



Echoes!



of

Rainbows



Salome

Lisa



Hi everyone,

We're Salomé and Lisa from YLHL KL, and we're thrilled to welcome you to Echoes of Rainbows, our official blog for the 2025 Pride Week in Prishtina happening from June 9 to 15!

This week was bursting with colors, love, joy and sunshine, and was all about celebrating diversity, freedom, and community. Pride is a powerful reminder that everyone deserves the right to be and love freely, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, skin color, religion, or background.

Through our lens, we'll take you right into the heart of the Pride, highlighting the amazing events organized throughout the week, from panel talks and art exhibitions to marches and dancefloors. Our goal? To make you feel this Pride, whether you're right here in Prishtina or following from afar.

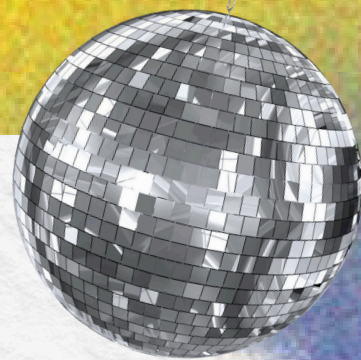
You'll find our daily reflections: the moments that made us laugh, think, cry, and take action.

With pride,

Salomé and Lisa, your new favorite Pride reporters

Day 1: June 9th

Pride Begins! 🌈



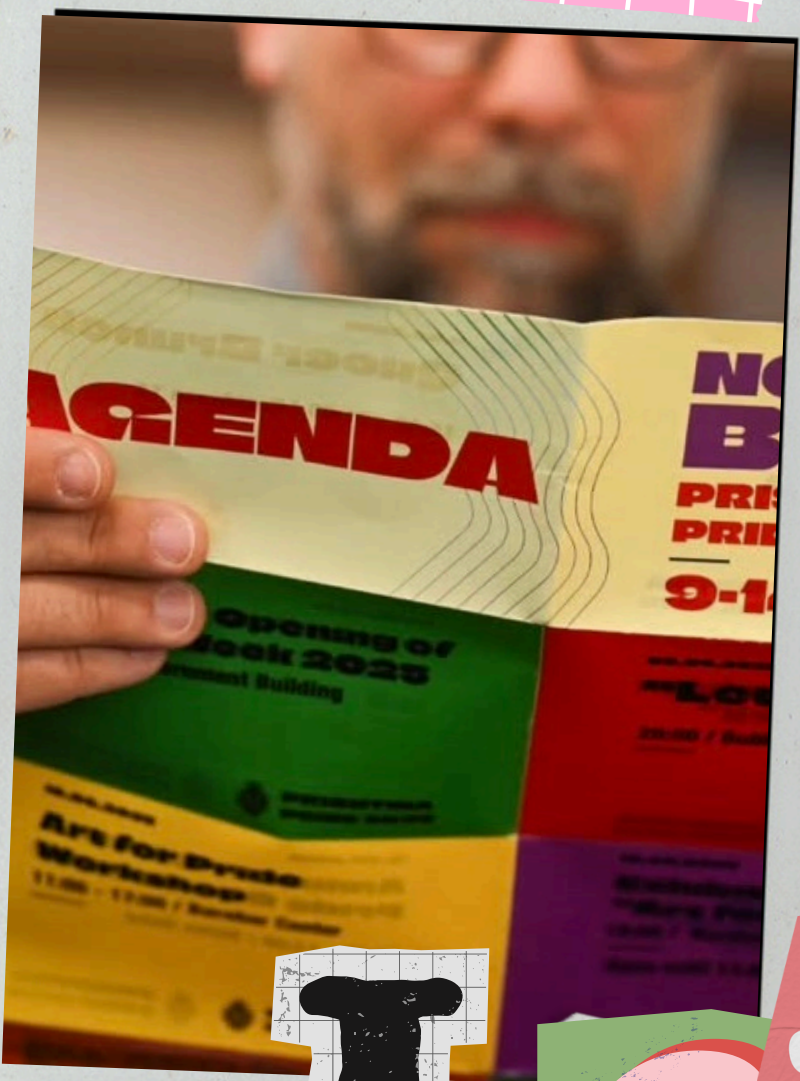
Pride started without letting the past hold us back! It officially kicked off with the participation of YLHR partners, collaborators, institutions, civil society, and, above all, the vibrant LGBTQ+ communities living in Kosovo. It was a powerful and joyful start, setting the tone for what promised to be an inspiring week full of cultural, political, and empowering events. The theme this year, "Not one step back," was more than a slogan, it's a promise to keep moving forward, together, with pride and resilience.

To celebrate the opening, we gathered at Bubble Pub for a night of dancing, joy, and shared love. The energy was electric, and the sense of community was truly heartwarming.

So much more is coming: panels, performances, and moments of connection. We were right here, capturing it all to share it with you. Stay connected!

