements of Themistocleous are not personal or accidental. Similar statements have been expressed by both former and current members of other parties- members of DHSY's international, European People's Party. In some countries, these statements go as far as the extreme proposal of banning homosexuality (Lithuania) or are connected with anti-Semitic and far-right slogans (Czech Republic)!

Such statements are dangerous

The statement has only been openly supported by the far right party, ELAM. In their website they greet the MP's statements and even say that they

should change their attitude towards DHSY., which they stopped supporting because of their very progressive views and the fact that they had given up on their right-wing beliefs! Following statements by DHSY were welcomed, especially since they did not differentiate their position clearly.

These statements lack of public response not only from DHSY, they are not expected to do so, but also from the left and the government which response is necessary! Otherwise the tolerance shown provides an alibi for attacks towards homosexuals, which is exactly the same thing happening with immigrants now!

Homosexuals are not a minority!

Homosexuals are part of society: they live and work and face the same problems as heterosexuals. The only difference is their sexual orientation, a feature that does not affect neither the way they work, nor their contribution in society!

The capitalist system, however, based on competition and exploitation is using this ever so personal attribute to separate us! To feed our prejudice and fear and ultimately have better control on us.

For us, homophobia or any other sort of discrimination are born and bred in very specific social and political conditions, which is what we want to overthrow, in order to live up to a society of free expression and communication. For a society free from racial prejudice and antagonism, a socialist society.

Organisation is the only solution!

For years LGBT Cypriots either migrated to other countries, or thoroughly concealed their identity. But the situation has changed.

The report of the Ombudsman and Themistokleous's statement have caused a big reaction. The response was spontaneous and widely spread! However if the issue was not highlighted in time it could be that it never happened and once more a great opportunity to raise awareness on the matter was lost.,

For this reason we need an organized voice and action. We don't have to wait for the next Themistocleous-like statement, or the good will of someone to create a group on facebook. We need an organized response to all attacks, formed not only by homosexuals but heterosexuals also, to claim our rights!

Let's get organised! It makes them worry!