

# **PRIDE UNITES COPENHAGEN INTO A RAINBOW FESTIVAL**

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The Parade for LGBTQ+ rights started the 19th of august 2023 at Frederiksberg city hall. It was a clash of colors, music and joy, when trucks filled with happy people celebrating the acceptance and appreciation of diversity in sexuality and identity started driving their way through the streets of Copenhagen.

The parade lasts from 13:00 o'clock to 17:00. For the first time in Copenhagen pride history, the trucks are 100% electric, and they roam the streets, while people are having a party and drinking and dancing. But the festival is not only for people who want to party, everybody is welcome. Both kids, young people and elderly people have come to celebrate the rights of free sexuality. But the pride doesn't stop at 17:00, it continues with a lot of fun activities and when it is midnight the fun culminates into one big party.

Already in the 1970's there were held smaller pride events in Copenhagen. And in 1996 the pride parade started, when Copenhagen was a European culture city. In 2009 the parade grew even bigger. Pride week is known for its over 100 activities throughout the week and its big parade held on Saturday.

The Danish story about LGBTQ+ community is a story about oppression, invisibility, resistance, union and victory. Homosexuality was illegal in Denmark until 1933 - at least for men. The danish law from 1683 said that Circumvention that is against nature gets punished with a fire and burning. In 1866 it changed from death penalty to home improvement work. The 1st of January 1933 it became legal for grown men to have sex together, over the age of 18.

At the end of the 18th century and for many years to come, medical science was convinced that homosexuality was due to an error in the homosexual's genes, and that homosexuality should therefore be considered an uncaused mental illness that could be cured with treatments such as hypnosis and electroshock. First in 1981 homosexuality was erased from the ministry of health list of mental illnesses.

Therefore, Pride week and the pride parade is an important operation to raise awareness about the rights of LGBTQ+ people.