

2025

Annual **Work Report**
of the Association
Da se zna!



Executive Director's Address

Dear partners, associates, and friends of Da se zna!

Behind us is one of the most challenging years for the state of human rights in Serbia and, consequently, for LGBTQ+ rights as well. The year was marked by increasing pressure on human rights activists, students, marginalized groups, and all those who raised their voices in the struggle for a just society. We documented a record number of cases of hate speech and hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people in Serbia. There has been no progress in any aspect of LGBTQ+ people's lives—the Same-Sex Unions Law has still not been adopted, nor is it being publicly discussed; the Gender Identity Law is not even on the agenda; and trust in the institutions meant to protect us has reached a record low.

Despite all these challenges, the team at Da se zna! remained steadfast in its mission to be a pillar of support for LGBTQ+ people in Serbia and their voice in the most difficult moments. We worked diligently to map and document hate speech and hate crimes motivated by homophobia and transphobia, to provide legal and psychological support to those who experienced violence because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to ensure that the voice of the LGBTQ+ community is heard even in smaller towns across Serbia.

We will continue to stand by the community and will not abandon our core task—building a society in which there is no place for violence or discrimination on any grounds.

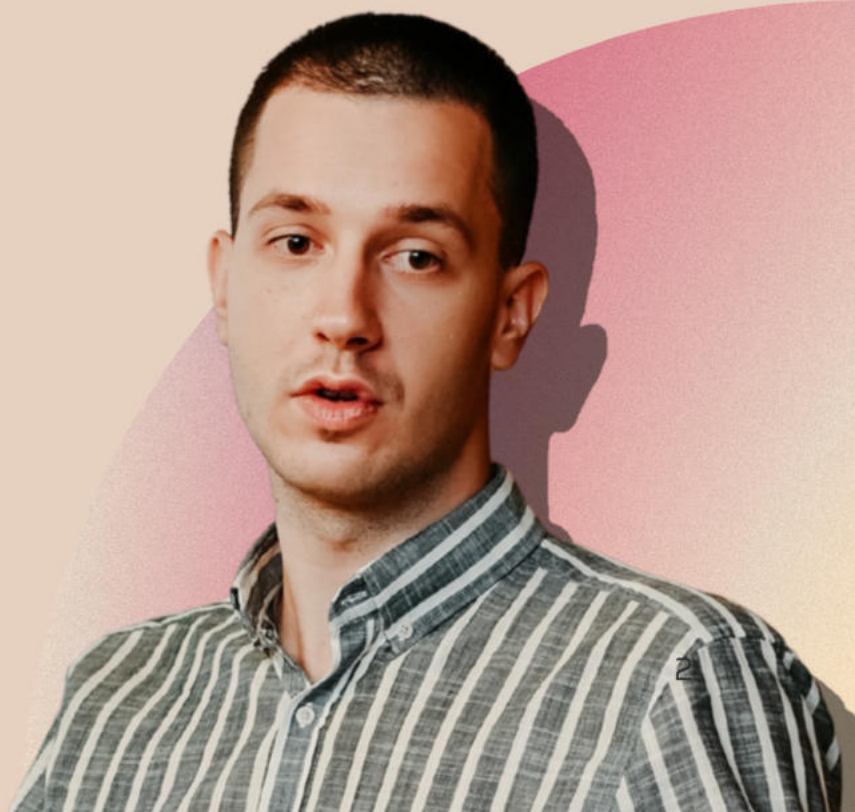


Table of Contents

- 3** Da se zna! in Numbers
- 4** Programs
- 5** Mapping and Documenting Incidents Motivated by Homophobia and Transphobia
- 6** Psychological Support Program
- 7** Legal Support Program
- 8** Education Program
- 9** Publications
- 12** Community Talks
- 14** School of LGBTQ+ Activism
- 17** Public Advocacy Program
- 19** Belgrade Pride
- 21** Pride Caravan
- 29** Promotion of the Report “Transphobia and Homophobia in Serbia 2024”
- 33** Award Ceremony for Outstanding Contribution to the LGBTQ+ Community
- 37** Where We’ve Been...
- 48** Looking Ahead

Da se zna! in Numbers

110

documented cases of violence and discrimination motivated by homo-transphobia

270

psychologist consultations via anonymous chat

50

individual psychotherapy sessions

10

submitted criminal complaints

150

provided legal consultations

Programs

Mapping and Documenting Incidents Motivated by Homophobia and Transphobia

In 2025, we documented a record 110 cases of violence, discrimination, hate speech, and other incidents motivated by homo-transphobia. On the one hand, this number indicates the growing trust the community places in our organization, with more individuals reaching out to us each year after experiencing an incident. On the other hand, it reflects a more thorough and higher-quality process of collecting and documenting the cases mapped by our team.

