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## world

### INTERNATIONAL Pride Celebrated Worldwide

The annual Europride parade, held this year in Madrid, Spain, saw a turnout of more than 1 million people June 30. A four-day festival that started June 27 offered 200 cultural, sports and party events.

Marchers set off from the Puerta de Alcalá and headed down Alcalá Street and Gran Vía to the Plaza de España. The theme was "Now Europe! Equality Is Possible."

Activists singled out Poland for special criticism, and about 100 people staged a demonstration prior to the parade at the Polish Embassy. Recurring homophobic statements and actions by the nation's president and prime minister, who are twin brothers, has angered equality advocates continentwide.

The marchers included politicians, union leaders and federal Minister of Culture Carmen Calvo. The city of Madrid supported the event with \$136,000 in funding.

Spain is one of six nations where same-sex couples have access to full civil marriage.

### Paris and London

The same day as Europride, some 700,000 people took part in Paris' Gay Pride parade, including openly gay Mayor Bertrand Delanoë. The theme was "We Will Not Compromise on Equality."

Organizers demanded access to civil marriage, saying France's civil union law doesn't provide the same rights and benefits.

London also held its parade June 30, in a downpour. Tens of thousands, including Mayor Ken Livingstone and his two young children, joined the celebration despite the weather.

A concert followed in Trafalgar Square, where Livingstone and his kids appeared onstage along with out Member of Parliament Angela Eagle, the new junior treasury minister, and Labour Party Deputy Leader Harriet Harman, the new minister for women, whose responsibilities include gay rights issues.

### Mexico City

Mexico City held its annual parade June 30, too. About 200,000 people marched, and 300,000 spectators cheered them on.

"Loudspeakers on the floats blasted dated gay

material from Madonna to Cher, but I was encouraged to note some more culturally thoughtful floats with transgendered mariachi bands...and drag queens all dressed as Frida Kahlo with a bad hangover," said San Diegan Fergal O'Doherty, who is learning Spanish in Mexico this summer.

O'Doherty said "loads of other protesters for various anti-government causes joined in the parade," including a group of 800 indigenous men from Veracruz who danced naked on the Angel of Independence monument.

"The parade was supposed to be done and assembled for the party in the zócalo [central square] at 2 p.m., but it wasn't done until 5:45," O'Doherty said. "Then the fun really got serious. Some boy band badly lip-synced a song, and hundreds of teeny-bopper girls screamed and mobbed the stage. Then seven or eight very high-quality punk-rock and basic rock bands took the stage, and we had a grand time."

O'Doherty said the gay district, the Zona Rosa, was still so crowded at 2 a.m. "that we couldn't get into any bars."

### Santo Domingo, Cochabamba, Guayaquil, Panama City

Queers gathered June 28 at Duarte Park in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for their second annual Pride rally.

Dozens of lesbians showed up first, with rainbow flags, posters and pamphlets, said *El Diario*, then some gay men arrived "several hours later." The paper ran a photo of women wearing T-shirts that said, "I am lesbian because I like it and that's what I want."

Cochabamba, Bolivia, saw its first Pride celebration June 28 in the form of a fair in the city's main square, reported *Los Tiempos*. The city's first Pride march followed June 30. There was "an overflow of glamour, joy, luxury, color and respect" as thousands of Cochabambinos danced their way from the Plaza of the Flags to Columbus Plaza, the newspaper said.

The report added: "According to the participants in this parade, Cochabamban homosexuals were capable of taking on great risk to march because the satisfaction of feeling recognized and admired as women is so important to them that any sacrifice is worth it."



The Zona Rosa gay district was packed with revelers during Mexico City's Pride events.