



EUROCENTRALASIAN
LESBIAN*COMMUNITY

PARTICIPANT INFO PACK

conference
ROME 23-26 April
2025



SCISSORING AGAINST PATRIARCHY

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome by the EL*C board

Dear Lesbian* geniuses,

Welcome to the 4th EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community Conference — and what a powerful moment it is to be here together, in the heart of Rome!

Since its inception, the EL*C has grown into a vibrant, intersectional, and fearless network, uniting lesbian-led organizations and lesbian activists, researchers, politicians, artists and more across Europe and Central Asia. EL*C conferences are more than just events. They are declarations of presence, resistance, and joy—a space where we affirm our identities, amplify our voices, and organize for justice. Each conference is a living testament to our collective power, resilience, and refusal to be erased.

So, why Rome? Why now?

We gather in Rome as an intentional, radical act of solidarity. In a country where lesbian rights have been under direct attack—including the appalling removal of lesbian mothers from their children's birth certificates in 2023—our presence here is both a protest and a promise. We are here to stand with our Italian sisters and siblings, to say: we see you, we hear you, and we will not be silent.

Rome is not just a backdrop—it is a battleground. And by being here, we are part of a wider resistance against misogyny, lesbophobia, transphobia, racism, ableism and all systems of oppression threatening our communities.

This year's conference is a powerhouse of ideas and activism. You'll experience everything from panels and workshops on lesbians in politics and decision making, decolonial lesbian ecofeminism, lesbians in war and protest movements, AI and queer futures, to deeply personal narratives on motherhood, health, sport, and elderly lesbians. This is more than a program—it's a blueprint for liberation.

And to top it all off—we are making history. This year, we will join forces for the very first Dyke March in Italy, on the International Day of Lesbian Visibility. On April 26, we take the streets not just as individuals, but as a movement—fierce, intersectional, antifascist, anti-racist, transfeminist, and climate-just.

To our Italian hosts and organizers, we offer our deepest thanks. Your courage and commitment have lit the spark for this historic march. We are honoured to stand beside you and continue fighting with you the backlash on human rights unleashed by the Italian government and its allies in Europe and beyond.

Let these days remind us: we are not alone, we are not invisible, and we are not done. Together, we are shaping the future of our movements.

On behalf of the EL*C board, welcome. Be bold, be loud, be proud—and most of all, enjoy every moment of this unforgettable conference.

Eva & Gulzada
Co-chairs of EL*C

1.1 Overview of the conference program

Wednesday - 23 APRIL - Opening			
Type of the event	Time	Location	Speakers
Opening (invitation only)	16:30–18:30	Palazzo Valentini	Gulzada Serzhan and Eva Perez (EL*C Co-Chairs) Marilena Grassadonia (Municipality of Rome) Tiziana Biolghini (Metropolitan City of Rome) Raky Doumbia, Lucia Caponera and Deborah di Cave (DykeMarch Org.) Daniela Ghiotto (Famiglie Arcobaleno) Dorottya Rédei (Labrisz – Hungary) Monica Benicio (Councilwoman in the City of Rio de Janeiro) Lucia Plavakova (member of Slovak Parliament)
Big Lesbian Opening	19:00–22:00	Casa Internazionale delle Donne (CID)	Maura Cossutta (CID) Nora Delvecchio (SEMIA) Silvia Casalino (EL*C) Elena Biagini (Author) Frad (Italian Comedian) Nancy Tungsten (Singer)

Thursday - 24 APRIL - MORNING			
Type of the event	Time	Location	Speakers/ Titles of the sessions
Registration	From 08:30	Lobby (Floor 0)	
Plenary: Lesbian Legends – When They Go Low, We Go High	09:30 - 11:00	Room Born in Flames	Silvia Casalino and Gulzada Serzhan (EL*C) Phyll Opoku (UK Black Pride) Elena Biagini (Author - Italian Lesbian Movement) Olena Shevchenko (Ukrainian NGO Insight) Melissa Camara (MEP, the Greens) Monica Benicio (Councilwoman in the City of Rio de Janeiro)
Group photo	At 11:00	Room Born in Flames	
Coffee Break	11:00 - 11:30		
Parallel Sessions	11:30 - 13:00	Room Born in Flames	From the Streets to the Seats: Lesbians in Politics
		Room Bound	Fundraising for a Lesbian Future
		Room Go Fish	Trans Lesbians
		Room Desert Hearts	Lesbian Festivals: Sparkles of strength and Social Force
		Room Rafiki	GBV Grantees Closed Project Meeting
Lunch Break	13:00 - 14:30		

Thursday - 24 APRIL - AFTERNOON			
Type of the event	Time	Location	Titles of the sessions
Parallel Sessions	14:30 - 16:00	Room Desert Hearts	Lesbian Festivals: Sparkles of strength and Social Force
		Room Bound	Lesbiche in Italia...facciamo rete!
		Room Go Fish	Decolonial Lesbian Ecofeminism
		Room Born in Flames	Lesbians Feminist, Queer, Crips
		Room Rafiki	GBV Grantees Closed Project Meeting
Coffee Break	16:00 - 16:30		
Parallel Sessions	16:30 - 18:00	Room Born in Flames	Lesbian Fairytales: Building Dyke Narratives
		Room Bound	Lesbiche in Italia...facciamo rete!
		Room Go Fish	Wisdom and Wits - There is live after 60
		Room Desert Hearts	Naming Lesbophobia: understanding it to fight it
		Room Rafiki	Close Session of Council of Europe Project
Self-Organized Spaces	18:00 - 20:00	Room Go Fish	Anti-Gender Mobilizations, Affects and Resistances
		Room Portrait of Lady on Fire	Office Hours with Mama Cash and RFSL
		Rooms Bound, Born in Flames, Rafiki and Desert Hearts	Other Self-Organized Spaces

CULTURAL PROGRAM - 24 APRIL - EVENING			
Event	Time	Location	Title
Film Screening	21:00 - 23:00	Room Born in Flames	<i>BEYOND THE FRONTLINE</i> by Alexandra Dols

Friday - 25 APRIL - MORNING			
Type of the event	Time	Location	Speakers
Plenary Lesbian Roots, Rage, and Justice	09:30 - 11:00	Room Born in Flames	MC: Dena (Iranian Comedian) Zhanar Sekerbayeva (Kazakh activist and politician) Aida Marukyan (Armenian, Girls Talk initiative) Lepa Mladenović (Women in Black Belgrade, SOS Line for Lesbians) Ana Gallego Torres (Justice and Consumers, European Commission) LBQ People of Colour's Lived Realities in Europe – EL*C data with: Aldessa Georgiana Lincan, Alba Hernandez, and Dr. Nat Arias.
Coffee Break 11:00 - 11:30			
Plenary: Lesbian Fury vs. Fascist Fear	11:30 - 13:00	Room Born in Flames	MC: Dena (Iranian Comedian) Evgenia Giakoumopoulou (Head of SOGIESC Unit, Council of Europe) Lydie Raër (Les Dévalideuses, Councilwoman in Ivry-sur-Seine, France) Inna Michaeli (AWID) Kath Browne (University College) Eva Sassi Croce (ARTivist, Non Una di Meno Modena) Ilaria Todde (EL*C) Shadi Amin – Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network (6Rang). Kim Van Sparrentak – MEP and Co-Chair of the LGBTI Intergroup.
Lunch Break 13:00 - 14:30			

Friday - 25 APRIL - AFTERNOON			
Type of the event	Time	Location	Titles of the sessions
Parallel Sessions	14:30 - 16:00	Room Rafiki	Bisexuals in the Lesbian Movement
		Room Desert Hearts	Advocacy with the EU Institutions
		Room Bound	Antiracism 101 for the Fierce Lesbian Warrior
		Room Born in Flames	Lesbian Resistance Against the Far Right
		Room Go Fish	Hands Off Lesbian Wallets!
Coffee Break	16:00 - 16:30		
Parallel Sessions	16:30 - 18:00	Room Born in Flames	Dykestory: Preserving Our Future
		Room Desert Hearts	Lesbians on the Frontlines: War, Protest, and Resistance

		Room Bound	Antiracist Community Space for Racialized Lesbians
		Room Go Fish	Sport Is Not Political. Or Is It?
		Room Rafiki	Antiracist Self-Exploratory Space of White Lesbians
Self-Organized Spaces	18:00 - 20:00	Room Bound	KinkyGirls Space
		Room Portrait of Lady on Fire	Office Hours with Mama Cash and RFSL
		Rooms Desert Hearts, Go fish and Rafiki	Other Self-Organized Spaces

CULTURAL PROGRAM - 25 APRIL - EVENING			
Event	Time	Location	Title
Film Screening	18:30 - 20:00	Room Born in Flames	<i>LESVIA</i> by Tzeli Hadjidimitriou
Film Screening	21:00 - 23:00	Room Born in Flames	<i>IO NON SONO NESSUNO</i> by Geraldine Ottier

Saturday - 26 APRIL - MORNING			
Type of the event	Time	Location	Titles of the sessions/Speakers
Parallel Sessions	09:30 - 11:00	Room Born in Flames	Are the Kids Alright?!
		Room Go Fish	Hands On Lesbian Wallets!
		Room Bound	Banners Making for Dyke March
		Room Desert Hearts	Creating a Common Strategy for Trans and Lesbian Healthcare
		Room Rafiki	Lesbianizing AI
Coffee Break	11:00 - 11:30		
Group Photo	At 11:30	Room Born in Flames	
Plenary: Marching the Storm Toward a Lesbian Future	11:30 - 13:00	Room Born in Flames	<p>Palestinian queer activist (Works at the intersection of queer rights and Palestinian liberation)</p> <p>Mari Kurtanidze (SOGIESC researcher from Georgia)</p> <p>Xheni Karaj (Albanian, Aleanca LGBT)</p> <p>Carolina Morace (Member of the European Parliament)</p> <p>Marie Patouillet (Paralympic athlete, gold medalist at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games).</p> <p>Joëlle Sambi Nzeba (Author, poet, spoken word artist (slammer), and filmmaker)</p> <p>Eva Perez Nanclares and Dragana Todorović (EL*C Co-Chair and EL*C Executive Co-Dykerector)</p>
Lunch Break	13:00 - 14:30		

CULTURAL PROGRAM - 26 APRIL - EVENING			
Event	Time	Location	Description
First Ever Dyke March in Rome	15:30 - 19:00	Starting Point: Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II	<p>The first Dyke March in Italy is organized by a collective of Italian lesbian activists in conjunction with EL*C Conference. This historic event aims to celebrate lesbian visibility and solidarity.</p> <p>MORE INFO: https://dykemarch.it/</p>
Lesbian Party DYKES RISE - Dyke March After-PARTY 2025	21:00 - 03:00	ALIBI Club Roma	<p>Closing party is hosted by the Safffo collective.</p> <p>Featuring a performance by Joëlle Sambi Nzeba (Not All Men)</p> <p>...and many more "safffik" surprises!</p> <p>Buy your tickets HERE</p>

2. USEFUL INFO

2.1 Venues of the conference

Detailed information on the accessibility of each venue is available in [chapter 3.3. Accessibility Guide](#).

Pre-Conference (Invitation only): Courtyard by Marriott Rome Central Park

Address: Via Giuseppe Moscati, 7, 00168 Roma

Closest public transport lines:

- Bus: 446, 980, FL3 BUS, C6, 146
- Train: FL3
- Metro: A

Opening Ceremony (Invitation Only): Palazzo Valentini

Address: Via Quattro Novembre, 119a, 00187 Roma

Closest public transport lines:

- Bus: 30, 46, 51, 60, 62
- Train: FC2, FL2, FL5, R, RV
- Metro: B
- Tram: 8

Big Lesbian Opening of the Conference: Casa Internazionale delle Donne

Address: Via di S. Francesco di Sales 1a, 00165 Roma (this is not the main entrance, but we are going to use this one)

Closest public transport lines:

- Bus: 23, 280, 40, 916, N3S
- Train: FL3, FL5, R, R, R
- Metro: A, B

Conference hotel: Hotel Pineta Palace

Address: Via S. Lino Papa, 35, 00167 Roma

Closest public transport lines:

- Bus: 146, 446, 49, 980, 985
- Train: FL3
- Metro: A

Lesbian Party: Alibi Club Roma

Address: Via di Monte Testaccio, 44/40, 00153 Roma

Closest public transport lines:

- Bus: 170, 23, 719, 775, 780
- Train: FL1, FL5, FC2
- Metro: B

2.2 Conference hotel – Hotel Pineta Palace



Hotel Pineta Palace is on the outskirts of Rome, cc. 45 minutes-1,5 hours from the airports (more details on this below) and 20-60 minutes from Rome's inner city and most important sights. The hotel is located in a residential, hilly area. While the streets are calm and safe, some of them may not have continuous sidewalks, so we recommend wearing comfortable shoes and being mindful when walking, especially after dark.

▪ How to get to the hotel

From Termini Train Station

From Termini train station you will have to take metro line A (orange line), direction Battistini. You can either take a cc. 30-minute walk from stops Cornelia or Battista or can change to a bus that brings you closer to the hotel. There are different options available, so we recommend you check on Google Maps the best one for you upon arrival. Transport in Rome is heavily dependent on traffic.

Tickets can be purchased at the metro stop, or you can directly pay with your card through the "Tap and Go" system.

From Fiumicino Airport

You can take a cc. 40-minute-long taxi drive from the airport (be prepared to pay with cash!), but please be aware that getting to the hotel by taxi costs 50-75 EUR. Make sure to ask about the price before getting to the taxi (they usually say a fixed price).

If you would rather use public transport, there are more ways to get to the hotel:

- You can take the [Shuttle](#) (7 EUR, you have to buy it on the website) to Rome Circonvallazione Aurelia station where, after a 5-min walk, you can change to Bus number 49 till stop Forte Braschi/Pineta Sacchetti. From there it's another short walk (cc.10 minutes) and you arrive to the hotel.
- Leonardo Express is the non-stop train service that connects Rome Fiumicino Airport with Termini train station (the main train station in Rome), with departures scheduled every 15 minutes. The train station is conveniently located inside the airport. Ticket price: €14, each way. Tickets can be purchased on the spot or online on the [Trenitalia website](#). From Termini, please follow the instructions given in the earlier Chapter called "From Termini Train Station".

From Ciampino Airport

You can take a cc. 45 minutes long taxi drive from the airport (be prepared to pay with cash!), but please be aware that getting to the hotel by taxi costs 55-75 EUR. Make sure to ask about the price before getting to the taxi (they usually say a fixed price).

If you would rather use public transport, take train Nr. REG20120 to Rome Termini. From Termini, please follow the instructions given in the earlier Chapter called "From Termini Train Station".

From Courtyard by Marriott Rome Central Park

A large group of conference participants are staying in [Courtyard by Marriott Rome Central Park](#). From this hotel, it's a 15-20 minute long, comfortable walk to get to the conference hotel. On the way, there are different shops (e.g. [Conad Supermarket](#)) and eating options.

Please be aware that if you are staying in this hotel and come by car, there is a parking fee to pay in the garage of this hotel. If you want, you can park your car in the garage of the Conference Hotel for free.

Arriving by car at the Conference Hotel

If you are coming by car, you will be able to park in the garage of the conference hotel (Hotel Palace Pineta) for free.

▪ **How to reach the city centre from the hotel**

Hotel Pineta Palace is connected to the historic city centre of Rome by several buses, the metro line A, and even by train. Please be aware that all public transport stops are available within a 5-20 minute-long walk.

Bus lines close to the hotel:

- **bus 146**, closest stop: Battistini/Suor Celestina Donati (cc. 5-minute walk)
- **bus 985**, closest stop: Battistini/Suor Celestina Donati (cc. 5-minute walk)
- **bus 446**, closest stop: Pineta Sacchetti/Calasanziane (cc. 6-minute walk)

- **bus 980**, closest stop: Pineta Sacchetti/Calasanziane (cc. 6-minute walk)
- **bus 49**, closest stop: Forte Braschi/Pineta Sacchetti (cc. 10-minute walk)

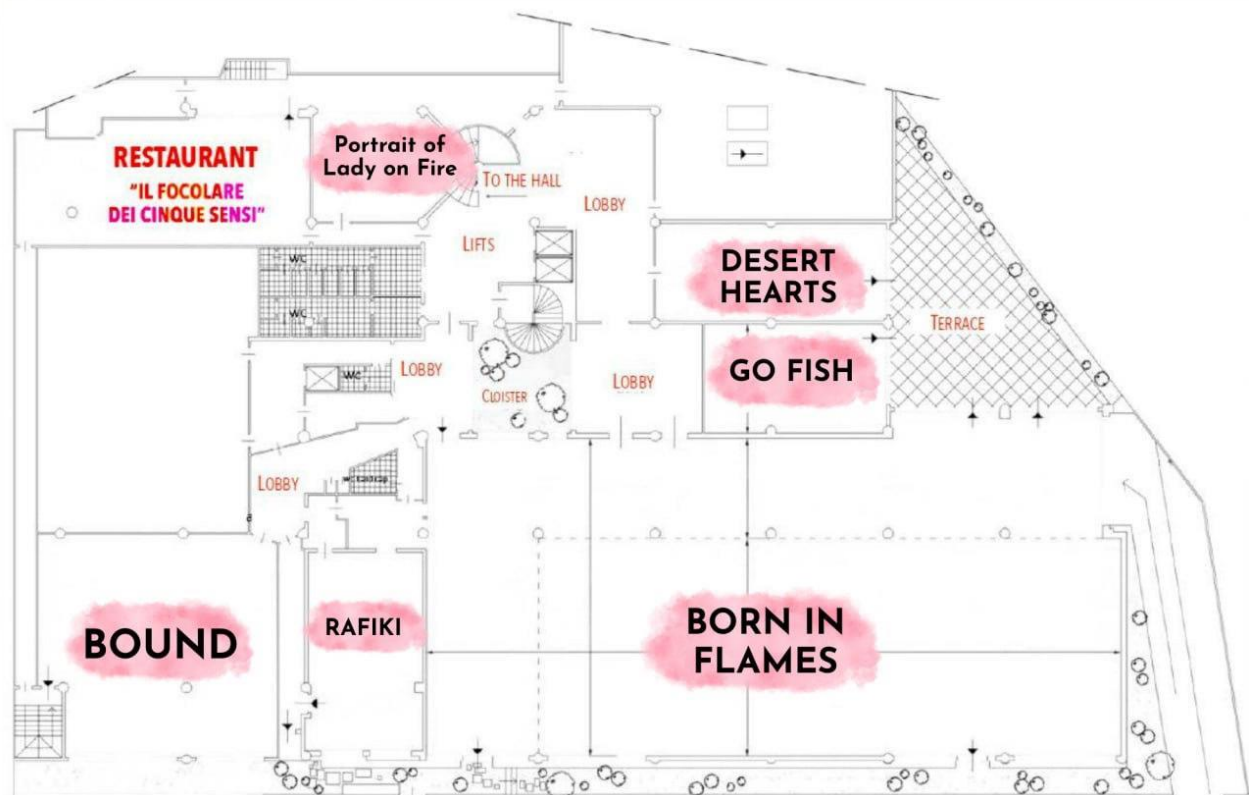
You can take the train from the station Gemelli (cc. 20-minute walk from the hotel). With the FL3 line you can reach the characteristic area of Trastevere.

To get to the metro line A you either must take a cc. 30-minute walk (stops Battistini or Cornelia), or you can take a bus to reach it. Metro line A has stops near the Vatican Museums, Piazzale Flaminio and the Spanish Steps. (At the stop called Termini station, you can take Metro line B to the Colosseum.)

▪ The conference venue

The conference will take place on floor -1 of the Hotel Pineta Palace. It is accessible both by stairs and elevators. This floor will be used only by us, the participants of the EL*C conference.

When you arrive down there, you will find yourself in a lobby. All six conference rooms, the restaurant and the toilets open from this area. You will also find here the registration + info desk (except for April 24 morning, when it will be on the ground floor in the lobby).



Wi-Fi Access at The Hotel:

Name: Pineta Palace Congress
Password: Pineta0201

2.3 Meals during the conference

We will have coffee breaks at 11 am and at 4 pm on the 24, 25, and 26 of April (except for April 26, 4 pm, when we will be at the Dyke March already). Coffee breaks are covered for everyone who participates in the conference.

Those who bought lunch through our Eventbrite page and all scholars will receive their lunch vouchers at registration and will have lunch in the Conference hotel all three days between 1-2:30 pm.

Both coffee and lunch will be served at two places at the same time: in the restaurant on floor -1 and in the other restaurant on the ground floor.

Those who prefers to have lunch outside will find a supermarket within 5 minutes' walking distance (Conad: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/UarAR5Du956wzcEa9>) and sandwich shops within 15 minutes' walking distance.

Dinner is not included; you can explore the hotel surroundings and find the nicest place in the neighbourhood or in downtown Rome. Just be aware that most restaurants are open cc. between noon and 3 pm, then they reopen around 7 pm. You can also stay in the conference hotel to eat. The Il Focolare dei Cinque Sensi Restaurant (floor -1) will be open between 7:30 pm and 10 pm, and the Lounge Bar (ground floor) will wait for you till midnight.

2.4 Registration at the conference

You will need to register for the conference in Rome. During registration, you will be given a badge with your information. It is important that you keep your badge throughout the event.

The registration desk will be open:

- **Wednesday 23 April:** Casa Internazionale delle Donne, Big Lesbian Opening between 7 and 10 pm
- **Thursday 24 April:** Conference Hotel (Hotel Palace Pineta) between 8:30 am and 6 pm (on the ground floor in the lobby until lunch break, then on floor -1 – you won't be able to miss it.)
(please come as early as you can to register to avoid having to wait or queue)
- **Friday April:** Conference Hotel (Hotel Palace Pineta), floor -1 between 9 am and 6 pm
- **Saturday 26 April:** Conference Hotel (Hotel Palace Pineta), floor -1 between 9 am and 12 pm

2.5 Useful numbers in case of emergency and for questions

For ALL emergencies anywhere in Italy and the rest of the European Union, call: 112

You can call this number for free from any phone, foreign or local cell phone, and even a cell phone without a SIM card in it. Operators should speak English.

Hopefully, like millions before you, your trip to Rome will pass off without incident. In the unfortunate event of an emergency, however, here are some contacts that may prove vital.

When you call the universal European emergency number 112 you are in fact calling the Carabinieri, Italy's military police force, and their operators will redirect your call to the appropriate number.

In case you have a question during the conference, you can reach the organisers in person at the venues during the events or via email: elc_rome2025@lesbiangenius.org

If you have an **emergency** that needs the urgent attention of the organisers, and you cannot reach them in person, you can contact Angelica Polmonari (Italian, English, French, Spanish): +39 345 9006165

3. Inclusivity, Safety, Accessibility, Photo Policy

3.1 Statement on Inclusivity

As a lesbian organization, EL*C cannot be blind to the fact, that trans and gender-diverse people have historically faced exclusion from the lesbian and feminist spaces. While we have partially moved away from the narrow understanding of gender and sexuality, our trans and non-binary siblings continue to face erasure, their identities are being questioned and vilified, both by the anti-gender movements as well as within their own feminist and queer communities. This is something, that we at EL*C do not accept and commit to opposing within our organization and our spaces.

We are also conscious of the double stigma that bisexual women have been and continue to be exposed to both in wider society and inside the lesbian and queer spaces. Stereotyping, negative attitudes and constant questioning result in adverse mental health consequences for our fellow bi community members as well as loss of sense of safety in the lesbian spaces, among others. For this reason, we believe it is important to explicitly state that EL*C does not tolerate expressions of biphobia in any of the spaces that we curate.

Furthermore, we acknowledge that historically the contributions of BPOC lesbians and indigenous lesbians (including Romnja* and Sintezzi*) have been disregarded and their experiences isolated both in the lesbian community and their ethnic communities. Alongside anti-gender movements, we are facing a surge in far-right politics and anti- human rights narratives which intensify racial prejudice and racism throughout the world. EL*C firmly condemns the rise of this hateful discourse and commits to act in a fair, inclusive and safe way with BIPOC lesbians.

We acknowledge that EL*C still has substantial space for improvement and growth in this area and to truly achieve solidarity with trans, gender-diverse and BIPOC lesbians and bi women in our midst, we commit to developing ways of ensuring their meaningful inclusion in the organisation's entire infrastructure.

For the 4th Euro Central Asian Lesbian* Conference, we are making proactive efforts to ensure that our bi, trans, non-binary and BIPOC siblings feel and, in fact, are safe and welcome in the spaces organised and curated by EL*C.

A Note on Conduct: Please be mindful that the EL*C space is made up by people with different life experiences and we can only move forward together with respect, empathy and mutual understanding. The EL*C organisers will not allow any participants or speakers to promote in any way, shape or form any violent, discriminatory, or hurtful communication against any other speaker or participant. The organisers reserve the right to remove any individual or group going against this inclusive approach at any given time during the conference.

3.2 EL*C Safe Space Guidelines during the Conference

To ensure the safety, well-being and comfort of all the people coming to the Conference, we as the space holders and main organizers of the event, are proposing the following guidelines related to behaviour and communication in the formal and informal spaces connected to the conference.

In case of severe breach of the following guidelines, EL*C reserves the right to take measures including (but not limited to) expelling specific participants from the Conference spaces.

▪ Code of Conduct

What to do:

- The EL*C conference prioritizes LBTQIA+, non-binary, trans and cis women and people with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences
- Ask for people's personal pronouns and respect them without making assumptions
- Always ask for consent before hugging and/or touching another person
- Always ask for consent before taking someone's photo and/or publishing it online
- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative
- While communicating with others, give people you speak to the benefit of the doubt and ask to clarify the statement/opinion before making conclusions (does not apply to explicit harassment and expression of prejudice)
- Be mindful of the spaces you occupy. This is a space to (un)learn and listen. Commit to doing the work personally
- Each participant is encouraged to take active part in the discussions and share their views in a constructive manner. The conference space will be what we make of it collectively

What to avoid:

- Sexist, racist, lesbophobic, homophobic, biphobic, transphobic, or otherwise discriminatory jokes and language
- Demeaning, discriminatory or harassing behaviour, materials and speech based on (among others) age, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, religion (or lack thereof), or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- Violence, threats of violence, or violent language directed against another person as well as physical, written, verbal or other abuse, intimidation, threats, annoyance, harassment, stalking, pushing, shoving or use of any physical force whatsoever against any person
- Possession of any item that can be used as a weapon and cause danger to others if used in a certain manner
- Any offensive behaviour or language, including but not limited to using sexually explicit or offensive language, materials or conduct, as well as any language, behaviour or content that contains curses, insults, obscene gestures, or racial, religious or ethnic slurs,
- Please consider that being intoxicated or drunk will not be an excuse for violent, harassing or discriminatory behaviours. Consume and drink responsibly.
- Please be aware that possession of even small amounts of psychotropic drugs can lead to serious administrative consequences. Law enforcement often treats possession very strictly, and the consequences can still feel quite serious even if they aren't criminal in nature. Although not punishable by imprisonment, law enforcement applies the law strictly, and being found in possession may lead to confiscation, fines, suspension of a driver's license, or other penalties (including administrative arrest).

Tools available for your safety and comfort during the conference:

- Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated, whether by other attendees, media, speakers, volunteers, organizers, venue staff, sponsors, or exhibitors
- The organizers will be available to help participants resolve the situations, as well as contact venue security or local law enforcement if there is such a need, to provide escorts, or to otherwise assist those experiencing unacceptable behaviour to feel safe for the duration of the conference. You can report unacceptable behaviour to designated Care Team consisting of EL*C Board Members and which includes dedicated safety/security focal points. All care team members will be wearing an armband.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants. Alert conference organizers if you notice a dangerous situation or someone in distress
- If you are being harassed, notice that someone else is being harassed, or have any other concerns, please contact a member of conference staff immediately. Conference staff can be identified as they'll be wearing branded clothing and/or badges
- If you are subjected to unacceptable behaviour, notice that someone else is being subjected to unacceptable behaviour, or have any other concerns, please notify a conference organizer as soon as possible. All reports will remain completely confidential.
- Anyone asked to stop unacceptable behaviour is expected to comply immediately. If a participant engages in unacceptable behaviour, the conference organizers may take any action they deem appropriate, up to and including expulsion from the conference without warning or refund

▪ **Conference Care Team**

We have taken multiple safety precautions around the Conference and one of these measures is to have a Care Team on the ground in case of anything that needs discussing, mediating or resolving. The Care Team is there to ensure that the Conference goes smoothly for everyone, and that each person has someone to turn to in case of any sign of distress. You can spot the Care Team members by their orange armbands. Assistance can be given in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German, Romanian, Armenian, Swedish, Croatian and Serbian.

3.3 Accessibility guide

The 4th EL*C Conference is a safe(r) and welcoming place, fostering personal and professional enrichment, learning and joy. Our goal is to create an event as accessible as possible, and we are working on ensuring our events are free of barriers by any means. We are doing our best to meet accessibility needs and accommodation requests while acknowledging our limitations and the fact that accessibility is a radical political project that we are thriving for, but we might not be able to reach fully.

Every participant who notified the organizers via Eventbrite during registration about their disabilities and special needs will be contacted by the Accessibility Coordinator team before the conference (via email).

During the conference, you can ask for support, help, and information at the Registration + Information desk on floor -1 of the conference hotel.

▪ Venues

23rd April 2025: Pre-Conference (Invitation only)

Venue: Courtyard by Marriott Rome Central Park

Address: Via Giuseppe Moscati, 7, 00168 Roma

Accessibility information:

- The entrance of the Conference Center is wheelchair accessible directly from the street (Via Giuseppe Moscati)
- The Conference Centre is wheelchair accessible
- The toilet is wheelchair accessible

23rd April 2025: Opening Ceremony (Invitation Only)

Venue: Palazzo Valentini

Address: Via Quattro Novembre, 119a, 00187 Roma

Accessibility information:

- The building is wheelchair accessible
- The event will take place on the ground floor
- Wheelchair accessible toilets on the first floor via elevator

23rd April 2025: Big Lesbian Opening of the Conference:

Venue: Casa Internazionale delle Donne

Address: Via di S. Francesco di Sales 1a, 00165 Roma

Accessibility information:

- The event will take place in the garden.
- The entrance from Via di S. Francesco di Sales 1a is wheelchair accessible. This is not the main entrance, but we are all going to use it.
- In case of rain, we will be using the Lonzi Room in the building. The room is on the first floor, and it can be reached by elevator. The elevator is accessible from the garden and will be appropriately signalled.
- The wheelchair accessible toilet on the ground floor can be reached via a ramp. A second wheelchair accessible toilet is located on the first floor of the building (via elevator).

24th-26th April 2025 Lesbian Conference

Venue: Hotel Pineta Palace

[Address:](#) Via S. Lino Papa, 35, 00167 Roma

Accessibility information:

- The building is accessible for wheelchair users and is equipped with elevators
- The conference will take place on the floor -1
- Wheelchair-accessible toilets on -1 floor.
- The welcome and information desk will be available on floor -1.

26th April 2025 Lesbian Party

Venue: Alibi Club Roma

[Address:](#) Via di Monte Testaccio, 44/40, 00153 Roma

Accessibility information:

- Wheelchair accessible venue
- More information available (and you can ask for more):

https://www.instagram.com/safffo_/

▪ **Transportation**

Detailed information on how to reach each venue by public transport is available in [chapter 2.1. Venues of the conference](#). For people with limited mobility, we will provide transportation to and from the city centre when conference events are located outside of the main venue.

▪ **Decompression space during the conference**

There is a decompression space in the conference building. The decompression space is a hotel room where you can relax and take a break. The room is equipped with water, instant coffee, tea, stimulating toys, earplugs and an electric kettle.

If you need to go there, you can ask for the key at the reception desk of the hotel located on the ground floor. There will be 5 keycards available; there might be more people in the room. When you leave the room, please leave the keycard at reception, so others can use it too.

If you need assistance, please ask for help at the Registration + Information desk on floor -1 of the conference hotel.

▪ **Other Accessibility Measures during the conference**

- The online version of the program is available for everyone
- A few hard copies of the program will be available at the Registration+Info point located in the lobby on floor -1, please do not take them with you.
- A large-text printed overview of the program will be placed in the conference area.
- Each conference room will have a detailed printed daily program on the door

- A few cushions/pillows will be available at the Registration+Info point for whoever might need them.
- Earplugs will be available during the conference at the Registration+Info points in the Conference area and during the Dyke March
- Pads, sanitary and tampons will be available in the toilets

▪ Conference events/programs

Openings and Conference Programs

The languages of the conference are English and Italian, with consecutive interpretations on the Opening Ceremony (invitation only), the Big Lesbian Opening, and the Plenary sessions during the conference.

Unfortunately, no sign language interpreter and no closed captioning will be available during the event. However, speakers of the Big Lesbian Opening and the Plenary sessions of the Conference will provide a written text with the most important bullet points of their speeches, and we will make them available in [this Google Drive folder](#).

In the Plenary sessions, five seats will be reserved in the first row for people who might need them for accessibility reasons. Additionally, space will be made available in the first row for wheelchair users.

Evening programs – Film screenings

April 24 (more details about the film in [Chapter 5. Detailed Program](#))

- 21:00-23:00 – Beyond the Frontlines: Language of the movie is English, French and Arabic with English subtitles

April 25 (more details about the film in [Chapter 5. Detailed Program](#))

- 19:00-20:00 – Lesvia: Main language of the movie is English, with English subtitles
- 21:00-23:00 - Io non sono nessuno: Language of the movie is Italian, with English subtitles

Dyke March

Detailed information on accessibility of the event will be available on the official website and Instagram page of the Dyke March:

- Website: <https://dykemarch.it/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dykemarchroma/>

▪ Contact for accessibility questions

In case you have additional questions, please write to: elc_rome2025@lesbiangenius.org

3.4 Engaging with EL*C on social media

▪ EL*C Social Media:

Hashtags:

- **#ELCRome2025** and **#DykesRiseAgainstFascism** (please use on stories, posts, etc. throughout the entire conference);
- **#DykeMarchRoma** (specifically during the Dyke March on April 26)

EL*C Social Channels

- **Instagram:** @EuropeanLesbianConference
- **TikTok:** @ELC_LesbianTok
- **Twitter:** @EuroLesbianCon
- **Facebook:** fb.com/EuropeanLesbianConference
- **YouTube:** [EL*C EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community](#)

▪ **Livestream**

The Plenary sessions of the Conference will be livestreamed via EL*C Instagram account.

3.5 Photo Policy

A registration, there will be two different colour lanyards/badge holders made available for participants and speakers attending the EL*C. The white one will be for persons agreeing to have their photo taken during the event, and the red one will be for persons who do not want to have their photo taken at any given time during the event. Additionally, for those not wanting to be photographed, we will make available no-photo places in the plenary room.

Important note: In advance, we thank everyone at the event, including participants, speakers and journalists for respecting this photo policy and never taking any pictures of the persons wearing the no-photo lanyard.

4. EL*C and the Conferences

4.1 Herstory

Our conferences are our lighthouses. In 2017, we organized our conference entitled “Lesbians in Europe: Act, Reflect, Transform, Connect” in Vienna (Austria), and, in 2019, we held our second international conference entitled “Let’s Bring Lesbian Genius to the World!” in Kyiv (Ukraine). The third conference, “Lesbian Resistance”, took place in Budapest, in 2022.

Overall, our conferences have served as key moments to measure the pulse of the lesbian movement, to support and celebrate the lesbian community, to foster or strengthen new projects and connections, to serve as a base to develop strategies for growth and sustainability, and to gather visibility and media attention around lesbian struggles and achievements.



Starting Point of the EL*C: Nicosia, 2016, participants from the ILGA Europe workshop, “Lesbian organising in Europe: where is the state of play for the lesbian movements?”

Vienna, 2017, the very first edition of the EL*C Conference, with over 450 participants and the beginning of a great adventure.



Kyiv, 2019, the second edition of the EL*C Conference. There were some difficult moments, but we were resilient, as always.

Budapest, 2022, the third edition of the EL*C Conference. We went to Eastern Europe again and “dyke-marched” on the streets of Budapest.



4.2 Board Members of the EuroCentralasian Lesbian* Community

Eva Perez Nanclares (Spain)

Co-Chair of EL*C since 2022 September, a lawyer, business owner and women's and LGBTIQ+ rights activist. She founded her own law firm, and besides other cases, she handled pro bono matters, focusing on the defense of women's rights and the LGBTI community. She is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Fundación 26 Diciembre and is regular partner of Lesworking, the first international professional network for lesbian and bisexual women.