In the past two years, special attention has also been given to cases occurring in the online space, an area that had previously been neglected in our mapping and documentation process.

During 2025, Da se zna! provided 50 individual psychotherapy sessions for LGBT+ people in need of psychological support who were unable to afford it independently. In addition, we connected a large number of individuals who reached out to us for recommendations with our psychotherapists, ensuring they could be confident that their therapist was a qualified professional and that they would not face discrimination.

Our psychological support team, composed of young and highly skilled psychologists, works continuously throughout the year in various formats. Our anonymous chat with psychologists, held twice a week through our website, is one of the most frequently used services our organization offers. In 2025 alone, our psychologists conducted over 270 conversations via the anonymous chat. The psychological Q&A section on our Instagram account is also a form of support widely used by our community of followers, and in 2025 we provided as many as 115 expert responses and answers to questions received through this channel.

Additionally, this year we organized a psychological empowerment workshop for queer individuals, which—following highly positive participant feedback—is expected to be held again next year.

During 2025, the legal team of Da se zna! provided more than 150 free legal consultations to LGBTQ+ individuals who sought legal support. The team also filed 10 criminal complaints for hate speech and threats online, as well as for physical assaults motivated by homophobia and transphobia. We continued to advocate for faster and more effective prosecution of hate crimes and for improved institutional responses.

Education Program

The education program of Da se zna! is implemented in various forms and is aimed at different social groups. Our continuous online presence, with over 30,000 followers across our organization's profiles on Instagram, Facebook, X, and TikTok, provides us with an ongoing space for educating both our community and the broader public. Our publishing activities are also a key part of the education program, and this year we released several publications whose main goal is to educate the community, allies, and the wider public on various topics.

In addition, Da se zna! implements its education program through in-person community work, with a particular focus on queer people outside of Belgrade. Among these activities, we highlight our work with the queer community in Niš and Kragujevac as part of our Pride Caravan initiative, and especially the LGBTQ+ Activism School, through which this year we provided a four-day educational program for queer activists from cities across the country. Furthermore, during Pride Week, we organized our traditional Community Talks—a series of discussions aimed at bringing the community together in a safe and welcoming environment so that we can collectively discuss topics that are important to us.

During 2025, our organization produced four expert publications.

At the beginning of the year, we published “Zlatni i ostali kavezi: Rodno zasnovano i porodično nasilje nad kvir ženama” (“Golden and Other Cages: Gender-Based and Domestic Violence Against Queer Women”) which applies an intersectional approach to analyze the specific position of queer women in our society, the relationship between misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia, as well as class position in relation to gender and sexual discrimination. The publication also addresses the issue of the lack of adequate legal protection for queer women.



We then published two materials specifically addressing violence and discrimination in the online space: the “Guide for Recognizing Harmful Media Narratives” and a report on unethical news coverage concerning LGBT+ individuals collected in 2024 and 2025. The Guide was designed as a practical and accessible tool, containing key information for identifying fake news. It was written to be understandable to both the community and the broader public, regardless of their prior knowledge of the topic.

Publications



Finally, in September we published our regular annual report on incidents motivated by homophobia, “Transphobia and Homophobia in Serbia 2025”. This publication presents a qualitative and quantitative analysis of all cases documented by Da se zna! during the previous year. It is also the only available source of data on crimes motivated by homophobia and transphobia in the country, which makes it a valuable advocacy tool as well as a testimony to the difficult position of the LGBT+ population in Serbia.