With pride,
Salomé and Lisa





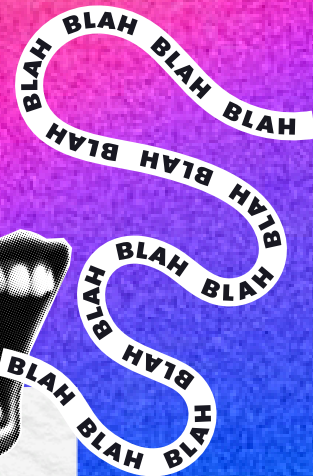
Let's



Started



Day 2 : June 10th



Art, Resistance, and Community 🎨

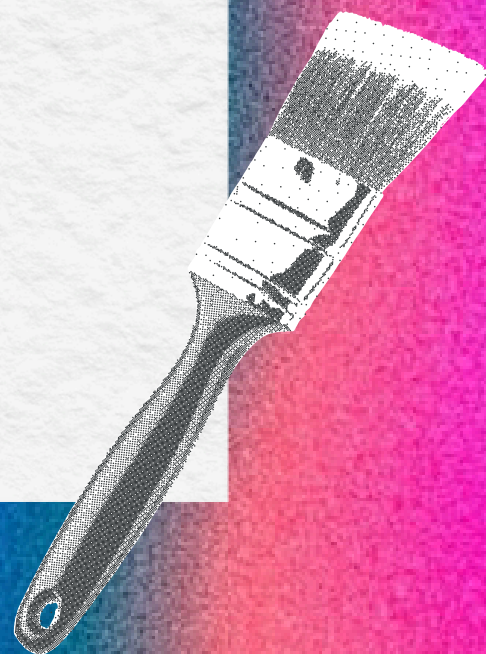
We had the joy of attending the painting workshop held by @zanaramadaniiii at Barabar Centre, and what a beautiful and colorful experience it was!

Art allows us to see the world through a different lens, and when multiple queer artists come together, that lens becomes even richer and more powerful. Centered around this year's message, "No Step Back", the workshop was a space for expression, resistance, and healing.

A huge thank you to everyone who shared their art, their energy, and their stories. And of course, a special shout out to the wonderful @zanaramadaniiii for leading the session with such warmth and creativity!

See you soon for the next days!

With love and brushes full of pride,
Salomé and Lisa







Day 3: June 11th

🧠🇺🇸 From Digital Harm to Queen Joy 🎵🌈

This day was all about contrasts, from confronting online hate to embracing offline love.

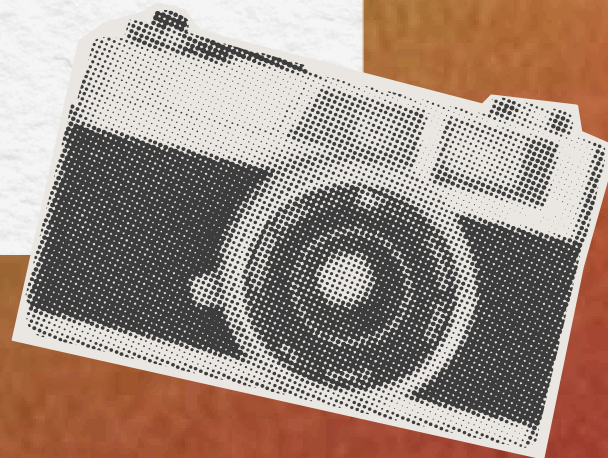
We kicked off the day with a powerful online masterclass by Jordy Nijenhuis, diving deep into the challenges of discrimination, hate speech, and digital polarization. It was raw, relevant, and real. Jordy reminded us that the internet can be a violent place but also a space for transformation. Through case studies and lived experiences, we explored ways to build digital resilience, resist toxic narratives, and center community-led storytelling. A big thank you to Jordy for holding space with clarity and compassion.

And then... we recharged our hearts and bellies at the Queen Brunch at Rezidenca 77! 🍷🎵🌟

Imagine sun-soaked cushions, rainbow flags, laughter echoing between bites, and a playlist that made our hips sway and our souls sing. The afternoon was one of joy, music, shared stories, and spontaneous hugs. We talked about queerness, resistance, art, and simply... being. Safe spaces like this don't just happen, they're built, protected, and cherished.

From online harms to offline healing, June 11 reminded us that our pride lives across all spaces, screens and streets alike. Still glowing, still marching, still loving.

With heart and harmony,
Salomé & Lisa





CARING





Day 4: June 12th

🌈 Words That Move: A Day of Stories, Struggles & Strength 💡

Pride Week continued in full force with a series of events that reminded us just how powerful our voices can be, especially when they come together.

We started the day with an intimate and empowering writing workshop led by the incredible Uresa Ahmeti, under the theme "No Step Back." It was a space where queer voices came alive, exploring themes of love, resistance, and identity. Participants shared raw, honest stories, and received guidance and encouragement to shape their words with intention and power. There were tears, there was laughter, and above all, there was an overwhelming sense of connection. Thank you, Uresa, for creating such a beautiful and brave space!

In the end of the afternoon, we joined the Prishtina Pride Talk with Vullnet Krasniqi, a journalist and tireless LGBTQ+ human rights advocate. 🗣️⭐ Vullnet's reflections on his personal journey, navigating media, activism, and identity, were deeply moving. He spoke with clarity, strength, and vulnerability about the victories, the struggles, and the importance of representation. We left feeling not just inspired, but re-energized to keep pushing forward.

And then came the grand finale: "Only Forward" Poetry Night. