Another future – the LGBTQ issue

By Cristian Nita, Romania

During November and December of last year across Poland there were several peaceful “tolerance demonstrations” meant to support the LGBTQ community in Poland and called upon civil society and politicians to stop the discrimination against minorities.

The marches:
- Most of the demonstrations were forbidden by the authorities from the very start
- In Poznan 60 participants at the marches were arrested because they joined the demonstrations
- In Warszawa, Krakow and other cities the participants were attacked and beaten by anti-gay groups and police as well
- In all the situations the civil society attitude escalated from passive hostility to verbal violence and bullying against the participants slogans such as “Gas the gay!” and “Send dykes to Auschwitz!” we repeatedly shouted at demonstrators.

With Poland joining the EU and signing the Human Rights charter, these events are even more worrying and puzzling and make me wonder if we are going back to the stone age? The Polish situation is not an isolated one. In countries such as Russia or in Islamic countries the same discrimination and hatred is felt. LGBTQ people are continually denied access to their human rights including the right of assembly and freedom of expression.

For centuries the LGBTQ communities had been discriminated against, abused and marginalized across the world. In many cases members of these communities are forced to forget who they are and pretend to be something they are not born to be, simply to live their lives. Living a lie and sometimes in terror, these individuals never integrate fully into the societies they are living in and never reach their full capacities.

The stakes are even higher for young people because they are growing up in societies that consider their feelings and desires abnormal and deviant from the norm. As they grow they learn not how to live their true lives, but how to hide and deny themselves.

The time has now come to ask our societies and our politicians not only to tolerate, but also to support and integrate LGBTQ communities into their lives and policies. Tolerance is not closing your eyes and imagining that the issue will disappear, it means actively supporting, under-standing, and caring for the issue and for the people that are affected by it, whether they are part of this group, or supporters, or family or friends of them.

Indeed it takes courage to take this battle on. I look for example at the case of my own country, Romania, were I believe that there is tolerance but nobody is present to ask for it and use it. The Romanian LGBTQ community has no representatives and hence has no “face”, except the misleading image sometimes in terror, these individuals never integrate fully into the societies they are living in and pretend to be something they are not born to be, simply to live their lives. Living a lie and

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