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## Bucharest Pride 2015



### *Invitation*

Your Excellency,

ACCEPT Association, represented by Florin Buhuceanu, Director, is honored to announce that Bucharest Pride 2015 will be held during the May 17<sup>th</sup> - May 23<sup>rd</sup> week. Bucharest Pride, now at its 11<sup>th</sup> edition, is the only festival in Romania promoting LGBTI rights. The main goal of the festival is **to raise awareness on issues such as solidarity, societal diversity and personal involvement as key aspects in achieving equality and true respect for human rights**. The Romanian LGBT community, as well as other groups facing discrimination and exclusion, need visibility in order to reach the hearts and minds of the general public. Societal acceptance and public recognition lead to empowerment, to the feeling that this country can be a place where members of the LGBT community, as well as other individuals facing discrimination, can be actors of change. Together, we can create a place where we can enjoy our rights and live our lives without fear of rejection, violence and discrimination.

Bucharest Pride represents the expression of the movement for civil rights of the LGBT people in Romania, an event which brings together **political and cultural activism**. During a week of events we will tackle the most important issues for the LGBT community through a variety of events, such as community building activities, film projections, art exhibits, discussions and debates.

This year in particular we would like to request your aid in promoting human rights values and LGBT rights among the Romanian political elite. Traditionally, Romanian politicians avoid discussing LGBT topics and lack awareness on the issues the community faces. To this end, we kindly request you extend an invitation to political figures representing your county for joining us for Pride. During Bucharest Pride, ACCEPT can organized a number of high level meetings between pro-LGBT rights politicians representing your country and members of the Romanian Parliament, as well as meetings with the leadership of the National Council for Combating Discrimination. Political socialization, we believe, is of paramount importance in our attempt to advocate LGBT rights and reach out to the Romanian political elite. Only with your support we can achieve true societal and political change.

Please find attached a draft schedule for your delegation. We are available for further information at your convenience.

Kind regards,  
Florin Buhuceanu, Director  
ACCEPT Association



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## Draft Schedule May 21<sup>st</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

**16:00 – 20:00** Meeting with ACCEPT representatives and LGBT rights activists

Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>

**09:00 – 13:00** Meeting at the Parliament with representatives of the Legal Committee and Human Rights Committee

Meeting with National Council for Combating Discrimination

Meeting with civil society representatives and human rights activists, members of the Anti-Discrimination Coalitions (human rights organizations, including Roma NGOs)

**13:00 – 14:00** Lunch

Public panel discussions on successful ways of combating homophobia and transphobia in area such as politics, education, healthcare, law enforcement.

Other participants include other political figures and activists.

Meetings with several pre-selected media

Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>

**16:00 – 18:00** Pride Parade

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

TBD