

Press Release

22 December 2015
For immediate release

Referendum in Slovenia



Rainbow Rose was disappointed by the results of the referendum on same-sex marriage held on December 20, 2015. When looking closely at the figures, Rainbow Rose would like to stress the **very low turn out of 36%**, and also the 36% of people who supported the recent legislation on same-sex marriage in Slovenia.

Tanja Fajon, Slovenian MEP from the S&D Group and Vice-President of the LGBTI Intergroup, reacted: *"It is shameful that a little more than 20 percent of the electorate has been able to block an amendment which does nothing more than giving people the rights that they should have had already long ago."*

"I am confident, though, that we can work to fight legal discrimination against LGBTI Slovenians, building on the strong parliamentary support for full equality."¹

Rainbow Rose would like to **thank our PES Slovenian sister party, Socialni demokrati**, member of the current Government coalition in Slovenia, for its strong support during the campaign. It was also impressive to see the strong mobilisation of **our members, politicians and activists from all over Europe** to support the party and the « ČAS JE ZA» campaign² on social media. In contrast, we denounce the direct and strong implication of the Catholic Church, including its Highest Representative, in this referendum.

Rainbow Rose will support new initiatives from the Slovenian Government in order to reinforce the rights of same-sex couples in Slovenia, in the framework of the current existing civil-union, while taking into consideration the results of the referendum. Nevertheless, **all options, including challenging the lack of legitimacy of this referendum, shall be looked at** as well. This referendum was an attempt to overturn a law debated in the Parliament in order to give equal rights to a minority, **in line with basic international Human Rights principles**, and it is a pity that it can be overturned so easily by a minority of voters.

Ends

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Notes for editors:

1. Rainbow Rose is the network for the LGBT groups of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties across Europe. It gathers 30 structures.
2. Rainbow Rose is affiliated (associate member) to the Party of European Socialists (PES) and works with the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats (S&D Group) in the European Parliament
3. You can find more about Rainbow Rose on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RainbowRose.eu) its website (www.rainbowrose.eu) and Twitter (@RainbowRose_PES)

¹ <http://www.lgbt-ep.eu/press-releases/slovenians-vote-against-marriage-equality/>

² <http://casjeza.si>