Traditionally, as part of Pride Week, we organized our Community Talks, a series of discussions that bring the community together to address topics that are important to us in a safe and welcoming environment, where everyone feels comfortable speaking and expressing their thoughts without fear of judgment.

The Community Talk on the topic “Pride in the Region” was moderated by Danijel Kalezić, organizer of Montenegro Pride. The speakers were: Dina Bajrektarević, organizer of BH Pride Parade; Apostolos Karabairis, organizer of Thessaloniki Pride; and Nikola Brkljač, organizer of Belgrade Pride.

Community Talks



The Community Talk on the topic “The Importance of Investing in the Mental Health of LGBT+ Activists”, organized in cooperation with Group COME OUT, was moderated by Ivana Volf from Group COME OUT. The speakers were Sofija Komar from Da se zna!, Potent National Center for Reproductive Health representative Jelena Mitić, Nikola Kulizić from Group COME OUT, and Aleksa Savić, Executive Director of Group COME OUT.

Community Talks



School of LGBTQ+ Activism

At the end of the year, we held the first LGBTQ+ Activism School for nine participants from different cities across Serbia. Over the course of four days, they had the opportunity to learn from distinguished lecturers about various aspects of activist work and the fight to improve the position of LGBTQ+ people in Serbia.





Participants learned about public advocacy from Vladimir Pavlović, Program Director of Belgrade Open School. They attended a lecture on the history of the LGBTQ+ movement, as well as on public assemblies, protests, and civil disobedience, delivered by Dragoslava Barzut, Program Manager for Public Policies at Civic Initiatives. From Aleksa Krstić, Program Coordinator at Heartefact Institute, they learned about intersectionality and the connections between the LGBTQ+ movement and other movements and social groups. From the Executive Director of our organization Bojan Lazić participants learned about legal mechanisms for the protection of LGBTQ+ individuals. We also placed special emphasis on safeguarding the mental health of activists, about which the participants were addressed by psychologist and psychotherapist Jelena Zulević. We concluded the School with an empowerment workshop conducted with participants by our colleagues from the psychological support team Sofija Komar and Anđela Nikolić.

This School represents a step toward channeling the enthusiasm of activists into concrete action by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to articulate and advance their activist ideas. In the activists who completed the LGBTQ+ Activism School, we see the future leaders of our movement—individuals who will continue the struggle in new and courageous ways to build a society in which there is space for everyone, and where each person has the opportunity to realize their full potential and authenticity.

We are pleased to announce that next year we will enroll a new generation of participants in the LGBTQ+ Activism School, and we look forward to working with new individuals committed to strengthening our movement.



Public Advocacy Program

The work of our public advocacy program primarily relies on the data collected by Da se zna! regarding cases of violence and discrimination against LGBT+ individuals. Accordingly, our annual report on incidents motivated by homophobia and transphobia serves as our key advocacy tool and the foundation upon which we base the demands we communicate to domestic and international institutions, as well as to the broader public. In addition to calling for more effective implementation of existing laws that are meant to protect queer people from violence and discrimination, we also use this platform to advocate for the legal regulation of our lives, specifically the adoption of the Law on Same-Sex Partnerships and the Law on Gender Identity and the Rights of Intersex Persons.





We spoke about the issues and needs of the LGBT+ community in the media through as many as 10 TV studio appearances, as well as numerous interviews and statements. The media reported extensively on our work, particularly in relation to our Pride Caravan initiative, which was covered by online media outlets in at least 80 articles. During our television appearances, we addressed a range of topics, most frequently crimes motivated by homo-transphobia, while also commenting on current socio-political developments and the actions of government representatives.



Belgrade Pride



Da se zna! played a significant role in organizing Belgrade Pride 2025, through participation in the Organizing Committee, as well as in the communications, international community, and institutional relations working groups. A particularly important contribution was the organization of the Pride Caravan, a series of Pride protests held across the country.

During Pride Week, we organized two Community Talks, as well as the promotion of our annual report on hate-motivated incidents against LGBTQ+ persons "Transphobia and Homophobia in Serbia 2024".

Pride Caravan

One of the most visible activities of our organization in 2025 was the Pride Caravan, a series of small Pride protests held in cities across the country, namely in Niš, Leskovac, Kragujevac, Čačak, and Užice, while the protest in Kruševac was banned by the police.

