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Subject: RRANS Newsletter: Happy Pride!
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Updating you on RRANS recent activity, and upcoming plans for Halifax Pride.

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Happy Pride from RRANS!

During Pride, the LGBTQI community focuses on celebrating our diversity, and advocating for change. And RRANS will be hard at work on both fronts! We'll be using every opportunity during Pride to bring attention to the needs of LGBTQI communities around the world, and particularly the need to support refugees in coming to Canada.

We would love to have you march in the Pride Parade with RRANS! We'll be marching with signs highlighting RRANS' work, and the state of LGBTQI rights across the world. Sat July 23 -- come find us at the marshaling area at the DND Dockyards on Upper Water St., between 12:30 and 1:00pm.

If you can't join us at the parade, look for us at the following events, where you'll have a chance to pick up a RRANS t-shirt, sign our latest petition (see below), learn about volunteer opportunities, and chat about our plans for the upcoming year.

- Thurs July 14 - 5-6pm - **Flag Raising City Hall & Mayor's Reception:** Grand Parade
- Fri July 15 - 7-8:30 pm - **Interfaith Pride Service:** Shirley Bernstein Hall

-2615 Northwood Terrace

- Sun July 17 - 1-3 pm - **Dykes vs Divas Softball Game**: Canada Games Baseball Diamond, Halifax Commons
- Sun July 17 - 3-6 pm - **Gottingen Gathering**: Gottingen Street
- Mon July 18 - 8-9:30 pm - **Candlelight Vigil**: Halifax Central Library
- Sat July 23 - 3-6 pm - **Community Fair**: Garrison Grounds
- Sun July 24 - 12-2 pm - **Pride Family Picnic**: Sullivan's Pond, Dartmouth

RRANS supporters might be especially interested in "In and Out in Canada," at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Tuesday, July 19 – 7:00-9:00pm. This unique event explores intersections between LGBTQI rights, immigration, our nautical past, and refugee experiences. RRANS will provide one of several "micro-lectures," and we'd love to have you there.

However you plan to acknowledge and celebrate Pride this year, keep in mind those in parts of the world still struggling for equality and freedom from repression. We appreciate your support of RRANS, and look forward to seeing you throughout the festival!



OUR CURRENT NEEDS

In addition to our ongoing need for donations, RRANS is currently looking for the following specific resources or skills:

- Storage space for donated items (furniture, kitchen items, etc.)
- Volunteer assistance with job search for newcomers

SIGN OUR LATEST PETITION

RRANS is petitioning Parliament to transform the Rainbow Refugees Assistance Program (RRAP) from a pilot project to a permanent program.

RRAP is absolutely essential to the work of RRANS and similar groups, providing vital financial investment to aid with settlement and other support for incoming LGBTQI refugees.

To learn more, visit our social media pages, or find us during Halifax Pride!

- Volunteer assistance with finding doctors for newcomers

If you're able to assist, please contact us at

rainbowrefugee.ns@gmail.com.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

RRANS was well represented at Halifax's 3rd annual Walk for Refugees, organized by ISANS, on June 18th. We marched with supporters and two of our sponsored newcomers. We also attended the event "Fleeing Home: Poetry on Persecution," at the Central Library on World Refugee Day (June 20th).



NEW ARRIVALS UPDATE

We are currently expecting the arrival, some time in 2016, of three new sponsored refugees: a single man and a gay male couple, all from the Middle East.

As is always the case, arrival times are difficult to predict. We will be reaching out about the specific needs of these new arrivals as we know more.

August Event: Newcomers Welcome BBQ

The Welcome BBQ Association aims to bring newcomers and current residents together to build relationships and make connections. Come out for this annual summer picnic at the Halifax Commons, a free family event with entertainment, games, food, and music. Saturday, August 11, 11AM-2PM.



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