

tion based on sexual orientation (and other factors) in employment, access to goods and services, accommodations, financial and professional services, education, transport, entertainment, recreation and cultural activities.

Kieran Rose, co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Equality Network calls the bills "a formidable advance promising us comprehensive protections on which we can build to take our full place in Irish society."

"When these laws are put alongside the many previous advances, our legislation now ranks among the world's best," Rose said.

**ISRAEL**

Jerusalem's first pride celebration, held June 5, included films, a party, and the First National Conference of Gay and Lesbian Students.

The events were produced by The Other 10%, Hebrew University's gay and lesbian student union. For more information about the group, e-mail asiron@hotmail.com or visit its Web site (www.netforward.com/poboxes/?asiron).

**MEXICO**

Mexico City's 19th pride parade is set for June 28 at 3 pm.

"We will demonstrate in favor of the urgent necessity to create a climate of dignity, legality, respect and harmony with respect to the human and employment rights of the gay-lesbian population, indispensable in today's Mexico," said a spokesman.

**THE NETHERLANDS**

The government of Utrecht is in the midst of a two-month extravaganza of queer films, theater, visual arts, music, street art, literature, sports and dance.

The project is designed to show the richness and diversity of queer culture in hopes of reducing discrimination.

The city also brought to town sexual minority groups from Utrecht's sister cities—Brno, Czech Republic, and Len, Nicaragua.

Throughout the two months, the bells of Utrecht Dom tower—the city's highest church tower—are playing a specially composed "Pink Spring" song hourly.

Utrecht is a longtime member of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.

**NEW ZEALAND**

New Zealand is considering changes to its discriminatory immigration policy. At present, foreign spouses are granted immediate residency, while foreign "de facto" spouses must wait two years and foreign gay and lesbian partners must wait four years.

Sexual minority activists are pushing for a standardized law and ask that letters on the matter be sent to the Honorable Max Bradford, Minister of Immigration, Parliament House, Wellington, New Zealand.

**PAKISTAN**

Afridi tribesmen in Bara flogged a man and a boy in public in May after they were caught having sex in a public toilet.

Hundreds of spectators reportedly cheered as Mohammad Zaman, 38, was lashed 75 times and Fahimullah, 14, was whipped 32 times.

Maulana Abdul Hadi and tribal elders sentenced the men after they confessed, local media reported.

The Pakistani government has been trying to topple Hadi and his self-styled Tanzeem-i-Ulema government, according to United Press International.

**POLAND**

Fifty-seven percent of Poles voted to approve

the nation's new anti-gay constitution on May 25.

The document outlaws same-gender marriage and guarantees the right to religious instruction in public schools.

A clause prohibiting anti-gay discrimination did not make it to the final draft, which states: "Nobody can be discriminated against based on any grounds in political, social or economic life."

The same-gender marriage ban reads: "Marriage being a relationship between woman and man, the family, motherhood and parenthood are under the protection and care of the Republic of Poland."

**SWITZERLAND**

Switzerland is updating its constitution to reflect rights established by court rulings, but sexual minorities are being left out.

On April 22, parliament's Constitutional Committee refused to add "sexual orientation" to the proposed new anti-discrimination clause.

The groups Pink Cross and Swiss Lesbian Organization lobbied heavily and staged a large protest in Bern, the capital, on May 31.

Members of 35 organizations joined the demonstration in front of the House of Parliament. In the evening, gay cabarets, concerts, movies and parties were presented across the city.

For further information, write Pink Cross, Schwulenbuero Schweiz, Box 7512, CH-3001 Bern, Switzerland; e-mail pinkcross@ilga.org; phone 011-41-31-372-3300; or fax 011-41-31-372-3317.

**ZIMBABWE**

Dozens of male students and former associates are now accusing former Zimbabwean President Canaan Banana of sexual assault and harassment.

Banana, 61, was sued for \$115,000 on April 10 by a policeman aide who says Banana raped him and forced him into a three-year sexual relationship from 1983 to '86.

The policeman, Jefta Duba, 35, is now in prison, convicted in February of the 1995 killing of a fellow cop who allegedly had called him "Banana's wife." During Duba's trial, former Senior Assistant Police Commissioner John Chademana said there had been "numerous intelligence reports" on Banana that made Duba's story believable.

Since the lawsuit was filed, allegations have begun "pouring in" from former students at the University of Zimbabwe (where Banana, a Methodist minister, chairs the religion department) and state security personnel, police said.

The authorities are also investigating four high-ranking officials who allegedly knew of complaints against Banana but took no action because he was president.

Banana is married with four children. He was president from 1980 to '87, while current President Robert Mugabe—who is strongly anti-gay—was prime minister. Banana has remained a key figure in Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front party.

**YEMEN**

A new AIDS center in Yemen is seeking financial and "spiritual" aid from abroad.

"The center lacks most of the fundamental equipment for culture, information and guidance," a spokesman wrote on-line. "The center also lacks...books, leaflets and journals. Needless to say, without these essentials it is almost impossible to provide information to the public or address them in an effective way."

To assist the facility, write AIDS, Al-salma Center for Health Education, PO Box 36010, Al-mahweet, Republic of Yemen; phone 011-967-7-404448; or fax 011-967-7-404240 or 404457.

Compiled by Rex Wockner



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