At these protests, we highlighted this year's Beograd Prajd 2025 slogan, "For Family," with the intention of emphasizing that LGBT+ people are not seeking special rights, but rather the same things everyone else wants—love and acceptance, first and foremost from those closest to us, within our families. We also want the families we create with our chosen partners to be legally recognized.

Through these protests, we especially called on LGBT+ individuals to join Belgrade Pride 2025, where we nurture love and solidarity, values that lie at the heart of every family.



The Pride protest in Niš proceeded peacefully, with extensive media coverage, particularly from local outlets. The gathering lasted the full half hour as planned, and in addition to three representatives of Da se zna!, it was attended by five courageous activists from Niš and nearby towns.

NIŠ

The Pride protest in Leskovac took place amid significant tensions and was secured by a large police presence. A larger group of people gathered in an attempt to disrupt our event; displaying religious symbols, singing, and conducting rituals, they protested against the gathering. Some individuals engaged in verbal confrontations with participants and the police and issued threats of violence. Although the police provided security for the event, to the best of our knowledge, no individuals who threatened our safety were sanctioned by the local authorities. The event sparked strong reactions and was covered by local media.

Leskovac





The Pride protest in Kragujevac was the most successful of all. Eight people from Kragujevac and surrounding cities joined the gathering, and several local residents gathered nearby to show their support. The event was also covered by the media. The atmosphere was pleasant and joyful, with only one minor verbal incident, which was quickly addressed by the police.

Kragujevac

Ahead of our visits to Kragujevac and Kruševac, Da se zna! filed criminal complaints against ten individuals who had issued threats of violence and death against us via social media. To date, we do not know whether any of these individuals have been prosecuted.

Half an hour before the scheduled event in Kruševac, between 50 and 100 hooligans gathered in the square where the protest was to take place, carrying objects that posed a risk to life. We were then informed by the police that they could not guarantee our safety and that the event was being prohibited on security grounds. We never received a written or official ban.

Kruševac

The Pride Caravan in Čačak and Užice was challenging in many aspects. First, the initially announced events, planned for late August, had to be postponed due to significant political tensions in Čačak, which made the atmosphere too unsafe to hold the gatherings. The events were eventually held at the beginning of October, and both took place in a highly tense environment. In both cities, at the insistence of the police, the gatherings were moved to times significantly earlier than those originally registered, as these were the only time slots in which the police could guarantee participants' safety. In both cities, the events lasted only about ten minutes.

Čačak, Užice





In Užice, on the day before the event, graffiti reading “Kill the faggot,” “Slaughter the faggots,” “Death to faggots,” and “Come, you won’t return” appeared on the building of the Užice City Assembly. By the time we arrived, the graffiti had been painted over, but tensions remained high, and the gathering took place in an extremely uncomfortable and unsafe atmosphere.

Some citizens issued threats and engaged in verbal confrontations both with participants and with the police. At one point, a powerful firecracker was thrown at us. The event also had to be ended early for security reasons.

Čačak, Užice

In Čačak, news of the gathering and our location spread very quickly, and hooligans began gathering in the surrounding area, prompting the police to insist that we end the event. However, before that, a woman with two young children visited our gathering; they took our flags and briefly stayed among us.

Despite significant tensions in most cities, we were unable to hold the event only in Kruševac, and our flags were raised, at least briefly, in some of the most conservative and homophobic cities in the country. From every city we visited, we received messages from queer individuals who reached out to tell us how much it meant to them that we came to their town, even if they did not always have the courage to join us.

Čačak, Užice



Promotion of the annual Report “Transphobia and Homophobia in Serbia 2024” at European House





At European House, Da se zna! presented its eighth regular annual report on incidents motivated by homophobia and transphobia in Serbia, *Transphobia and Homophobia in Serbia 2024*. The report includes a quantitative and qualitative analysis of incidents (hate speech, hate crimes, and discrimination) against LGBT+ individuals in Serbia that occurred during 2024.

The total number of incidents motivated by homophobia and transphobia in Serbia last year was 105, representing the highest number of hate-motivated incidents against LGBT+ people since Da se zna! began monitoring and documenting hate speech, hate crimes, and discrimination against LGBT+ individuals.

At the beginning of the event, participants were addressed by Plamena Halačeva, Deputy Head of the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia; Janos Bability, Head of the Mission of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade; and Bojan Lazić, Executive Director of Da se zna!.





After the presentation of the report, a panel discussion was held on various aspects of the struggle to improve the position of LGBT+ rights in Serbia. The speakers were Brankica Janković, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality; Velimir Milošev, Chair of the Board of the Krovna organizacija mladih Srbije; Ivana Jelača, Executive Director of the Media Diversity Institute - Western Balkans; and Aleksa Savić, Executive Director of the Group COME OUT. The discussion was moderated by Matija Stefanović.

**Award Ceremony
for Outstanding
Contribution to
the LGBT+
Community**



At the celebration of the ninth anniversary of our organization, we traditionally presented awards in three categories for outstanding contributions to improving the position of LGBT+ individuals in the country.



We awarded the Queer Person of the Year prize to Andrej Obradović, a gay man who was a victim of police torture solely because he is gay. Following this experience, he publicly came out and became an activist and advocate for justice.

The Ally of the Year award was presented to Svetlana Pešut, the Principal of Primary school “Petar Kočić” in Inđija, who courageously defended her students. A group of three girls at the school created a display on the theme of tolerance, featuring a drawing of a rainbow flag and two girls holding hands, along with the messages “Gay is okay” and “Tolerance is not a foreign word.” As a result, they became the target of attacks and accusations from some parents, and later, after one parent photographed the display and posted it on Facebook, also from conservative public figures, politicians, and media outlets. Principal Pešut unequivocally stood up for true values and protected her students.



We awarded the Queer Collective of the Year prize to the drag collective Harem Girls, which participated in this year's Song for Eurovision, gaining significant popularity and visibility as a result, but also becoming the target of attacks from conservative homo-transphobic groups and individuals.

In just a few months, the members of Harem Girls have made tremendous progress in normalizing the existence of queer people, in educating the public about gender and sexuality, and in bringing drag art into the mainstream.



**Where We've
Been...**



Bojan Lazić, Executive Director of Da se zna!, participated in the **YOU(th) CARE info session** and networking activities with organizations from other cities in Serbia, organized by Media Diversity Institute - Western Balkans.

Program Coordinator Matija Stefanović participated in Heartefact **Program for Leaders in Human Rights** organized by Heartefact Institute.

Within the **Rod.bina Festival** organized by Bazaar, Matija delivered a lecture titled “Glossary of Gender Identities and Gender in Laws” as an introduction to the festival, which is dedicated to gender and trans topics. As part of the festival program, the performance Before We Begin, produced by Heartefact, was also staged, in which Matija performs.

April

Bojan Lazić participated in the **SI Leader Lab in Stockholm, Sweden**, which gathered over 100 civil society leaders from Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans, and Turkey, organized by the Swedish Institute. The aim of the program was to strengthen the capacities of organizations dedicated to the fight for democracy, human rights, and freedom of expression.

On this occasion, Bojan also visited the Riksdag and met with Denis Begić, Member of Parliament from the Swedish Social Democratic Party.





Matija Stefanović, together with representatives of other civil society organizations, represented Da se zna! **at a meeting organized by the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade**, including its Department for Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) and the Department for Cooperation in Combating Discrimination (ADCU). The meeting was held in anticipation of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). Discussions were held with Janos Babity, Head of the Office, and Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGIESC Department, focusing on current developments in Serbia and possible next steps in the fight against homo-transphobia. The meeting also included a presentation of adopted and upcoming policies of the Council of Europe.

May

Bojan Lazić spoke at a **panel within Novi Sad Pride Week**, alongside Jelena Kotević from the Office of the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, and Jovan Raonić, activist of the Group COME OUT. The discussion focused on legal challenges in changing personal documents for transgender individuals, as well as other legal obstacles faced by queer people.

Matija Stefanović participated in the **Queer Praxis School on Antifascism**, organized by Trans Network Balkan and the collective Talas TIGV.