Gulzada Serzhan (Kazakhstan)

Co-Chair of EL*C since 2023 December, Co-founder of Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative "Feminita", LBQ Women Rights Defender, lesbian, feminist.

Alice Coffin (France)

is a journalist, politician, lesbian activist and co-founder of EL*C. She is also the co-founder and key actor of several LGBT and feminist groups in France and Europe: Lesbiennes d'Intérêt Général, La Barbe, French Women Association of Journalists.

Angelica Polmonari (Italy)

Italian, transfeminist, lesbian, working as Policy Advisor, Project Manager, Consultant for international, national and local NGOs and institutions fostering LGBTQIA+ rights and as a certified professional trainer on DE&I, gender equality and LGBTQIA+ allyship in the workplace. Angelica is also Chair of the Women's Committee of ILGA World; Co-Secretary of the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C); International and National Advocate of Arcigay; President of Arcigay Modena "Matthew Shepard.

Anna Melikyan (Armenia)

a social worker by profession, involved in the protection of the rights of LGBTQ+ people. Through collaborative efforts, she aims to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive and supportive environment, ensuring that the concerns and aspirations of all lesbian* individuals are acknowledged and addressed.

Antonija Stojanović Almesberger (Croatia)

Vocal feminist, LGBTIQ+ activist, youth worker, and educator focused on the rights of LGBTI persons and women's rights. Founder of Festival of Queer and Feminist Culture Smoqua and Programme Coordinator in Lesbian Organisation Rijeka – LORI in Croatia.

Evien Tjabbes (Netherlands)

is a co-organizer of the first-ever lesbian conference in Amsterdam, active in ILIS and ILGA for 20 years as member of their secretariats and participant of their conferences. Within EL*C she bridges the past to the present, works on governance and other internal issues. Enthusiastic tai chi practitioner.

Helena Vukovic (Serbia)

Helena is a retired army officer. One of the well-known Serbian LGBTQ activists. She is the founder and executive director of L*-Communio. She is a woman with trans experience and lives her activism 24/7.

Iulia Necula (Romania)

Iulia is a passionate and dedicated teenage activist, who advocates for LGBTQ+ rights. As a queer student, she balances academic pursuits with a fervent commitment to fostering inclusivity and raising awareness of human injustices.

Joëlle Sambi Nzeba (Belgium)

is a lesbian and afrofeminist activist, poet, writer. Born on a linguistic border between Brussels and Kinshasa, Joëlle Sambi says, shouts, writes short stories, novels, slams, poems, documentaries, radio spaces, militant places.

Juliane Rosin (Germany)

has been committed to human rights and sustainable development on many levels for more than two decades. Her main competence lies in establishing and maintaining global networks and enabling civil society actors to enter forums for political opinion formation.

Kika Fumero (Spain)

She is a Spanish feminist and lesbian activist, expert in gender equality, gender-based violence, and co-education. Spokesperson and national coordinator of the *My Voice, My Choice* initiative in Spain. Public policy advisor and creator of the internationally awarded Mask-19 campaign, recognized by UN Women and the Spanish Ministry of Equality. She has contributed as an expert to projects by the OECD and the EU in Morocco and Tunisia. EL*C board member from 2018 to 2020 and rejoined in 2023. More: kikafumero.com/biography

Mari Kurtanidze (Georgia)

Mari is a queer feminist activist, human rights lawyer and researcher, who has been involved in different queer feminist initiatives in Georgia, regionally and internationally for around 16 years. They are a co-founder of the first queer techno nights series in Georgia "HOROOM nights" and a non-formal non-hierarchal group Lesbian* Resistance.

Olena Shevchenko (Ukraine)

Olena Shevchenko is a human rights defender and educator from Ukraine whose focuses are LGBTQ and women's rights. She is a co-founder and head of public organization Insight, and head and co-founder of the Women's March.

Rhonda D'Vine (Austria)

Rhonda is an intersectional activist who is also involved in many organizations and things happening in Vienna, Austria. She is in the board of Venib, an organization for rights of non-binary folks, and creates bisexual visibility through her dyed hair.

Ruth Borgfjord (Romania)

combines her passion for well-being, art and activism as the founder of Queer Sisterhood Cluj, an art psychotherapist in private practice and the President of the Art Therapy Association.

Sonja Schelper (Germany)

Lesbian feminist since 5 decades, psychologist and coach, project supporter of the Coalition of African Lesbians for 10 years to strengthen grassroot lesbian and queer collectives in Zambia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Lesotho and Mozambique. Former director of filia, German Women's Fund.

Steph Florquin (France/Belgium/Sweden)

Steph is a lesbian feminist activist and social scientist specialised in gender equality. She has been involved in various feminist and LGBTQ/lesbian organisations and collectives in France and Belgium and has also dedicated her professional life to promoting the human rights of women, LGBTQI people and migrants.

Tanja von Knorring (Finland)

Tanja is a woman and transgender woman, a human rights expert, teacher, a multiprofessional expert, participating in several projects about Transgender rights and health. She is one of the key persons in the renewal of the trans law in Finland, currently Executive Director of the NGO Transfemininiit, Vice-Chair of the Federation of LGBTI organisations in Finland, SETA and former Co-Chair TGEU Transgender Europe.

Zhanar Sekerbayeva (Kazakhstan)

Zhanar Sekerbayeva is a co-founder of the Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative “Feminita”. She is a feminist, powerlifter and poet. In her work she aims at expanding the concept of ‘gender’ in the general public discourse through activism by mainstreaming questions of gender identity in the academia.

4.3 Staff Members of the EuroCentralasian Lesbian* Community

Aïda Yancy**Advocacy Officer - Belgium**

Aïda Yancy is a lesbian feminist antiracist activist and educator specializing in intersectional social justice. With expertise in race and racism, LGBTQI+ issues, migration, and safer spaces, she advocates for the rights and inclusion of multi-marginalized individuals everywhere she goes. She identifies as a Black Dyke on a mission who in her spare time likes to make things with thread and read books written by Black or Poc women and queer people.

Anastasia Danilova**Program Director - Moldova**

Anastasia Danilova is a lesbian activist and feminist from Moldova. She was the executive director of the LGBT rights advocacy organization in Moldova GENDERDOC-M Information Centre for 13 years. After 5 years of being a Board member of EL*C, she held various titles in the EL*C staff before becoming Program Director. Considering how much experience, knowledge and skills there are within our genius lesbian community, Anastasia believes that EL*C is a space for exchange and learning.

Dorka Szekeres**Program Officer - Hungary**

Dorka Szekeres is a lesbian activist from Hungary. In 2017 she co-founded the lesbian NGO, qLit. Her dream was (and still is) to bring lesbians together, create a safe space, a community, and bring joy and love to lesbians. Before joining the EL*C she did communication-related jobs while leading and managing qLit – before, during, and after doing her day-to-day jobs. Her passions are community building and having everything in order – a perfect combination for EL*C.

Dragana Todorovic**Executive Dykerecator - Serbia**

Dragana Todorovic is EL*C's scandalously efficient Executive Co-Director in charge of strategic development and fundraising. With an unparalleled passion for the lesbian movement and an entrepreneurial spirit that doesn't take "impossible" for an answer, Dragana (re)defines the limits of the lesbian skies, drawing from a robust and eclectic experience combining the private sector, governmental institutions, and national and regional NGOs.

Herta Toth**Grants and Sustainability Manager - Hungary/Germany**

Herta is a feminist activist and grants manager. She is one of the founders of NaNE Association, Hungary's first women's rights group addressing gender-based violence. Although she lives in Berlin, she continues to support the feminist movement in Hungary. As a grants manager, Herta has worked at OSF on strengthening intersectional feminist movements in Europe and globally.

Ilaria Todde**Advocacy Dykerecator - Italy / Belgium**

Ilaria Todde is a butch from Sardinia, navigating the gender roles and expectations that rural, traditional societies impose on non-conforming people. Ilaria found a home in feminism and in the lesbian community and never left. Started out as a grassroots activist and community organiser, then has taken part, in different capacities, in the national struggles and advocacy efforts of the Italian and International lesbian and LGBTI movements.

Izabela Djordjevic**Finance & Administrative Manager - Serbia**

Izabela Djordjevic (Serbia) is a woman, lesbian, activist and a true believer in people and change. One of those people who are expanding views of others, not just her own. She most probably marched for your rights too. Izabela finds inspiration and strength among her fellow lesbians, in poetry, cats and Excel spreadsheets. Started working in finances, dealing with reporting, budgeting, logistics and all that jazz, then managed to combine 2 passions – finance and activism.

Liliya Ten**Program Officer - Germany/Kyrgyzstan**

Liliya Ten is a lesbian activist and singer from Central Asia. She has devoted the past 14 years to strengthening LGBTQI rights. For 10 of those years, she has led "the GRACE," an LBQ organization in Kyrgyzstan, pioneering media advocacy and mobilizing lesbians in rural areas. Passionate about increasing the visibility of lesbians, in 2020 Liliya directed the first documentary in Kyrgyzstan highlighting the lives of lesbians. She has also staged a play addressing issues of domestic violence and harassment.

Silvia Casalino**Executive Dykerecator - Italy / France**

Silvia Casalino is a lesbian activist, university teacher and filmmaker with a master degree in Space Engineering. From 2001 to 2018, she worked as project manager for the French Space Agency in Paris. In 2011, she directed her first documentary film, No Gravity addressing the journey of women in space technology. In 2017 she co-created the EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community. After 3 years of chairmanship, she's currently the EL*C international NGO Executive Co-Director.

5. DETAILED PROGRAM

5.1 23 April

- 16:30–18:30 – Opening at Palazzo Valentini (by invitation only)

Speakers:

- **Gulzada Serzhan and Eva Perez** – EL*C Co-Chairs.
- **Marilena Grassadonia** – Head of LGBTI Rights at the Municipality of Rome.
- **Tiziana Biolghini** – Councilwoman and Head of Equality in the Metropolitan City of Rome.
- **Raky Dombia, Lucia Caponera, Deborah di Cave** – Organizing Committee of the Rome Dyke March.
- **Daniela Ghiotto** – Famiglie Arcobaleno.
- **Dorottya Rédei** – Expert in gender and education; Executive Director of Labrisz Lesbian Association Hungary
- **Monica Benicio** – Activist and Councilwoman in the City of Rio de Janeiro.
- **Lucia Plavakova** – Lawyer, human rights activist and progressive politician. Since 2023 member of Slovak Parliament, chairperson of the Human Rights Committee and member of the Slovak delegation in Council of Europe.

- 19:00–22:00 – Big Lesbian Opening at Casa Internazionale delle Donne

Under Roman skies, Big Lesbian Energy is coming! Kick off the conference and celebrate our grand opening with icons, laughs, music, and radical herstory at Casa Internazionale delle Donne.

Speakers:

- **Maura Cossutta** – Doctor, politician, feminist, and Chair of the Casa Internazionale delle Donne.
- **Nora Delvecchio** – Feminist researcher; Capacity Building & Networking at Semia - Fondo delle Donne.
- **Silvia Casalino** – EL*C Co-Dyke-rector.
- **Elena Biagini** – Author of The Unforeseen Emergence: The Italian Lesbian Movement during the '70s and '80s.
- **Giovanna Olivieri** – Coordinator of Archivia, Women's Archives, Libraries, and Documentation Center in Rome.
- **Frad** – Comedian, cartoonist, and tattoo artist.
- **Nancy Tungsten** – Solo music project of Eli Nancy Natali, Italian singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist.

5.2 24 April

▪ 9:30 – 11:00 Plenary: Lesbian Legends – When They Go Low, We Go High

Room Born in Flames

Speakers:

- **Silvia Casalino and Gulzada Serzhan** – EL*C Executive Co-Dykerector and EL*C Chair
- **Phyll Opoku** – Co-Founder and Chief Executive of UK Black Pride.
- **Elena Biagini** – Author of *The Unforeseen Emergence: The Italian Lesbian Movement During the '70s and '80s*.
- **Olena Shevchenko** – Co-Founder and Director of Ukrainian NGO “Insight”, named Woman of the Year in 2023 by The Times.
- **Melissa Camara** – French politician, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Anti-racism Intergroup
- **Monica Benicio** – Activist and Councilwoman in the City of Rio de Janeiro.

