

**Austria**

# **RKL Welcomes Call of Vienna Social-Democrats for Same-Sex Marriage**

**Rechtskomitee LAMBDA: No Statutory Ghettos but Equal Rights for All!**

**Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL), Austria's Lesbian and Gay Rights Organisation, with great pleasure welcomes Saturday's resolution of the Vienna Social-Democrat Party Convention calling for same-sex marriage and full adoption rights for same-sex couples. RKL now calls on the governing coalition to end resistance to equal rights.**

Ever more states are lifting one of the last prohibitions from marriage: the prohibition of marrying a person of the same sex. After the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada and parts of the USA the Republic of South Africa followed that suite. The Supreme Court of Appeals declared the limitation of marriage to opposite-sex couples to be in violation of human rights. Sweden is on its way to opening up of civil marriage for same-sex couples with the government studying the issue, and the Conseil d'Etat of Luxemburg criticized the government for proposing registered partnership; equal treatment could only be achieved by establishment of the equal right to marry.

Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL), Austria's lesbian and gay rights organization, for a while has been opposing separated legal institutions for same-sex couples and instead urges real equality by opening up civil marriage. The Social-Democratic Party, as the first of Austrian parties, took action in December 2004 when, in a resolution passed by the national party convention, pressing for the investigation of same-sex marriage. This investigation now lead the strongest branch of the Social Democratic Party, the Vienna branch, to explicitly call for medium-term opening up of marriage. Also hitherto restrictions of the Party's calls to stepparent-adoption are abandoned by the Vienna branch calling for full adoption rights (including joint adoption) for same-sex couples. The Vienna Social-Democrats thus are following the Green Party which has introduced such bills into federal parliament last year.

Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL) is looking forward to the next national party convention to follow suite and to the Social-Democrat MPs to support the Green same-sex marriage bill in parliament. And RKL calls on the governing coalition parties not to vote down the bill and let homo- and bisexual women and men enjoy real and full equality

"Registered partnership is the model of the past century", says Dr. Helmut Graupner, attorney-at-law and president of Rechtskomitee LAMBDA, "What we are in need of today are not statutory ghettos for homosexuals (registered partnership) and heterosexuals (marriage) but simply: Equal Rights for All!"

Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL), founded in 1991, on a supra-partisan and denominational level is working for the implementation of human rights for homo- and bisexual men and women. In its honorary board it convenes so prominent members as the Chairman of the Social-Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer, President MP Peter Schieder, MP Mag. Terezija Stoisits (Green Party), the well-known child and adolescent psychiatrist Univ.-Prof. Dr. Max Friedrich and the Ombudspersons for Children and Adolescents of Vienna DSA Monika Pinterits und Dr. Anton Schmid, the Secretary General of Amnesty International Austria Mag. Heinz Patzelt and the well-known human rights experts Dr. Lilian Hofmeister und Univ.-Prof. Dr. Manfred Nowak, the sexologists ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Josef Christian Aigner and Prof. Dr. Rotraud Perner, the theologian Univ.-Prof. Dr. Kurt Lüthi, entertainer Günter Tolar and many more.

The full text of the resolution:

<http://www.soho.or.at/soho/bilder/2006/04/Antrag411gleichvielrecht.pdf>

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