



"STRAIGHTFRIENDLY"

COC LIMBURG - REGION NORTH

NEWSLETTER

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E-Mail account

Finally we have our own mailbox. All matters related to the Venlo city group can be sent directly to: Venlo@coclimburg.nl.

Launching our website

We recently launched our own website. If you want to keep up to date with developments in Venlo and the surrounding area, visit our website regularly:

<https://coclimburg.nl/venlo>

if you are interested in our newsletter, please email venlo@coclimburg.nl

COC Limburg Venlo in the news

In recent weeks, we have also been featured more often in the media. Our interviews with the daily newspaper De Limburger, as well as the interview in the Omroep Venlo TV programme "Nedinscopein" can also be found on our website.

Dear friends!
In front of you is already our third newsletter. We have plenty to tell you again.
Enjoy reading!

Greetings,
Team COC Limburg Venlo

01. CITY GROUP VENLO E.O.

Gradually, the core team of the Venlo city group is establishing itself. At the COC Limburg board meeting in March, Dave Böskes was nominated and appointed as coordinator.



It would be good, if a second (vice) coordinator comes forward. The COC strives for diversity. Therefore, we call on women, in particular, to apply. We have set up a vacancy which will be posted on the website next week. If you are interested, please send us an email at: venlo@coclimburg.nl



Matthi (left) talking at Nedinscopein.

Regional cooperation City Group Venlo and Venray.

On Friday, 7 March, there was a meeting between Dave Böskes and Robert Westheim (coordinators city groups Venlo and Venray). They discussed the state of affairs, ongoing projects and opportunities for cooperation. Where possible, the two city groups are going to support each other. Specifically, they are both going to make the podcast. More info to follow.



02. EXIBITION 40 YEARS COC VENLO IS ONLINE

COC Venlo may seem to have only been around for a few months. Nothing could be further from the truth. An independent COC Venlo chapter existed for !40! years until the 1980s. What our predecessors went through in the past can be found [HERE](#).



The exhibition, set up at Fontys University of Applied Sciences in Venlo last year.

Incidentally, during Pride month of June, the exhibition will be on display at the Venlo public library from 12 June. It will remain until the end of the month.

The public library can be found at Begijnengang in Venlo.

03. COC REGION DAY NORTH

"COC-what does this actually stand for and how did this association get its name? These and other questions were answered during the COC region day north on 20 May this year. Since the end of last year, COC Limburg has again had an active city group in Venlo, and since the cooperation agreement with Coming Inn Venray, it has been active on our behalf as a city group in Venray.

To celebrate this, get to know each other, and work together on the future, the participants of these city groups came together with the board in the Venlo Library last Saturday morning. For team building and brainstorming activities to look at the future of the organisation.

After lunch in the afternoon, the wider interested public was also invited to get to know the COC; its activities, history, and plans. After all, we do it all together, with all our volunteers.



Hard work is being done for the future!



Working together also means having fun together

04. COC COMMUNITY DAY

On 25 March, the national COC community day took place in Utrecht. Matthi attended on behalf of COC Limburg. Besides networking and getting to know each other, one content area was suicide prevention among LGBT people. Want to read more: <https://www.uittleven.com/>.

The day again gave Matthi many ideas applicable to COC Limburg. This was followed by a workshop on COC international work. Many people don't know.

The COC is one of the few recognised LGBT NGOs with the right to speak at the United Nations. Hence, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we do development cooperation for threatened LGBT people in Africa and Asia.



Moreover, I had the opportunity to talk to COC Nijmegen about possible development of COC structures in northern North Limburg (Bergen, Gennepe, Mook and Middelaar). A very informative and good day.



The delegation of Limburg

05. SUCCESFUL DRAG BINGO 17 APRIL IN GRENSWERK

What a fantastic night it was! Our first Drag Bingo with (in our eyes) superstars Miss Tirami Sue and Ella Grace. A lot of laughter, great music, playing good old-fashioned bingo. All the ingredients for an enjoyable evening. Thanks to everyone (young and slightly older) for your participation!