▪ 11:00 Beginning Group Photo (Born in Flames Room)

▪ 11:30–13:00 Parallel Sessions

➤ From the Streets to the Seats: Lesbians in Politics

Room Born in Flames

What does it take for lesbians to move from activism to elected power? This panel explores the challenges and opportunities of lesbian engagement in formal politics—from navigating party structures to running campaigns, building alliances, and shaping political majorities. We've been talking about political lesbianism for several decades. Join us now for a conversation on how lesbians are taking power and contributing to a progressive, feminist, and anti-racist victory.

Facilitator: Alice Coffin – French journalist, feminist, lesbian activist, Paris city councilor since 2020, and author of *Le Génie Lesbien*

Speakers:

- **Melissa Camara** – French politician, Member of the European Parliament, Co-Chair of the Anti-racism Intergroup
- **Lucia Plaváková** – Lawyer, human rights activist and progressive politician. Member of Slovak Parliament, chairperson of the Human Rights Committee and member of the Slovak delegation in Council of Europe.
- **Zhanar Sekerbaeva** – Kazakh human rights activist, politician, poet, and journalist
- **Siame Haddioui** – Belgian politician, artist, and activist; former alderwoman for Culture and Equal Opportunities in Schaerbeek, Brussels

- **Natascia Maesi** – Italian journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist; first woman elected as national president of Arcigay, Italy’s largest LGBTQIA+ organization
- **Malin Björk** – Swedish politician and Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for the Left Party from 2014 to 2024
- **Lydie Raër** – Activist with *Les Dévalideuses*, a collective fighting for the rights of disabled women; elected Councilwoman in Ivry-sur-Seine, France

➤ Fundraising for a Lesbian Future

Room Bound

The lesbian* movement has long been systematically underfunded—and despite years of advocacy, the trend isn’t improving. In fact, it’s getting worse. According to the latest Global Philanthropy Project report, a mere 2% of all global LGBTIQ funding is directed to LBQ women’s organizations and initiatives. This staggering gap is deepened by widespread funding cuts targeting LGBTIQ and women’s rights organizations, from both public and private sources.

Europe and Central Asia continue to be chronically de-prioritized in most donors’ strategies and geographic scopes. This session will create space for a strategic, action-oriented conversation on the urgent need to resource the lesbian* movement—not just to survive, but to thrive. Grounded in the leadership and experience of lesbian* activists, the discussion will tackle the impact of current funding trends and explore potential solutions across short-, mid-, and long-term horizons.

The session will also include an open exchange with funders such as LesbianGlobal, Mama Cash, RFSL, Samia Fund, and Filia—creating space for shared accountability, radical transparency, and bold reimagining of what resourcing justice can look like.

Facilitator: Dragana Todorović, Executive Co-Dykeirector, EL*C

➤ Trans Lesbians

Room Go Fish

This session explores the experiences of trans and nonbinary lesbians within the Lesbian* communities, including barriers to inclusion, legal challenges across Europe and Central Asia, and the rise of anti-gender movements fueling trans- and lesbophobia. The session includes five presentations followed by a Fishbowl discussion.

Speakers:

- **Maud Royer** – French feminist translesbian activist and author of *Le lobby transphobe*. Co-founder and former president of Toutes des Femmes, a transfeminist group advocating through strategic litigation, media engagement, and a national campaign for legal gender recognition.
- **Neo** – Trans nonbinary lesbian and director of TransAkcija Institute in Slovenia. With a background in journalism and gender studies, they work on advocacy, education, and strategic communications.

- **Andre Rădulescu** – Nonbinary activist and founder of Identity.Education (Romania), focusing on storytelling, education, and community services. Their activism integrates inclusion policy and civil rights advocacy.
- **Anita Yeoh** – Transgender lesbian and mother based in Moscow. Community manager at Trans*Coalition and translator at Center T. Also a techno music producer and weightlifter.
- **Tanja von Knorring** – Human rights expert and Executive Director of Transfeminiinit (Finland). She played a key role in reforming Finland's trans law and has held leadership roles at SETA and TGEU.
- **Eva Sassi Croce** – Radical transfeminist ARTivist, member of Non Una di Meno Modena.

➤ **Lesbian festivals: sparkles of strength and social force**

Room Desert Hearts

What impact do lesbian festivals have on our community, our position in society, and on queer and feminist culture? Can a festival be both a celebration and a site of resistance—especially in these challenging times when we feel the need to nurture togetherness? This workshop creates space for lesbian and feminist activists to share experiences and insights. Reflect on these questions and get inspired!

Facilitators: EL*C board members and activists **Ruth Borgfjord** and **Antonija Stojanović** Almesberger.

Speakers:

- **Manny de Guerre** – Founder and organizer of the Side by Side LGBTQ+ Film Festival (formerly based in Russia).
- **Gulzada Serzhan** – One of the organizers of the First Central Asian Lesbian Quryltai in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- **Lucia Leonardi** – Transfeminist lesbian activist, formerly part of Agape Lesbian Camp.
- **Elisa Coco** – One of the organizers of the Some Prefer Cake Festival (Italy).

➤ **GBV Grantees Closed Project Meeting**

Room Rafiki

This closed session is for the 21 ELC grantees working on gender-based violence against lesbians. The meeting will bring together project partners to exchange ideas, strategize, and reflect on their work carried out through the ELC regranting program: Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Lesbians.

▪ **14:30–16:00 Parallel Sessions**

➤ **Lesbian festivals: sparkles of strength and social force**

Room Desert Hearts

What impact do lesbian festivals have on our community, our position in society, and on queer and feminist culture? Can a festival be both a celebration and a site of resistance—especially in these challenging times when we feel the need to nurture togetherness? This workshop creates space for lesbian and feminist activists to share experiences and insights. Reflect on these questions and get inspired!

Facilitators: EL*C board members and activists **Ruth Borgfjord** and **Antonija Stojanović** Almesberger.

Speakers:

- **Dorottya Rédei** – Labrisz Lesbian Association (Hungary).
- **Selma Hadžihalilović** – Feminist activist from the CURE Foundation (Bosnia and Herzegovina).
- **Jelena Vasiljević** – Executive Director of Rainbow Ignite (Serbia).
- **Charlotte Orsenne** – Initiator and co-founder of a Berlin-based lesbian* collective; a lesbian mother shaped by both French and German identities.

➤ **Lesbiche in Italia...facciamo rete! - Networking and strategy building for lesbians in Italy – Room BOUND**

Room Bound

This space is designed for lesbian activists and organizations active in the Italian context. It will be dedicated to analyzing the current situation in Italy: Who are we? How are we? How are we living and responding to the political landscape of recent years? We aim to reconnect in order to get to know and support one another, share knowledge and practices, and co-create initiatives of lesbian resistance, struggle, and joy. Given the specific focus of this session, and to facilitate interaction, the discussion will take place in Italian only.

Questo è uno spazio pensato per persone e realtà lesbiche attive nel contesto italiano. L'esigenza è di interrogarci sullo stato dell'arte – Chi siamo? Come stiamo? Come stiamo vivendo e reagendo al panorama politico degli ultimi anni? – vogliamo provare a ri/mettermi in rete per conoscersi e supportarsi a vicenda, far circolare saperi e pratiche, cocostruire iniziative di resistenza, lotta e gioia lesbica. Data la specificità dell'incontro, per facilitare l'interazione parleremo in italiano.

➤ **Healing the Earth, Healing Ourselves: Decolonial Lesbian Ecofeminism**
Room Go Fish

This workshop explores the intersection of environmental justice, colonialism, feminism, and queer activism. Speakers will address key struggles such as state repression of eco-activists in Kazakhstan, tensions between queer and environmental movements in Georgia, and the ongoing effects of colonial exploitation in Guadeloupe and Martinique. The session also introduces the idea of reparations through a lesbian feminist lens, highlighting the need for systemic change and decolonial resistance.

Facilitator: Gulzada Serzhan (she/her) – Co-chair of the EL*C board and co-founder of the Kazakhstan Feminist Initiative 'Feminita'. She is a prominent lesbian feminist activist and has played a key role in organizing the First Lesbian Quryltai dedicated to Ecology in 2024.

Speakers:

- **Zhanar Sekerbayeva** (she/her) – Co-founder of 'Feminita', a lesbian feminist, poet, and powerlifter. Zhanar led the organizing efforts of the First Lesbian Quryltai on Ecology in Kazakhstan and is a strong voice against state repression and environmental destruction.
- **Pierrette Pyram Ambrosio** (she/her) – Founder and president of DiivinesLGBTQIA+, an organization advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights in the French Caribbean and France. She brings a vital perspective on environmental racism and the legacy of chlordecone contamination in Guadeloupe and Martinique.
- **Audrey Angele** (she/her) – Honorary member of DiivinesLGBTQIA+, engaged in feminist and environmental activism in the French Caribbean. She works alongside Pierrette on raising awareness about the impact of colonialism on health and ecosystems.
- **Tamar Jakeli** (she/her) – Queer feminist and environmental activist from Tbilisi, Georgia, with a master's in Human Ecology from Lund University. She has worked to bridge queer and environmental movements and previously attempted to establish a Green Party in Georgia.
- **Alice Coffin** (she/her) – French journalist, feminist activist, and Green Party politician. Co-founder of the Association of LGBT Journalists in France and a long-time advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights, environmental justice, and anti-colonial struggles. She collaborates with DiivinesLGBTQIA+ on pushing for chlordecone contamination testing in France and promoting reparations through a lesbian feminist lens.

➤ Lesbians Feminist, Queer, Crips

Room Born in Flames

In the first part, we're bringing together an amazing group of activists from across Europe to talk about disability justice within the lesbian movement and to share their experiences of building community at the intersection of queerness and disability.

In the second part, it's your turn! We're creating space for lesbian, bi, and queer (LBQ) people with disabilities to share thoughts, needs, priorities, and ideas for collective strategies. This is about shaping our movement together. Not disabled but passionate about disability justice? No worries! There will be a parallel session for allies and experts to engage, reflect, and contribute as well.

Facilitator: Carla Maria Reale (she/they) – Postdoctoral researcher, transfeminist activist, and cultural organizer. Their interdisciplinary research explores how law addresses material bodies, complex identities, and equality. Board member of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Trento.

Speakers:

- **Lydie Raër** – Activist with *Les Dévalideuses*, a collective fighting for the rights of disabled women; elected Councilwoman in Ivry-sur-Seine, France.
- **Ilaria Crippi** – Disabled lesbian activist from Italy, collaborating with various organizations to promote the rights of people with disabilities. She is trained as a disability manager and social planner, with expertise in disability studies.

➤ GBV Grantees Closed Project Meeting

Room Rafiki

This closed session is for the 21 ELC grantees working on gender-based violence against lesbians. The meeting will bring together project partners to exchange ideas, strategize, and reflect on their work carried out through the ELC regranting program: Preventing and Combating Gender-Based Violence Against Lesbians.

▪ 16:30–18:00 Parallel Sessions

➤ Lesbian Fairytales: Building Dyke Narratives

Room Rafiki

Lesbian* authors share their work and reflect on why it's vital for us to write our own fairytales, myths, and personal histories. Together, we'll explore how storytelling shapes identities, challenges norms, and creates space for lesbian* imagination.

Speakers:

- **Nino Kharchilava** – Georgian queer activist, gender studies scholar, and trainer in integrated security. She works on creating safe spaces for queer and feminist women and is currently Research and Education Coordinator at WISG.
- **Dorottya Rédei** – Expert in gender and education; Executive Director of Labrisz Lesbian Association Hungary
- **Ruth Borgfjord** – Organiser of the first Romanian Lesbian Conference, author of Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans, Queer Women and Non-Binary People in Romania, and organiser of women's marches and Pride marches.
- **Irene Villa** – Associate researcher at the PoliTeSse research center at the University of Verona.

➤ **Lesbiche in Italia...facciamo rete! - Networking and strategy building for lesbians in Italy**

Room Bound

This space is designed for lesbian activists and organizations active in the Italian context. It will be dedicated to analyzing the current situation in Italy: Who are we? How are we? How are we living and responding to the political landscape of recent years? We aim to reconnect in order to get to know and support one another, share knowledge and practices, and co-create initiatives of lesbian resistance, struggle, and joy. Given the specific focus of this session, and to facilitate interaction, the discussion will take place in Italian only.