Matija Stefanović represented Da se zna! in Tirana at a training on labor rights for LGBT+ activists from the Western Balkans and Turkey, organized by ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association. Participants learned about labor rights and the protection of LGBT+ workers in the region, developed strategies for cooperation with trade unions and employees, worked on approaches to combating violence and discrimination against LGBT+ people in the workplace, and explored ways to engage the private sector in improving the position of queer people at work.

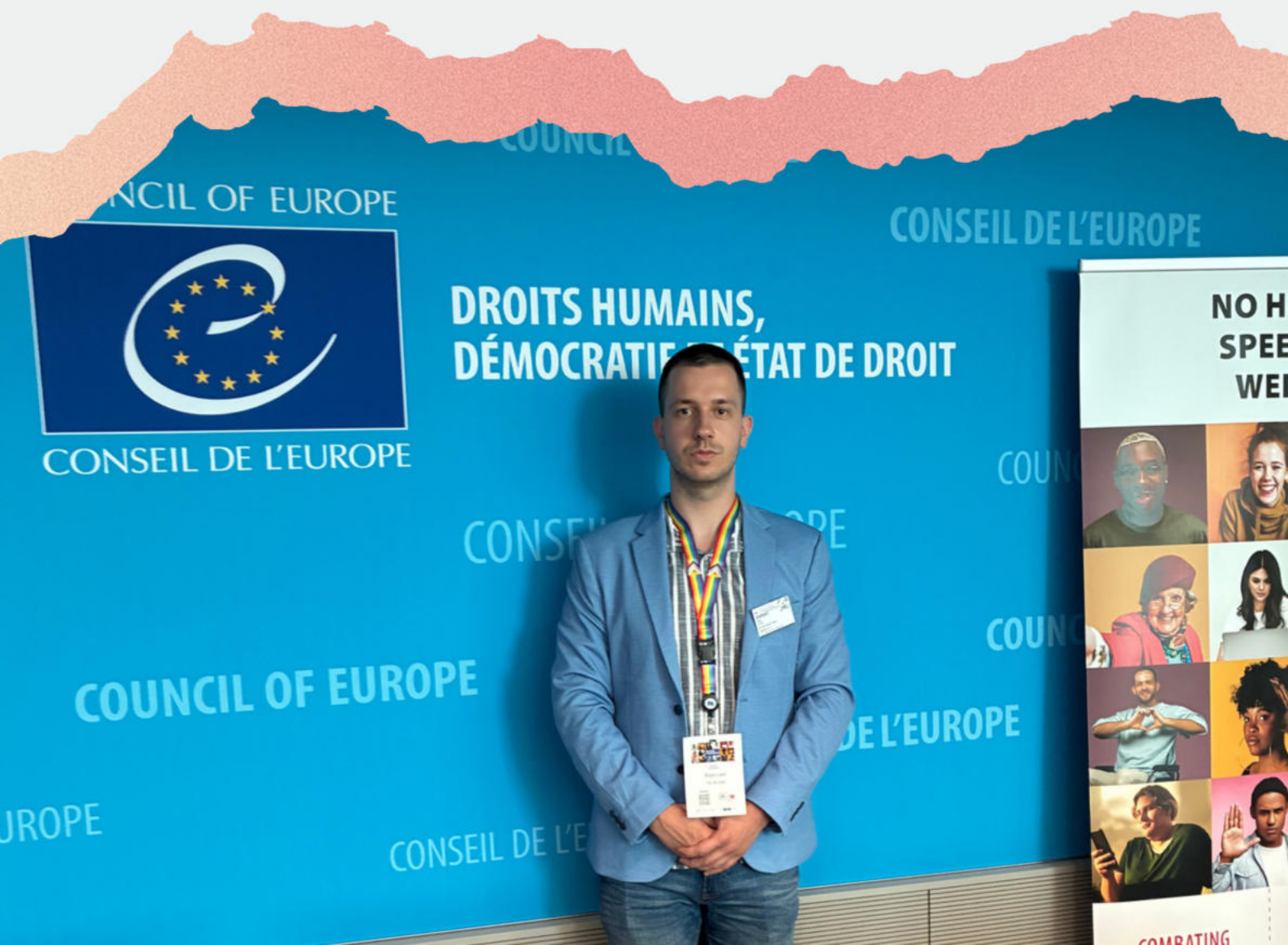
In an event organized by the Culture Center Božidarac, Bojan Lazić delivered an interactive lecture in honor of the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

May

Bojan Lazić participated in the **conference No Hate Speech Week, held at the headquarters of the Council of Europe** in Strasbourg and organized by the Council of Europe. The conference took place in connection with 18 June, the International Day for Countering Hate Speech, with the aim of bringing together stakeholders from different countries to exchange experiences and good practices, and to jointly combat hate speech and discrimination in Europe and beyond.

