

Front Page

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Pride 2005



Lead by Sir Ian McKellen and other high-profile homosexuals, more than 25,000 people marched in London's gay-pride parade July 2.

Wockner News photo by John Hein/ScotsGay

GLBTs March Worldwide

Three Marchers Stabbed in Jerusalem

By Rex Wockner
Contributing Writer

With pride season in full swing, gays and lesbians have taken to the streets worldwide – including in Panama and Greece for the first time.

The marches proceeded without incident except in Jerusalem, where a religious homophobe stabbed three marchers, and hundreds of protesters pelted marchers with bottles of urine and bags of feces.

About 500 people marched in the first large-scale gay-pride parade in Athens.

"The only way to safeguard our rights is for everyone to understand that homosexuality is a reality and that people should not behave as if we don't exist," marcher Maria Gouma told *The Scotsman* newspaper.

About 300,000 people turned out for pride in Paris. The procession snaked from the Montparnasse train station to the Bastille.

The parade was so massive that some marchers waited hours to step off from the Left Bank starting point.

About 250 people marched in Kolkata (Calcutta), India, "dressed in gaudy, revealing clothes," said Rediff.com.

Police made no effort to halt the parade even though homosexuality is illegal.

"We want to tell the world we exist," said Teesta, a 27-year-old student.

More than 125,000 people turned out for Toronto's 25th parade – includ-

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Spain, Canada Legalize Same Sex Marriage

By Rex Wockner
Contributing Writer

Now there are four. Spain and Canada last week joined the Netherlands and Belgium in extending full marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Spain legalized same-sex marriage and gay adoption on June 30. The vote in the Congress of Deputies was 187 to 147 with four abstentions.

The Senate had rejected the bill, but it is the Congress that has final say.

Gay couples were allowed to begin the process of getting married on July 3, when the law change was published in the *Boletín Oficial del Estado*.

Hundreds of thousands of people celebrated at Madrid's gay-pride parade July 2.

"Today, Spanish society is responding to a group of people who for years have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, their dignity offended, their identity denied and their freedom restricted," Prime Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero said June 30. "Today Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognizes their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity and restores their liberty."

"We are not the first [country to do this] but I am sure we will not be the last," he said. "After us will come many other countries, driven, ladies and gentlemen, by two unstoppable forces: freedom and equality."

"[This is] a small change in wording that means an immense change in the lives of thousands of citizens. We are not legislating, ladies and gentlemen, for people who are far away and unknown to us. We are expanding opportunities for the happiness of our neighbors, our work colleagues, our friends, our relatives."

"It is true that [gays] are only a minority but their triumph is a triumph for everybody. ... Their victory makes us all better, makes our society better."



Somewhere between 97,000 and 2 million people turned out for the gay-pride parade in Madrid July 2, one day before Spain's new law legalizing same-sex marriage and gay adoption came into force. Police said there were 97,000 people; *El País* newspaper (Spain's largest) said 280,000; Reuters said "hundreds of thousands" and organizers said 2 million. "The path of the parade, decided at the last moment by the police, was really complicated because we were in streets that were not big enough, and there was a collapse," said veteran gay activist Jordi Petit.

Wockner News Service photo by Yves Bohic

Gay campaigners were elated.

"Finally, gays and lesbians are no longer second-class citizens," said the Spanish COLEGAS Federation of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transsexuals. "We pridefully see ourselves as citizens of this great nation that is Spain where liberty and equality have triumphed at last."

"Gays and lesbians are now going to take a well-deserved rest after these past several months of suffering being viewed as strange animals – and having ourselves and our families observed under a magnifying glass," the group said.

The European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association called the law's passage a blow to the Roman Catholic Church.

"Spain proved that it is a modern and

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