Questo è uno spazio pensato per persone e realtà lesbiche attive nel contesto italiano. L'esigenza è di interrogarci sullo stato dell'arte – Chi siamo? Come stiamo? Come stiamo vivendo e reagendo al panorama politico degli ultimi anni? – vogliamo provare a ri/mettermi in rete per conoscersi e supportarsi a vicenda, far circolare saperi e pratiche, cocostruire iniziative di resistenza, lotta e gioia lesbica. Data la specificità dell'incontro, per facilitare l'interazione parleremo in italiano.

➤ **Wisdom and Wits – There Is Life After 60 :)**

Room Go Fish

With an optimistic perspective, this session explores the experiences of older lesbians—celebrating the joys of aging, the strength of lifelong activism, and the new freedoms that come with time. We will reflect on saying goodbye, embracing change, and building supportive, intergenerational communities. The session highlights the inspiring work of local and international lesbian groups making space for joy, resistance, and care.

We will hear how LGBTQ+ people aged 50+ in Athens are organizing events, raising public awareness, and creating visible, inclusive spaces. In Germany, lesbian advocacy groups promote the rights and participation of older lesbians through lobbying, social events, and community programs. Some initiatives include integrating 60+ lesbians into community centers and training

social workers on the specific needs of older lesbians. In Hungary, different approaches exist—such as the creation of the documentary *Secret Years*, and programs that foster intergenerational dialogue and care.

Facilitator: Evien Tjabbes – Co-founder of ILIS and Herstory Avengers, co-organizer of the first-ever lesbian conference in Amsterdam, a former intercultural trainer, and longtime activist involved in ILGA and ILIS for over 20 years. She currently serves as a board member of EL*C.

Speakers:

- **Anna Borgos** – Psychologist and women’s historian; founding member of Labrisz Lesbian Association (Hungary)
- **Dimitra Kyriou** – Vice President of Proud Seniors Greece; civil engineer living and working in Athens
- **Dorottya Rédei** – Expert in gender and education; Executive Director of Labrisz Lesbian Association
- **Cornelia Sperling** – Lesbian activist with the NGO FLIP – Frauenliebe im Pott (Germany) and the Yogyakarta-Alliance
- **Reingard Wagner** – Former adult education teacher; board member of *Lesben und Alter*, and actively involved in several initiatives inside and outside the LGBTI* community promoting full participation of older lesbians
- **Hilke Bleeken** – Co-founder and manager of *Älterwerden unterm Regenbogen* (Hamburg). A longtime lesbian feminist activist, she has blended activism with her professional life—from running a women’s bookshop in the 1990s to organizing lesbian programs in community centers in the 2000s

➤ **Naming Lesbophobia: understanding it to fight it**

Room Desert Hearts

Lesbians are facing rising hate—online, in the streets, and within institutions. This powerful session brings together new research from EL*C, data from the European Observatory on Lesbophobia, and insights from the Italian network Rete Medus3, exposing the scale and patterns of lesbophobia across Europe. Activists from France, Moldova, and Italy will join a bold conversation on resistance strategies and collective action.

The workshop will also feature an open discussion with participants and a presentation of the upcoming EL*C regranting opportunity focused on violence against LBTIQ women—an initiative to support and fund grassroots work against gender-based violence.

Speakers:

- **Yuna Miralles** – Member of Nous Toutes France, feminist activist, and unionist committed to advancing LGBTI rights, gender equality, and comprehensive sexuality education.

- **Sara Azzarelli** – Operator at a shelter for GBV survivors, transfeminist and LBTIA+ activist based in Bologna. Member of the executive board of Lesbiche Bologna, and for the past three years, actively supporting LBTIA+ people experiencing intimate partner violence through Linea Lesbica Antiviolenza. Also a yoga teacher and performer using body movement as a form of activism.
- **Carla Maria Reale** (she/they) – Postdoctoral researcher, transfeminist activist, and cultural organizer. Their interdisciplinary research explores how law addresses material bodies, complex identities, and equality. Board member of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Trento.
- **Lorelei Grigorița** – Community organizer, cultural curator, and social media strategist based in Moldova. Manager of Queer Café, a vibrant space for LGBTQIA+ visibility and creativity. Actively engaged in feminist movements and advocacy for survivors of gender-based and digital violence.
- **Angelica Polmonari (she/her)** – Italian, transfeminist, lesbian, Arcigay's local, national and international LGBTQIA+ rights activist. Member of the first-ever Italian grassroots observatory on lesbophobia, "Rete Medus3", established in 2020.
- **Emi Michael** – Intersectional feminist and ethno-racial justice advocate with deep expertise in global health equity, gender justice, and the social determinants of health. She has led and supported major research, policy, and programming efforts across global institutions—including the UK Department of Health and Social Care, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization—with a consistent focus on centering marginalized voices and dismantling structural inequities.

➤ **Closed session of Council of Europe project.**

Room Rafiki

▪ **18:00 – 20:00 Self-Organized Sessions**

Several slots will be available for self-organized spaces between 18:00 and 20:00. These spaces are open to participants who wish to initiate discussions, share experiences, or explore topics of their choice. A sign-up sheet will be available in the plenary room on a first-come, first-served basis. To claim a slot, simply write down your name and the topic you'd like to propose.

➤ **Anti-Gender Mobilizations, Affects and Resistances**

Room Go Fish

In this space, we will explore the relevance of the RESIST research findings for those who attend. In particular, we will outline how 'anti-gender' movements are mobilizing across Europe, the effects they have, and how resistances are taking shape. We will ask attendees to consider how these findings relate to their experiences and the steps we might take to counter the anti-feminist, anti-LGBTQIA+, and anti-rights agendas that are increasingly defining our worlds.

➤ **And many others...**

- **18:00–20:00 Office Hours with Mama Cash and RFSL**

Room Portrait of Lady on Fire

Looking to connect with funders? Join our partners **Mama Cash** and **RFSL** for informal office hours. This is an opportunity for LBQ+ groups to meet Mama Cash and RFSL representatives, ask questions, and learn more about funding opportunities and support.

- **21:00–23:00 Film Screening *Beyond the Frontlines*, by Alexandra Dols**

Room Born in Flames

Documentary, 2017 – 113 min – Language of the movie is English, French and Arabic with English subtitles.

A journey across Palestine alongside Palestinian psychiatrist Dr. Samah Jabr to discover the resistance and resilience of people affected by the invisible wounds of war and occupation. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the Director and a Palestinian queer activist who works at the intersection of queer rights and Palestinian liberation. Their work emphasizes the inseparability of personal and political liberation. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

5.3 25 April

- **9:30–11:00 Plenary: Lesbian Roots, Rage, and Justice**

Room Born in Flames

Speakers:

- **MC: Dena:** If you've already seen her, then Dena is your favorite queer Iranian stand-up comedian. If not, then she will be. Dena is a gaycon, a warrior princess, but above all a top-tier act in the Belgian stand-up scene.
- **Zhanar Sekerbayeva** – **Kazakh** human rights activist, politician, poet, and journalist.
- **Aida Marukyan** – Armenian feminist activist; co-founder of *Girls Talk*, a young feminist initiative.
- **Lepa Mladenović** – Co-founder of Women in Black Belgrade and the Counseling SOS Line for Lesbians.
- **Ana Gallego Torres** – Representative of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission.
- **LBQ People of Color's Lived Realities in Europe** – Presentation of EL*C data with: **Aldessa Georgiana Lincan** (Director of the Romnja Feminist Library; intersectional feminist with over a decade of grassroots activism for Roma women's rights), **Alba Hernandez**, and **Dr. Nat Arias** (Black queer and trans activist-researcher focused on action research supporting racialized queer and immigrant women in Europe).

▪ 11:30–13:00 | Plenary Session III: Lesbian Fury vs. Fascist Fear

Room Born in Flames

Speakers:

- **MC: Dena:** If you've already seen her, then Dena is your favorite queer Iranian stand-up comedian. If not, then she will be. Dena is a gaycon, a warrior princess, but above all a top-tier act in the Belgian stand-up scene.
- **Evgenia Giakoumopoulou** – Head of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Unit, Council of Europe
- **Lydie Raër** – Activist with Les Dévalideuses, a collective fighting for the rights of disabled women; elected Councilwoman in Ivry-sur-Seine, France
- **Inna Michaeli** – Feminist lesbian queer activist and sociologist with many years of deep involvement in feminist and LGBTQI+ struggles, political education, and organizing by and for migrant women, as well as Palestine liberation and solidarity. Her latest adventure: co-parenting baby revolutionaries in a queer family constellation. Executive Director of AWID
- **Kath Browne** – Professor of Social and Cultural Geographies at University College Dublin; co-founder of the Lesbian Lives Conference
- **Eva Sassi Croce** – Radical transfeminist ARTivist, member of Non Una di Meno Modena
- **Ilaria Todde** – EL*C Advocacy Dykerector
- **Shadi Amin** (she/they) is a pioneering Iranian lesbian feminist and coordinator of the Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network (6Rang). A leading writer and researcher, she has authored key works on LGBTI rights in Iran, including *Gender X* and *Crime and Impunity*.
- **Kim Van Sparrentak** – Dutch politician, Member of the European Parliament, and Co-Chair of the LGBTI Intergroup

▪ 14:30–16:00 Parallel Sessions

➤ Bisexuals in the Lesbian Movement

Room Rafiki

This session invites bisexual exchange, networking, and open dialogue on bisexuality as both a site of discrimination and a source of activist potential. Through interactive discussion, participants will explore definitions, lived realities, and the broader context of bisexuality within the lesbian movement.

Facilitator: Rhonda D'Vine is co-founder of Queer Polyamory Meetup Vienna, founding member of visiBi*lity Austria. She is a trans-feminine activist and a Board member of EL*C.

➤ **Bringing Lesbians to the Table: A Workshop on Advocacy with the EU Institutions**

Room Desert Hearts

This session is all about building stronger links between activists and institutions working on human rights, gender equality, and LGBTI rights. You'll hear directly from representatives of the European Commission, the LGBTI Intergroup of the European Parliament, the SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe, and the Office of the European Commissioner for Human Rights. We will present the work we've done—and continue to do—to ensure that lesbian rights are protected in Europe. Then we'll open the floor for questions, discussion, and shared experiences.

It will be a great chance to better understand how these institutions work and how we can collaborate with them. Whether you're new to advocacy or have years of experience, come join the conversation and help us lesbianise the European institutions!

Speakers:

- **Margherita Lo Grillo** – Policy Officer in the Non-Discrimination Unit of the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers at the European Commission, currently coordinating the preparation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy post-2025
- **Petra Kurtovic** – Secretary of the Intergroup for LGBTIQ Rights in the European Parliament
- **Tara Beattie** – Adviser in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
- **Evgenia Giakoumopoulou** – Head of the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Unit, Council of Europe
- **Franziska Rauchut**: Head of the Knowledge, Counselling, Innovation division of the Federal Foundation for Gender Equality in Germany

➤ **Antiracism 101 for the Fierce Lesbian* Warrior**

Room Bound

We all know racism is bad, but what is racism exactly? What is race? Where do we start to ensure a truly antiracist lesbian movement? What can I do? This workshop/one-lesbian show will offer some answers. Glittery slides provided and exciting conversations guaranteed!

Facilitator: Aïda Yancy (she/her) – Black feminist lesbian activist and former EL*C advocacy officer. Based in Belgium, she's an expert on antiracism, intersectionality, "safer spaces," and LGBTIQ+ issues.

➤ **Lesbian Resistance Against the Far Right**

Room Born in Flames

In the face of growing authoritarianism and anti-gender movements, how are lesbians* resisting far-right politics across Europe and beyond? This session brings together activists, researchers, and policymakers to share insights from the frontlines—highlighting strategies of resistance,

community organizing, and intersectional advocacy. From Kazakhstan to Brussels, from grassroots mobilization to institutional engagement, we explore how lesbian* voices are fighting back and building power.

Facilitator: Sara Garbagnoli – Sociologist and lesbian feminist, researcher and activist specializing in anti-gender campaigns and feminist theory. She is affiliated with the research centres LEGS (Université Paris 8) and PoliTeSsE (University of Verona). In 2023, she was awarded the Emma Goldman Award for her contributions to feminist scholarship.