Bojan Lazić also participated in the **annual gathering of alumni of the Open Society Foundations - Western Balkans**, held in Durres, Albania.

June





Bojan Lazić participated in the **annual conference of ILGA-Europe**, held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The conference brought together more than 400 LGBTQ+ activists from Europe and Central Asia with the aim of jointly engaging in strategic planning and strengthening the movement.

October

In November, Bojan Lazić met **at the European Parliament in Brussels with Gordan Bosanac, Member of the European Parliament** from the Greens-European Free Alliance, to discuss the current social situation in Serbia and the state of human rights. On this occasion, the Executive Director of Da se zna! presented the organization's annual report on incidents motivated by homophobia and transphobia in Serbia to Mr. Bosanac, emphasizing that there has been no improvement in the position of LGBT+ people in Serbia and that the number of homophobic and transphobic incidents has been increasing year after year.

Later that month, Bojan Lazić represented Da se zna! at the **four-day LGBTIQ+ regional conference ERA at 10: Building What's Next - Brave, United, Unstoppable!**, held in Pristina. The conference brought together LGBTIQ+ activists from the Western Balkans and Turkey. It was organized by ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association, marking its 10th anniversary, in cooperation with CEL Kosova.

November





Matija Stefanović represented Da se zna! and Beograd Prajd **at the European “UNSTOPPABLE Pride Organizers Summit”**, organized by ILGA-Europe and the Ljubljana Pride Association.

The aim of the summit was to acquire and exchange knowledge and experiences, foster connections among Pride organizers, and develop support networks among Pride initiatives across Europe.

November

Bojan Lazić spoke at the **Forum of Youth Policy 2025 - Security: A Right, Not a Demand**, organized by the National Youth Council of Serbia, on the panel titled “Unsafe in Everyday Life.” He addressed the position and safety of LGBT+ youth, alongside Uglješa Surdučki from Blokada INFO and Jelena Hrnjak from ATINA, while the discussion was moderated by Lana Nikolić.

December



Looking Ahead

In the year behind us, the circumstances in which we operate have become markedly challenging, both due to domestic socio-political turmoil that has resulted in increased pressure on civil society activists and due to the global rise of homophobia and transphobia. The environment in which we work is becoming increasingly complex, the institutional framework more uncertain, and the space for action by civil society organizations more constrained. It is precisely in such a context that the necessity and significance of our work are reaffirmed.

In the year ahead, we remain committed to improving the position of LGBT+ people through the provision of legal and psychological support, the mapping and documentation of incidents motivated by homophobia and transphobia, and advocacy for the strengthening of the legal framework that should protect LGBT+ individuals from violence and discrimination. We will continue to insist on institutional accountability in cases of inadequate implementation of existing laws, as well as on the absence of adequate legal solutions regulating same-sex partnerships and the legal and medical transition process for transgender persons. In the coming year, we will work to enhance cooperation with local queer communities, expand support networks in smaller towns, and empower individuals to report violence and discrimination, ensuring the necessary legal and psychological support system throughout that process.

We are aware that change does not come quickly and that our work to improve the overall living conditions of LGBT+ people cannot always be seen immediately. Therefore, our efforts are directed both toward immediate, direct support to individuals and toward investing in systemic changes that will only yield results in the future in the form of broader normalization of LGBT+ identities.

In 2026, we will continue to strengthen trust within the community, develop alliances, and build partnerships at the local, national, and international levels, because we believe that our struggle is part of the broader fight for human rights and a dignified life for every individual—and that it is a struggle we can pursue only together, with persistence and solidarity.

Association Da se zna!

