



GETTING READY FOR THE FOURTH VIETPRIDE

Hanoi, June 23, 2015 – Into its fourth year, Viet Pride, a celebration of LGBT communities and diversity in Vietnam, is continuing the momentum and strengthening LGBT activism. A series of events scheduled for the first weekend of August (July 31 – August 02) in the capital city of Hanoi, the theme of 2015's Viet Pride is “We are Queer. We are Here”.

In 2012, Viet Pride debuted with a kick-start event at Goethe Institut on August 03 followed by indoor activities such as film screenings, research presentations, and a bicycle rally on August 05 that attracted almost 200 people riding to support the LGBT cause. Together with the rising LGBT movement in Vietnam and around the world, Viet Pride grew and expanded, now taking place in 17 cities and provinces in Vietnam, attracting around 700 bikers last year in Hanoi, and was reported on many mainstream media channels.

This year with the theme “We are Queer. We are Here”, Pride in Vietnam aims to promote visibility and awareness of LGBT people in public spaces such as the workplace, cafes, parks, and on the streets. This resonates with Hillary Clinton's remarks at the International Human Rights Day in Geneva, citing Eleanor Roosevelt, that “these [human] rights begin in the small places close to home – the streets where people live, the schools they attend, the factories, farms, and offices where they work. These places are your domain. The actions you take, the ideals that you advocate, can determine whether human rights flourish where you are.”

Viet Pride 2015 is proud to receive strong encouragement from the LGBT community in Vietnam, tremendous support from Civil Rights Defenders, Goethe Institut, US Embassy, Dutch Embassy, and welcomes the participation of many formal and grassroots groups/organisations including PFLAG, Save the Children, The American Club, 6+, AmazinLethi Foundation, Echoes' LGBT Soundwalk, Hanoi Panic, and Queer Disco. Organisations and grassroots communities interested in joining Viet Pride are also welcomed to contact the organising committee (information below).

Full program and information will be released on July 22 – stay tuned!

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Pictures of Viet Pride 2012 - 2014: <https://instagram.com/vietpride12/>