



# LGBTQIA+ CIVIL SOCIETY FOR THE FIRST TIME INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE G7 IN MATERA

Gabriele Piazzoni, leader of Arcigay, represented the international groups of P7: “We ask for full protection and equality for LGBTQIA+ individuals and families. Expand refugee protection for those fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or sex characteristics.”

**Matera, Italy (October 6, 2024)** – Representatives of the Pride7 (“P7”) civil society affinity group participated today in a Group of Seven (G7) dialogue with civil society and met individually with gender equality officials from G7 countries to ensure the organization’s values of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and economic integration are inclusive of the rights and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) persons. This was the first time the P7 participated as a recognized affinity group within the G7 consultation process.

The P7 delegation in Matera included **Gabriele Piazzoni** and **Roberto Muzzetta** representing Italian civil society (**Arcigay/Italy**); **Akira Nishiyama** representing civil society from Japan (**Japan Alliance for LGBT Legislation(J-ALL)/Japan**); The Italian members of the delegation engaged the Italian government, which holds the current Presidency of the G7; the Japanese participation provided continuity from the P7 Summit in Japan last year that marked the creation of the P7 affinity group; and the Canadian group engaged the Canadian government, which will hold the next G7 Presidency in 2025.

This G7 summit has been a pivotal moment for P7, achieving several key milestones. For the first time, P7 was invited to speak at the G7 Gender Equality Ministers and Civil Society Dialogue, alongside more established engagement groups. Moreover, an official G7 document has, for the first time, mentioned P7 as affinity group aspiring to be reconfinzed as engament group of the G7. We are confident that the P7 platform will gain even greater visibility in the official proceedings at the next G7 summit.

During his interventions, **Gabriele Piazzoni, General Secretary of Arcigay**, explained the many challenges facing the LGBTQIA+ community in Italy, but concluded that “it’s an important



step to engage our government in the context of Italy's G7 peers and to encourage the Italian government – and all G7 countries – to take serious steps to dismantle all forms of discrimination and to guarantee full protection and equality for LGBTQIA+ individuals. We also request the G7 to affirm and expand refugee protection for those fleeing persecution based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, or sex characteristics. Furthermore, we request that G7 governments remove any barriers hindering the full recognition of same-sex families and the rights of their children”.

**Akira Nishiyama, Deputy Secretary General of J-ALL**, expressed her excitement in watching the P7 engage effectively with governments following its ambitious launch in Tokyo last year. She emphasized that “the P7 must continue to push all governments, but especially Japan, which is the only G7 government without an "anti-discrimination law based on sexual orientation and gender identity(SOGI)" and "legal protection for same-sex couples", and that "remains inhumane requirements regarding legal gender recognition, to promote legal protection for all people regardless of SOGI.”

**Egale Canada's Executive Director Helen Kennedy** is hopeful that Canada's upcoming Presidency of the G7 next year would provide an expanded opportunity to engage the P7 and LGBTQI+ civil society across the seven countries.

**Rogato-Segre-Tartaglia co-chairs of W7**, stated: “W7 continues to contribute to the dialogue between civil society and institutions through a side event in Matera involving key stakeholders on equal opportunities from an intersectional perspective, a core value of the Italian presidency and a pillar that will be followed in the coming years”.

During the civil society dialogue in Matera, the P7 participants supported civil society references to LGBTQIA+ equality goals and welcomed the [Ministerial Declaration's](#) references to LGBTQIA+ persons, including these important recognitions:

- “We also welcome the interest expressed by new engagement groups such as Pride 7, as well as by other groups that are currently being established, and look forward to their future development”
- “We express our strong concern about the rollback of the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ persons around the world, including in time of crisis, and we strongly condemn all violations and abuses of their human rights and fundamental freedoms”..
- “We reaffirm the commitment of the G7 to achieving full gender equality and protecting women and girls, LGBTQIA+ persons and all people against all forms of violence and discrimination, particularly people living at the intersection of multiple forms of discrimination, in order to create an inclusive society where human rights for all are respected, protected and fulfilled”.
- “Improving actions aimed at protecting women and girls as well as LGBTQIA+ persons from gender-based violence in public life and leadership positions, including in politics, journalism, sports, the media, whether committed offline or in the digital environment”.



- “Reinforcing the international and cross-border cooperation and the collaboration with international organizations to prevent human trafficking, support and protect victims and survivors, in particular women, girls, children, and LGBTQIA+ persons, as well as their families, and prosecute perpetrators”.

The Ministerial Declaration built on earlier equality references in the [Apulia Leaders' Communiqué](#) in June, which expressed strong concerns over the rollback of the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ people around the world, in particular in time of crisis; strongly condemned all violations and abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including conflict-related sexual violence; noted the importance of addressing harmful gender norms, stereotypes, and practices including in the context of education; and highlighted the importance of reliable sex and gender-disaggregated data collection and monitoring.

**About the G7:** The [Group of Seven \(G7\)](#) was founded in 1975 as an intergovernmental organization made up of the world's largest developed economies, including **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States**. The Presidency of the G7 rotates on an annual basis, with Italy leading the group this year and Canada holding the next Presidency in 2025.

**About the P7:** The Pride 7 (P7) was launched at a Summit in Tokyo on March 2023, under the leadership of the Japanese LGBTQIA+ community, with the participation of government officials, diplomats, and LGBTQI+ civil society from the other G7 countries. The P7 is one of several civil society coalitions that consults regularly with G7 leaders to advance the organization's values of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and economic integration.

**About the W7:** The Women 7 (W7) has been an official engagement group of the G7 Summit since 2018 (Canada). Civil society organizations come together to promote proposals on gender equality and women's rights to governments within the Group 7 (G7) process. Building on feminist principles of intersectionality and inclusion, the W7 brings together feminist organizations, and women's rights advocacy groups not only from the G7 countries but also from around the world committed to women's and girls' rights. Its objective is to ensure that G7 leaders adopt concrete political and financial commitments that lead to a tangible, lasting and transformative impact on women and girls' lives everywhere.

#### **Links to Previous P7 Statements:**

- [Pride 7 Communiqué \(Japan 2023\)](#)
- [Pride 7 Communiqué \(Italy 2024\)](#)

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