Thank you to Miss Tirami Sue and Ella Grace and not forgetting Miss Tirami Sue's support and advocate, Caron. We hope to welcome you again as our guests in the future! Also many thanks to Grenswerk café for all the good care. It looked great again!



Spice Up Your Life!



Miss Tirami Sue (left) and Miss Ella Grace





06. WREATH LAYING COMMEMORATION 4 MAY

4 May is when we in the Netherlands commemorate the fallen. We are silent for 2 minutes. On behalf of COC Limburg, Willem and Dave laid a beautiful flower arrangement at the in the Rosarium in Venlo.



07. LHBTI+ CHRISTIANS IN BAARLO

On behalf of COC Limburg, Matthi and Willem visited the LHBTI+ Christians in Baarlo. Kees, one of the organisers, welcomed them, showed them around and told them a thing or two about their activities, what they are up against and how their activities also stir thoughts in the various congregations, or faith communities.

In addition, the gentlemen were allowed to immortalise themselves on the heart curtain on the the Growing Wall Of Love. This, of course, they gladly did. Jarko, the artist explained, that his artwork symbolises Jesus who is supposed to protect us from hate speech.

Interesting to see that religious people also have a place within the rainbow community and being religious with an LHBTI+ background need not exclude each other.

More info:

<https://www.lgbtchristians.eu/conferences/2023-venlo/>



Willem and Matthi together with Kees, one of the organizers

08. IDAHOBIT DAY WITH A INTERESTING PUB QUIZ

It was a Successful evening, 17 May with our Pub quiz. Five rounds of ten questions each. The baptism of fire for our quiz masters Dave and Luis who led the evening.

We look back on a successful evening. Special thanks to the Grenswerk café for their hospitality and big thanks to Coming Inn and COC Limburg for providing the prizes.





09. COOPERATION AGREEMENT COMING INN VENRAY AND COC LIMBURG

It's official!

A few months ago, the cooperation agreement between COC Limburg and Coming Inn Venray was signed. From now on, both organisations will act jointly in the municipalities of Horst aan de Maas and Venray. Both organisations emphasise the importance of this cooperation agreement; together you are stronger and the interests of the Queer community are promoted even better. Coming Inn chairman Robert Westheim has been appointed regional coordinator for the Horst and Venray municipalities by COC Limburg.



Projects City Group Venray

During their monthly meeting, Matthias Neumann (COC Limburg board member) and Robert Westheim developed an annual agenda for the Horst/Venray region. This one is quite ambitious. We still need people for this.

You can contact them via info@cominginn.nl

Agreed upon:

- Every two months a friends and members drinks coming Inn in Horst and/or Venray.
- Project: queer podcast. Creating and listening to queer topics.
- Project: Make Horst/Venray a rainbow town. Horst hang out the flag!
- Project programme filling pink Tuesday fair Venray.



10. PRIDE MONTH JUNE IN VENLO

June is a vibrant and inspiring month for the LGBTQ+ community in Venlo, as COC Limburg Venlo presents its exciting Pride month agenda. This year's line-up is packed with diverse and engaging events, providing a platform for unity, celebration and advocacy.

Throughout the month, COC Limburg-Venlo has organised an exciting series of events to entertain and inspire. There will be thought-provoking panel discussions with LGBTQ+ activists, artists and community leaders, highlighting important issues and promoting dialogue. For dates check our calendar on the last page of this newsletter.

As the sun sets on this remarkable month, COC Limburg-Venlo invites you to the grand finale: the Queer Factory. This extraordinary event promises an unforgettable evening of music, dance and revelry. Join us as we come together to celebrate our identities and create a safe and vibrant space for self-expression and unfettered fun. The Queer Factory will be the perfect way to end Pride month, leaving us with memories of unity and camaraderie that will last a lifetime.



For tickets: www.tickets.coclimburg.nl



11. EXPERIENCE WITH THE STD CLINIC THE GGD LIMBURG NORTH

Report anonymously.

