

The Netherlands is one of the most homonationalist countries in the world. It had an active 'third sex' movement before the Second World War, and was the first country in the world to introduce legal same-sex marriage, in 2001. For years there was an apparent cross-party consensus in favor of LGBTI rights, although progress had largely stalled. However, in November 2023 the far-right PVV emerged from national elections as the biggest party, and on 2 July 2024 a far-right-dominated coalition government took office. Partly as a result, pro-LGBTI rights forces are on the defensive, and earlier gains have begun to be rolled back.

Even before this right wing government took office, the right-wing majority in the upper house of parliament refused to pass a bill proposed by the previous government to make a legal change of gender easier. LGBTIQ people are divided. For example, right-wing protests against drag queen story hours have sometimes been led by right-wing gay men (particularly in Rotterdam, the Netherlands' second-biggest city).

For decades LGBTI movements - particularly the biggest LGBTI organization, the COC - have been led by an alliance of centre-right and centre-left parties. Now, however, the biggest traditional bourgeois party, the VVD, is in government with the far right. The far right itself has sometimes succeeded in winning gay (mostly male) votes, largely on a basis of anti-Muslim fearmongering and racism.

The COC condemned the far right in a statement after the election and expressed solidarity with the communities under attack, but this rhetorical solidarity has not been translated much into action so far. It has in the past attempted outreach to racialized LGBTIQ people and given aid to LGBTIQ communities in countries where they are under attack, but not actively joined in anti-racist or anti-imperialist mobilizations.

There is an active radical queer current in the Netherlands, which has been vocal and active against racism and in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, even if most LGBTIQ people in the country are probably not particularly aware of its existence. Within this active radical queer current, new queer/kink communities have been founded (particularly in Amsterdam). Some of them came out of the movement against the mainstreamization of Pride and they have achieved some gains, such as lengthening the Pride week and organizing the first week of this year's Pride. This first week is focused mostly on cisgender-free activities and prioritizing BIPOC people. More queer spaces such as queer barbers and queer gyms are being founded, which also serve as spaces for community-making.

There are LGBTIQ groups in several trade unions, though largely institutionalized.