Speakers:

- **Kim Van Sparrentak** – Member of the European Parliament (The Greens), Co-Chair of the LGBTI Intergroup. A proud lesbian working for humane digitalization and LGBTIQ+ rights at the EU level.
- **Zhanar Sekerbayeva** – Co-founder of Feminita (Kazakhstan), EL*C board member. A lesbian feminist, poet, and activist organizing under repressive conditions, including the first Lesbian Quryltai in Central Asia.
- **Anna Carastathis** – Co-founder and co-director of the Feminist Autonomous Centre for Research (Greece), political philosopher and co-investigator on the RESIST project, focused on countering anti-gender politics.
- **Jerca Frelih** – Content Creation Lead at the Institute of 8th March, involved in the *My Voice, My Choice* European Citizens' Initiative, advocating for abortion rights as a resistance to the far right.

➤ **Hands Off Lesbian Wallets! Defeating Poverty, Economic Hardship and Chronic Social Exclusion in Times of Global Crises and Gender Backlash (Part 1)**

Room Go Fish

Patriarchy, sexism, misogyny, and lesbophobia are not abstract forces—they are daily realities that actively oppress and marginalize lesbians across the globe. These intersecting systems of violence push many lesbians to the fringes of the economy, locking them out of fair employment, equal pay, and dignified working conditions. From higher rates of joblessness to rampant workplace discrimination and harassment, the economic exclusion lesbians face is systemic and deliberate.

This session is the first of a two-part conversation that will centre these realities. Grounded in data and the lived experiences of lesbians, it will delineate the principal obstacles faced by lesbians in economic life and expose how economic injustice is further compounded by ongoing financial crises and the relentless shrinking of civic space. Together, we'll name the problems, confront the structures that sustain them, and begin to build collective clarity.

This is just the beginning—the second session, held the next day, will focus on identifying actionable solutions, forward-looking strategies, and examples of successful interventions led by and for lesbians. Our economic future is ours to shape!

Facilitator: Dragana Todorović, Executive Co-Dyke-rector, EL*C

Speakers:

- **Isabelle Le Galo Flores** – Secretary-General of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), the official consultative body of the European Parliament, the European Council, and the European Commission, bridging together employers, trade unionists, and representatives of social, occupational, economic, and cultural organizations.
- **Elena Petrovska** – One of the most prominent lesbian activists from North Macedonia. Currently serving as a project coordinator at ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey, she leads the regional ERA Women Loving Women Caucus. In cooperation with the World Bank, ERA has been involved in pioneering data-gathering efforts on the position of LGBTI people in the labor market and the economic and fiscal costs of their exclusion.
- **Helena Vuković** – Leading lesbian activist from Serbia and founder of the unique organization “L-Communio,” which addresses the needs and interests of trans lesbians. Previously a senior military officer in the Serbian Army, she was dismissed due to her gender identity and has since faced numerous challenges in the labor market.
- **Reingard Wagner** – Lesbian activist from Germany working with *Lesben und Alter*, one of the few organizations globally focused exclusively on older lesbians and improving their socio-economic position. The group addresses issues such as the gender pension gap, access to healthcare, housing insecurity, isolation, and lack of family or social support, all of which place older lesbians at high risk of poverty.
- **Elvira Drangoi** – Moldovan human rights advocate and community organizer, known for her intersectional work supporting Roma, LGBTQ+, and youth communities. She is currently the Program Coordinator at *Femei pentru Femei*, a feminist organization where she also mentors the next generation of women activists in Moldova.

▪ **16:30–18:00 Parallel Sessions**

➤ **Dykestory: Preserving Our Future**

Room Born in Flames

This workshop explores how lesbians* across Europe are reclaiming and preserving their (her)stories through exhibitions, digital archives, podcasts, and books. From stories of love and resistance during WWII in French-speaking regions to a multimedia archive of Polish lesbian culture, participants will discover creative strategies of remembrance and activism.

Projects include a podcast on ILIS—the first international lesbian network—and a future digital archive based on Romania’s first lesbian history book. The Romnja Feminist Library preserves and promotes the knowledge of queer Roma women, while in Italy, the story of the lesbian movement of the 70s and 80s is brought to light in a groundbreaking publication.

Speakers:

- **Isabelle Sentis** – French lesbian art activist, performer, co-founder of Queer Code, and health advocate sharing the history of lesbian mobilization.
- **Agnieszka Małgowska** – Polish lesbian art activist, performer, archivist, co-founder of the Women's Creative Tandem and the Lesbian* Virtual Archive (L*AW).
- **Virginie Jortay** – Theatre and music director, podcast and radio documentary creator, author of *Ces enfants-là* and *Ruptures* (Those kids).
- **Alex Zorilă** – Lesbian activist and cultural producer from Romania; author of *Spații Aparte* (Separate Spaces) and founder of Vulgar Association, supporting sapphic communities.
- **Aldessa Georgiana Lincan** – Director of the Romnja Feminist Library; intersectional feminist with over a decade of grassroots activism for Roma women's rights.
- **Elena Biagini** – Independent researcher and author of *L'emersione imprevista* (The unexpected emergence), documenting the Italian lesbian movement of the 70s and 80s.
- **Evien Tjabbes** – Co-founder of ILIS and Herstory Avengers, EL*C board member, and former intercultural trainer.

➤ Lesbians* on the Frontlines: War, Protest, and Resistance

Room Desert Hearts

In contexts of war, occupation, authoritarianism, and mass protest, lesbian* voices are often erased. Yet across regions, lesbians* have long resisted militarism, built care networks, and challenged dominant narratives of both war and peace.

This session brings together lesbian* activists from Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Iran, and Italy to speak from the frontlines of repression, survival, and resistance. We will ask:

Where are lesbians* in moments of crisis? What forms of solidarity, subversion, and survival do we create—locally and across borders? Through personal stories and political reflections, this dialogue highlights the power and urgency of lesbian* presence in global struggles for justice and freedom.

Facilitator: Mari Kurtanidze (they/she) – Queer feminist activist, human rights lawyer, and co-founder of the grassroots movement Lesbian Resistance* and Georgia's first queer techno series, HOROOM Nights.

Speakers:

- **Nino Kharchilava** – Georgian queer activist, gender studies scholar, and trainer in integrated security. She works on creating safe spaces for queer and feminist women and is currently Research and Education Coordinator at WISG.
- **Taisiia Gerasymova** – Head of the Project Office at Insight NGO (Ukraine), digital journalist, cybersecurity trainer, and co-author of *How to Write About LGBT?*.

- **Zhanar Sekerbayeva** – Co-founder of Feminita (Kazakhstan), a lesbian feminist, poet, and powerlifter. Organized the First Lesbian Quryltai in Central Asia and holds a PhD from the University of Tsukuba, Japan.
- **Shadi Amin** (she/they) – Pioneering Iranian lesbian feminist and coordinator of the Iranian Lesbian and Transgender Network (6Rang). A leading writer and researcher, she has authored key works on LGBTI rights in Iran, including *Gender X* and *Crime and Impunity*. Shadi is known for her advocacy against forced sex change practices and her work with UN mechanisms to defend LGBTI rights under the Islamic Republic regime.

➤ **Antiracist Community Space for Racialized Lesbians***

Room Bound

Do you experience racism? Are you looking for other Roma, Black, and/or otherwise racialized lesbians* to gather, discuss, strategize, or create new alliances? We are closing the doors and creating a bubble. Who knows what could emerge? The possibilities are endless. *(To ensure a conducive environment, this space is held in “non-mixité” and reserved for those who personally experience racism in “white contexts.” If you have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the info desk.)*

➤ **Sport Is Not Political. Or Is It?**

Room Go Fish

This workshop explores the intersection of sport and politics, highlighting how sport can serve both as a platform for political expression and a reflection of socio-political climates—especially for lesbians, trans women, and non-binary people. It offers a deeper understanding of how sports can influence, and be influenced by, political agendas and examines the implications of these dynamics on both individual and collective levels.

Speakers:

- **Sara Towdsen** – Sarah Townsend is former co-president of the European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation and a vice chair of ENGSO’s Equality Within Sport Committee. She also served on the European Commission’s High-Level Group on Gender Equality in Sport and co-founded Activ’Elles04 to promote women’s sport in rural areas.
- **Charl Galloway** – Member of the organising committee for EuroGames 2027; Chairperson of Cardiff Dragons FC, Wales’ first LGBTQ+ football club; founder of the Her Game Too football training centre.
- **Agathe Duclos** – *Debrief du Vestiaire*.
- **Marine Gaillard** – Manager of a les.bi.an and queer bar in Brussels, Marine spends part of her free time playing football. She is part of Broussailles, a lesbian and queer football

collective that fights for greater equality and creates space for connection, expression, and lightness.

- **Marie Patouillet** – Paralympic athlete, gold medallist at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, and activist.

➤ **Antiracist Self-Exploratory Space for White Lesbians***

Room Rafiki

This session is an intimate conversation—a moment of self-exploration and collective reflection on our role in dismantling white supremacy as people who are “perceived as white.” Grounded in antiracist practice and theory and based on Layla F. Saad's book *Me and White Supremacy*, this workshop offers the opportunity for deep, brave, and transformative reflection and exchange. Participants are encouraged to attend the previous Antiracism 101 for the Fierce Lesbian* Warrior (at 14:30).

To ensure a conducive environment, this space is held in “non-mixité” and reserved for people who are perceived as white, including those with a history of migration or who are “white-passing.” If you have questions or need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact the info desk.

▪ **18:00–20:00 Self-Organized Sessions**

Several slots will be available for self-organized spaces between 18:00 and 20:00. These spaces are open to participants who wish to initiate discussions, share experiences, or explore topics of their choice. A sign-up sheet will be available in the plenary room on a first-come, first-served basis. To claim a slot, simply write down your name and the topic you'd like to propose.

➤ **KinkyGirls performances and screening**

Room Bound

A talk and bondage performance by Proudence Baelish (performer, kink advisor and activist). This session will also include screening of the first-ever preview of the documentary on the KinkyGirls collective.

➤ **And many others...**

▪ **18:00–20:00 Office Hours with Mama Cash and RFSL.**

Room Portrait of Lady on Fire

Looking to connect with funders? Join our partners **Mama Cash** and **RFSL** for informal office hours. This is an opportunity for LBQ+ groups to meet Mama Cash and RFSL representatives, ask questions, and learn more about funding opportunities and support.

- **18:30–20:00 “Lesvia” by Tzeli Hadjidimitriou**

Room Born in Flames

Documentary, 2024 – 1h 18min – Main language is English with English subtitles. Since the 1970s, lesbians from around the world have been drawn to the island of Lesbos, birthplace of the ancient Greek poet Sappho. When they find paradise in a local village and build their own lesbian community, tensions begin to rise with local residents. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

- **21:00–23:00 “Io non sono nessuno” by Geraldine Ottier**

Room Born in Flames

Fiction Film, 2024 - 1h 23min – in Italian with English subtitles.

A powerful portrait of the life and courage of activist and journalist Mariasilvia Spolato—the first woman in Italy to publicly come out as homosexual. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the director.

5.4 26 April

- **9:30 – 11:00 Parallel sessions**

➤ **Are the Kids Alright?!**

Room Born in Flames

This interactive workshop opens a collective conversation on lesbian* motherhood. Using the fishbowl format, speakers will spark dialogue on lesbian* families in diverse contexts and the activism behind securing recognition of parental and family rights. From strategic litigation to community organizing, join us—and don't hesitate to dive in!

Speakers:

- **Tania Irias** (she/her) – Lesbian feminist and mother from Nicaragua, now living in Spain as a refugee. Active with Artemisa Migrantes y Refugiadas, she brings insight into the realities of queer migrant families.
- **Aleksandra Gavrilović** (she/her) – Education Program Coordinator at Labris (Serbia) and mother of three.
- **Sofia Burini** (she/her) – Trainee lawyer in Italy, specialized in labor law and legal scholar focusing on LGBTQ+ parenthood.

- **Xheni Karaj** (she/her) – Executive Director of Aleanca LGBT (Albania), advocating for legal recognition of same-sex unions and parenting. Currently engaged in strategic litigation with her partner.
- **Mariyam** (she/her) – Feminist journalist and researcher from Tajikistan, based in Kazakhstan. Her work focuses on Islam and queer women's experiences, especially in refugee contexts.
- **Eva Perez** (she/her) – Spanish lawyer and lesbian mother, Co-chair of EL*C. She brings perspective from a country with legal protections for LGBTQ+ families.
- **Aïda Yancy** (she/her) – Black feminist lesbian activist and former EL*C advocacy officer. Based in Belgium, she shares her experience as a mother of three and expert on antiracism and advocacy.
- **Angelica Polmonari** (she/her) – Italian transfeminist lesbian, Co-Secretary of EL*C. Active in both the Italian lesbian movement and ELC's response to discrimination against lesbian mothers in Italy.
- **Pre-recorded Speech: Laura-Rose Thorogood** (she/her) – Lesbian mother of four, LGBTQ+, maternity and fertility activist, and CEO & Founder of the global organization LGBT Mummies.