Let's talk about sex... We assume that most of you know that the regional GGDs offer STI consultations. So if you think it is a good idea to schedule an appointment because you might have had a high-risk contact or you "feel the itch", a test is definitely recommended.

Unfortunately, these days it is not easy to get an appointment. At least not at GGD Limburg Noord. It's searching for contact details first anyway. In addition, you still have to be able to afford to call during working hours. Because an online appointment is apparently no longer possible at the GGD since corona.

Once I got a friendly lady on the phone, patiently listening to her story about a super cool project they started in Limburg. You get your STD home test kit sent home. Of course first if you complete another registration on another website. Eventually there was time to schedule a regular appointment. It could be in four weeks' time if there were no pressing reasons.

Dear people! We certainly don't want to belittle the work of the GGD. But being referred four times to other locations, an hour away, or an appointment in a few weeks. No that's not going to be it!

Then that home test and figuring out contact details. All this is extremely discouraging. Hopefully this will not become the "the new normal". STD is a sensitive area of work. You have to keep it low key if you want people to come and get tested.

Outcome fortunately offers the "region". After all the hassle then went to the German GGD in Viersen and Mönchengladbach. In Viersen, I was able to do a test within a few days and received my (thankfully negative) result.

Contactinfo GGD Limburg Noord STD kliniek:

<https://www.ggdlimburgnoord.nl/voor-inwoners/seks-en-gezondheid/soa-test>

Home testkit:

<https://www.ggdzl.nl/burgers/seksuelegezondheid/limburg4zero/>

GGD Viersen (German):

<https://www.kreis-viersen.de/service/dienstleistungen/aids-beratung>



The team during the Fontys Pride Venlo event at Fontys in Venlo on 1 June. A collaboration between COC Limburg Venlo - Venray and Fontys. From left to right : Matthi, Henk, Caron, Luis, Willem, miss Tiramì Sue, Dave, Robert And Björn.





12. AGENDA (JUNE - JULY - AUGUST)

Fortunately, COC Limburg Venlo is not on an island. Hence, we are determined to show our solidarity to our friends and network partners in the region as well. We will definitely visit Prides in Heinsberg, Mönchengladbach, Krefeld, Duisburg, Eindhoven and Maastricht this year. For more info, keep an eye on our website, Instagram and Facebook.

JUNE

10 June

Pride walk in Eindhoven and in Düsseldorf

10 June

Café Rosé / 50 years COC café:
Mestreechter evening
19.00 - 01.00

10 June 18.00 - 22.00

The Leather social
Munsterplein 22A Roermond

12 - 25 June

Exhibition 40 years COC Venlo
Central Library Venlo

14 June

Friends- and members' drinks
Coming Inn Venray

16 June 19.00 - 21.00

Theme night diversity and inclusiveness
Central Library Venlo

17 June

Pride walk Wegberg Kreis Heinsberg

18 June

Rainbow infomarket Nijmegen

21 June

Pride month Borrel
20.30 Grenswerk Venlo

23 June 22.00 - 04.00

Queer Factory on tour - Venlo
Grenswerk Venlo

24 June

Pride walk Maastricht

27 June

Luc reads : Walk on the wild side
Book store Koops - Klaasstraat 17 Venlo

JULY

09 July

Cologne Pride Walk

16 July

Pride walk Mönchengladbach

29 July

Pride walk Duisburg

AUGUST

08 August

Pink Tuesday in Venray

12 August

Pride walks Krefeld and Aachen

20 August

SoZo - Meeting Mondo Verde, Landgraaf

JUNE 2023	
1.06	PRIDE MONTH
	Fontys Pride Party Location: Fontys Venlo
12 - 25.06	exhibition "COC Venlo in the 80s" Location: City Library Venlo
16.06	Panel discussion about Diversity Location: City Library Venlo
21.06	Pride Month Borrel Night Location: Grenswerk Café Venlo
23.06	Queerfactory Venlo Location: Grenswerk Venlo