

COCKTAIL



Buddy project for LGBT newcomers



WHAT IS COCKTAIL?

Cocktail is a buddy project from COC Midden-Nederland 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 an LGBT newcomer 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, but Cocktail does not pay expenses for travelling, refreshments, etc.

Social activities

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.

Information and publicity

With targeted information Cocktails wants to improve the position of foreign LGBTs 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 organizations, 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

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