



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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MEX43529.E

Mexico: A group called "movimiento lesbico-gay" in Mexico City; its leader and whether this group has been harassed or attacked; if yes, the nature of these attacks; whether past or present members were specifically targeted by police or city council members; whether there are any overtly homophobic city councillors in Mexico City; a list of gay and lesbian non-governmental organizations in Mexico City (2002-April 2005)
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information about a group in Mexico City called "movimiento lesbico-gay" could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, various sources noted that the "gay-lesbian movement" (movimiento lesbico-gay) generally refers to the assortment of lesbian and gay groups that exist in Mexico City (Notie Se 15 Jan. 2004; *El Universal* 13 Jan. 2004; ANODIS 21 June 2003; Sentido G 17 Dec. 2003; Mar. 2003).

Mexico City-based newspaper *El Universal* reported in January 2004 that some 60 organizations of the gay and lesbian movement in Mexico City had sent letters to the mayor and various deputies of the Federal District Legislative Assembly (Asamblea Legislativa del Distrito Federal, ALDF) urging these politicians to vote on the proposed Law of Society and Co-existence (Ley de Sociedad de Convivencia), a law that seeks to legalize same-sex unions in the Federal District (13 Jan. 2004). Please refer to MEX42621.E of 15 April 2004 for more information on this proposed law and the resistance of the mayor of Mexico City to its adoption. As of February 2005, news sources reported that the proposed law was still stalled within the ALDF (Notie Se 10 Feb. 2005; *La Jornada* 15 Feb. 2005).

Sentido G, a gay information Website based in Argentina, noted that, without specifying whether this total was for Mexico City or the entire country, about 180 organizations make up the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) movement (17 Dec. 2003). According to the LGBT Pride Committee of Mexico City (Comite del Orgullo LGBT de Mexico, COMAC), the LGBT movement represents a "historic effort" (*esfuerzo historico*) to gain understanding and equitable treatment for gay men and lesbians (*lograr entendimiento y trato equitativo para las lesbianas y los hombres gueis*) in Mexico (2003). Moreover, ANODIS, a Mexico City-based news service for sexual diversity, reported that the June 2003 pride march in Mexico City marked the 25th anniversary of the LGBT movement in Mexico (21 June 2003).

Information about whether police or city council members specifically targeted past or present members from organizations of the gay and lesbian movement in Mexico City from 2002 to April 2005 could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

Using information accessed on Mexico City gay and lesbian Websites, the following list provides the names of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other LGBT resources in Mexico City. Please note that compiling an exhaustive list of gay and lesbian NGOs in Mexico City was not possible due to time constraints.

NGOs open to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals

Friends for Voluntary Educative Support (Ave de Mexico, Companeros en Ayuda Voluntaria Educativa)

Established in 1987, this organization provides safe sex workshops and AIDS prevention education (ANODIS n.d.; *La Jornada* 6 June 2002).

Guerrilla Gay

Presents gay art and cultural shows, roundtables on homosexual human rights, and AIDS information (Union Lesbica n.d.; *La Cronica de Hoy* 14 Aug. 2003).

LGBT Pride Committee of Mexico City (Comite del Orgullo LGBT de Mexico, COMAC)

Organizes yearly LGBT pride marches in Mexico City (COMAC 26 June 2004) and combats against those who discriminate, harass, or assault LGBT persons (Homopolis n.d.a).

Palomilla Gay Group (Grupo Palomilla Gay)

Organizes workshops and events for gay youth and publishes the biweekly magazine *Registro Gay* (Union Lesbica n.d.; *La Cronica de Hoy* 14 Aug. 2003).

Unigay

Presents public conferences on homosexual rights (ibid.; Union Lesbica n.d.).

NGOs for gay men

Gay Men Forum (Foro de Hombres Gay)

A forum for activism, cultural events and meetings for gay men in the metropolitan zone of Mexico City (ANODIS n.d.; Homopolis n.d.a; *La Jornada* 6 June 2002).

Gay Fraternity (Fraternidad Gay)

A non-political or religious organization that seeks to promote tolerance and plurality (ANODIS n.d.; COMAC n.d.).

Homosexual Group for Action and Information (Grupo Homosexual de Accion e Informacion, GHAI)

Promotes co-existence, reflection and recreation activities for "very gay men" (*hombres muy gay*) (ibid.).

Milk Mexico

An organization that promotes homosexual men's sexual freedom and health (Milk Mexico n.d.; *La Jornada* 6 June 2002).

NGOs for lesbians

El Closet de Sor Juana

Lesbian rights organization; offers a documentation centre, cultural workshops, and information on sexual diversity (ibid.; Union Lesbica n.d.; Homopolis n.d.a.).

Collective for Lesbians (Lesbianas en Colectiva)

Offers an alternative space for lesbian creativity and development (Union Lesbiana n.d.).

Musas de Metal

Sexual consultations and psychotherapy for lesbians (Homopolis n.d.a; ANODIS n.d.).

New Generation of Young Lesbians (Nueva generacion de Jovenes Lesbianas)

Established in 1996, this organization offers a safe space for young lesbians (18 to 29) to reflect and access information free from discrimination (Nueva generacion de Jovenes Lesbianas n.d.; Homopolis n.d.a.).

Telephone services

Diversitel

A sexual diversity telephone service offering support, orientation and information on HIV/AIDS, sexuality and human rights Tel: 5272-2522, from 9:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday (ibid. n.d.b) or Tel: 5574-3012 (*La Jornada* 6 June 2002; Union Lesbica n.d.).

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Telephone Line for Mexico City (Linea Telefonica Lesbico, Gay y Bisexual de la Ciudad de Mexico)

A telephone service for lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Mexico City, Tel: 5272-0778 (*La Cronica de Hoy* 14 Aug. 2003; *La Jornada* 6 June 2002), from 15:00 to 22:00 Monday to Friday and 12:00 to 20:00 on Saturday (ibid.; *La Cronica de Hoy* 14 Aug. 2003).

SOS Legal Assistance Gay Line (SOS Gay Linea de Asistencia Legal)

Telephone service offering legal assistance for gays, Tel: 5611-7452 (ibid.; Homopolis n.d.b), from 9:00 to 14:00 and 16:00 to 21:00 Monday to Friday (*La Jornada* 6 June 2002).

Please also consult MEX43180.E of 18 November 2004 for additional information about NGOs, including gay and lesbian NGOs in Mexico.

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the

merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

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Additional Sources Consulted

Internet: Amnesty International, Consejo Nacional para Prevenir la Discriminacion (CONAPRED), *Country Reports 2004*, Enkidu, Freedom House, Global Gayz, Human Rights Watch, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), Sal de closet.

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