

PRESS RELEASE



Amsterdam, September 30, 2021

25 years of 'same-sex marriage' reason for bid

Amsterdam candidate WorldPride 2026

For the first time in WorldPride history, Amsterdam will bid to bring the event to the Netherlands. The occasion coincides with the silver jubilee of same-sex marriage, which The Netherlands wrote world history on April 1st, 2001. Although many countries followed, there is still a long way to go in the fight for equal rights. This reality also remains true close to home, where in Europe and even our own Kingdom, the LGBTQ+ community are not treated equally everywhere, and a lot of work will have to be done in the coming years to regain global leadership on this topic. WorldPride 2026 will act as an incentive for The Netherlands, to once again shine as a renewed beacon of hope to the world.

The nomination for WorldPride 2026 is an important milestone - it creates a point on the horizon from which to work towards and achieve together. "Equal and acquired rights are under pressure in many places and we as an LGBTI community must make our voices heard and be visible. The possibility of marriage has brought the first wave of change, but it is moving too slowly. This is why the alignment of WorldPride 2026 and the silver anniversary is the perfect combination to once again inspire and connect the world with numerous events and activities that we would plan to organize" said Lucien Spee de Castillo Ruiz, Director of Pride Amsterdam.

Back to the forefront

In the past, The Netherlands often led the list when it came to equal rights and humane policy. In addition, our world-famous Canal Parade, the organisation of the Gay Games and EuroPride has put our country on the map. In addition, it is now time to return to the forefront from a legislative point of view of which change is needed. Among other things, by enshrining a ban on LGBTI discrimination in Article 1 of the Constitution, legally prohibiting healing therapies and rejection of LGBTI people in education and anchoring multiple parenthood and authority. WorldPride 2026 is unique opportunity to regain the lost title of "Gay Capital of the World" - which is achievable through working together to create an inclusive society for everyone in The Netherlands and in our Kingdom. We must start to develop our candidacy in the coming period, where our "bid" shows ourselves to the world and how we use this opportunity to come back to the forefront.

About WorldPride

WorldPride is a global event that promotes visibility and awareness of LGBTI issues on an international level. It is licensed by InterPride and hosted by one of its members. Pride Amsterdam has been a member since 2011. The first WorldPride was held in Rome in 2000 and then hosted in Jerusalem, London, Toronto, Madrid, New York, and Copenhagen-Malmö. Sidney is the next organizing city to host the event in 2023. With the official nomination of Amsterdam, the bid will be further elaborated in the coming months. In October 2022, the 400 InterPride members from 70 countries will determine whether the WordPride 2026 will be allocated to Amsterdam during the World Conference in Guadalajara.