➤ **Hands On Lesbian Wallets! Harnessing Resources and Collaboration Towards an Economic Dykerise (Part 2)**

Room Go Fish

This second part of the discussion is all about action—how we build economic systems that work *for* lesbians, not against us. After confronting the intersecting forces of patriarchy, lesbophobia, and economic exclusion in the first session, this conversation will spotlight the tools, strategies, and community power needed to create change.

We'll explore economic empowerment opportunities and the possibility of setting up an economic networking platform that would connect and support LBQ women globally with business, finance and entrepreneurship. We will also investigate the use of AI in helping us gather the missing data about our economic realities, and how we can use that knowledge to drive and finance our economic empowerment plans.

At this session, will also hear about examples and experiences of existing economic empowerment programs and businesses, as well as what is in the plans for the future. This session isn't just about economic inclusion—it's about reclaiming space, creating opportunity, and reshaping the economy in ways that reflect our lives, needs, and visions. Come ready to connect, strategize, and move from insight to impact.

Facilitator: Dragana Todorović, Executive Co-Dykelector, EL*C

Speakers:

- **Lee Badgett** – Economist, author, and one of the most well-known academics focusing on the economic effects of discrimination and violence against LGBTI people. She develops ideas and knowledge on how LGBTI people can gain economic power and lead better lives. Lee is a Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a co-founder of Koppa – The LGBTI+ Economic Power Lab, with a mission to unleash global LGBTI+ economic power through knowledge, financing, and connection.
- **Naomi Fine & Kathy Levinson** – Founders of LesbianGlobal (USA), an organization connecting lesbian philanthropists to bridge critical funding gaps and leverage data to raise awareness about the systemic discrimination and invisibility faced by LBQ women globally, with a focus on economic empowerment. Over the past year, they have worked intensively with lesbian groups around the world to use artificial intelligence to generate data on the economic realities of LBQ women and turn it into action and funding opportunities.
- **Marine, Agathe & Cécile** – Lesbian activists from Belgium running *Crazy Circle*, an iconic lesbian-bi-trans bar in Brussels. The bar has become a key, sustainable pillar of the lesbian movement in Brussels—created by and for lesbians.
- **Dužanka Tomašević** is a queer activist from Serbia working for Labris, one of the oldest lesbian organizations in the Balkans. Throughout its existence, Labris has been centering the socio-economic wellbeing of lesbians, particularly through different educational programs aimed at improving the position of the lesbian community in the labor market through skills and knowledge development, information sharing, as well as by working with businesses and national authorities.
- **Mari Kurtanidze** – Queer feminist activist involved in various queer feminist initiatives in Georgia and internationally for over 12 years. Co-founder of Georgia's first queer techno night series *HOROOM Nights* and of the grassroots, non-formal, non-hierarchical group *Lesbian Resistance**.

➤ Banners-Making for Dyke March

Room Bound

Get creative and make your voice seen! Join us for a hands-on banner-making workshop in preparation for the Dyke March happening the next day. Whether you come with a clear message or just the urge to express yourself, this is the space to craft bold, powerful, and visible statements of resistance, pride, and solidarity. All materials will be provided – just bring your ideas, your energy, and your rage or joy (or both)! Let's make sure our messages are impossible to ignore!

Facilitator: Isabel Sophie (she/her) – Women's and lesbian rights activist from Germany who recently moved to Slovenia for love. She is currently active in and around Slovenia and Austria. In 2021, she founded the *Dyke March Ruhr**, an organisation advocating for the rights and visibility of lesbian and queer women, as well as FLINTA+ persons. In addition to organising Dyke* Marches, the organisation aims to bring public attention to broader issues of feminism and equal rights, while also working to connect and empower marginalized communities.

➤ Creating a Common Strategy for Trans and Lesbian Healthcare

Room Desert Hearts

In the face of growing repression, this workshop invites participants into a dialogue on the current challenges and shared realities of trans and lesbian healthcare. Expanding beyond cisgender lesbian healthcare, we will focus on the diverse experiences and needs of transgender lesbians and nonbinary people across borders.

Together, we will explore often-overlooked issues such as the intersections of race, migration, queerness, neurodivergence, and eating disorders, as well as the political impact on access to healthcare for trans and lesbian communities. We'll also discuss how to strengthen support strategies rooted in community care, resistance, and collective action.

Facilitator: Elisa Ellis Manici (they/she) – Journalist, writer, independent researcher on fatness and neurodivergence, and activist. Author of *Grass* (2021).

Speakers:

- **Isa Borrelli** (he/they) – Author and political communication strategist. Independent researcher on trans politics and member of the Centre for Research on Politics and Theories of Sexuality (Politesse).
- **Dr. Nat Arias** (they/them) – Black queer and trans activist, researcher, and educator based in the UK. Specializes in postcolonial gender studies and racialized queer women's experiences, and works with Black and racialized transfeminist communities across Europe.
- **Tanja von Knorring** – Transgender rights expert. A key figure in the reform of Finland's trans law. Currently Executive Director of Transfeminiinit, Vice-Chair of the Federation of LGBTI Organisations in Finland (SETA), and former Co-Chair of TGEU – Transgender Europe and Central Asia.
- **Rhonda D'Vine** (she/her, per/pers) – Intersectional activist based in Vienna, Austria. Active in numerous organizations; her group Venib developed a handout for medical professionals to better support TIN* individuals.

➤ Lesbianizing AI

Room Rafiki

What does it mean to tear AI away from the grip of patriarchy and heteronormativity? In this hands-on workshop, artist and researcher Andela Tomić exposes the mechanics of machine learning—how models are trained, whose stories are fed in, and whose are silenced. Together, we'll hack the system, reimagine datasets, and explore how to embed lesbian presence, language, and resistance into the heart of AI. This is not just about queering tech—it's about reclaiming it.

Facilitator: Andela Tomić: “Being a teenager in the '80s, when the first 8-bit personal computers were illuminating our homes, was great luck. Opening devices and learning what was inside was

just part of the game. For me, hacking came naturally—because as a lesbian, I also had to hack identities and roles from a very young age, to find my way to myself, to be who I am, to be free. Hacking means freedom.”

- **11:30 Final Group Photo (Born in Flames Room)**

- **11:30–13:00 Plenary Session IV: Marching the Storm Toward a Lesbian Future Room Born in Flames**

Speakers:

- **Palestinian queer activist** – Works at the intersection of queer rights and Palestinian liberation, emphasizing the inseparability of personal and political freedom.
- **Mari Kurtanidze** – Queer feminist activist, human rights lawyer, and SOGIESC researcher from Georgia.
- **Xheni Karaj** – Albanian LGBT rights activist; co-founder and current executive director of Aleanca LGBT.
- **Carolina Morace** – Member of the European Parliament, former footballer, head coach, and journalist.
- **Marie Patouillet** – Paralympic athlete, gold medalist at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, and activist.
- **Joëlle Sambi Nzeba** – Author, poet, spoken word artist (slammer), and filmmaker.
- **Dragana Todorovic and Eva Perez** - EL*C Executive Co-Dykeirector and EL*C Chair

- **15:30–19:00 Dyke March**

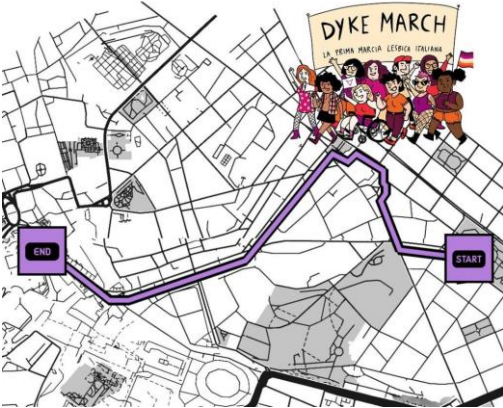
The first Dyke March in Italy is organized by a collective of Italian lesbian activists in conjunction with EL*C Conference, this historic event aims to celebrate lesbian visibility and solidarity.

This Dyke March will be a powerful statement against the erasure and marginalization of lesbians in society. It stands as a declaration of existence against heteronormativity and rigid gender roles, emphasizing that lesbians are crucial in challenging patriarchal systems. This march aims to reclaim the power of lesbian love, vision, anger, intelligence, and strategy. It underscores the importance of unity among lesbians, including women*, bisexual women*, queer individuals, non-binary people, trans persons, femmes, butches, and others. The march is firmly antifascist, opposing the oppressive policies of the current political climate in Italy and beyond. It advocates for reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, and stands in solidarity with all marginalized communities facing systemic oppression.

Join us in making herstory and amplifying lesbian visibility in Italy!

ROMA DYKE MARCH 2025

APRIL 26, 15H30 CET
PIAZZA VITTORIO EMANUELE II



ROMA DYKE MARCH 2025

APRIL 26, 15H30 CET
PIAZZA VITTORIO EMANUELE II

START P.ZZA VITTORIO EMANUELE II

ROUTE
VIA DELLO STATUTO
VIA MERULANA
P.ZZA S. MARIA MAGGIORE
VIA DELL'ESQUILINO
P.ZZA DELL'ESQUILINO
VIA CAVOUR
LARGO CORRADO RICCI

ARRIVAL VIA DEI FORI IMPERIALI



- **Starting Point:** Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II
- **Route:**
 - Via dello Statuto
 - Via Merulana
 - Piazza Santa Maria Maggiore
 - Via dell'Esquilino
 - Piazza dell'Esquilino
 - Via Cavour
 - Largo Corrado Ricci
- **Arrival Point:** Via dei Fori Imperiali

Transportation:

Shuttle buses will be organized to bring participants from the conference hotel to the Dyke March starting point at Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II.

Planned bus departures:

- First departure: 14:00
- Second departure: 15:00
- Third departure: 16:00

Participants who received a scholarship for the conference are kindly asked to take the first bus at 14:00.

- **21:00–03:00 DYKES RISE - Dyke March After-PARTY 2025**

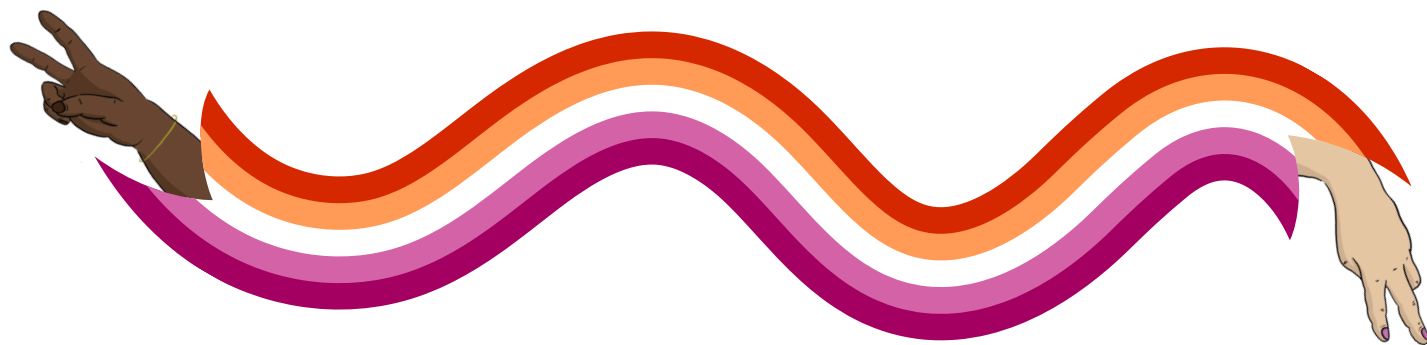
ALIBI Club Roma, Via di Monte Testaccio, 44/40, 00153 Roma

After a weekend of powerful conversations, community, and resistance, join us for the closing party! Hosted by the Safffo collective, this is a night to celebrate, dance, and connect.

Featuring a performance by Joëlle Sambi Nzeba (*Not All Men*)

...and many more “safffik” surprises!

Buy your tickets [HERE](#).



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