

COCKTAIL



Project for LGBT newcomers

WHAT IS COCKTAIL?

Cocktail is a project from COC Nijmegen for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) 'newcomers': asylum seekers/ refugees and migrants.

WHAT ARE COCKTAIL'S GOALS?

- Cocktail wants to help reduce the isolation that LGBT newcomers might feel in their community and introduce them into the Dutch society in a safe way.
- Cocktail wants to help improve the social climate for/and the safety of, LGBT newcomers and migrants in the Netherlands

LGBT's are being discriminated against and threatened in large parts of the world. In some countries they are imprisoned or even sentenced to death. Often fleeing is the only option. They have to leave family and friends behind for an uncertain future in a strange country. In addition, the sexual orientation of LGBT refugees is often not accepted or tolerated by their fellow newcomers, just like in their country of origin. This can lead to severe forms of threat, isolation, feelings of anxiety, depression or worse.

WHAT DOES COCKTAIL DO?

Buddy contact

Cocktail organises buddy contact between LGBT newcomers and a Cocktail volunteer

- After an initial interview Cocktail tries to find a suitable buddy, considering both the language and wishes of the newcomer.
- If there is a 'click' between the buddy and the newcomer, they can make arrangements about the activities that they want to do together, when and where, etc.

Cocktail buddies don't offer legal, medical, mental or financial help. If needed, the newcomer will be referred to professional organisations. Participation is free. Cocktail pays for expenses for travel, but not for refreshments, etc.

Asylumseekers Support Group

By organising meetings and activities Cocktail wants to create a social network where people can be themselves and feel accepted. This is

hopefully a pleasant way of integrating into Dutch (LGBT) society. In Nijmegen the group is called 'Asylumseekers Support Group'. Every second Tuesday this group meets in the Nijmegen Pink House (Roze Huis). Registration is required. Participants set the agenda prior to each event. Activities start at 19 hours (7:00 pm). At the end of each meeting, the group goes for drinks in a well known gay- and lesbian bar in the city (Café de Mets).

Also, groupmembers visit gay events, such as the Kiss Kiss Club (gay party), Pink Wednesday and the Canal Parade in Amsterdam.

Information and publicity

With targeted information Cocktail wants to improve the position of foreign LGBT's in centres for asylum seekers and in Dutch society.

Cooperation

Cocktail is fully run by volunteers. To achieve its goals Cocktail explicitly strives for collaboration with refugee and migrant organisations, as well as other aid organisations.

WHAT'S MORE...

To guarantee the necessary integrity and quality, a Cocktail volunteer is screened carefully regarding motivation, suitability and trustworthiness. Courses and lectures are offered to the volunteers to improve their competence.

CONTACT

Do you know an LGBT newcomer who might be interested in Cocktail, or are you an LGBT newcomer yourself? Please contact us! We welcome all reactions, questions and ideas.

Cocktail Nijmegen

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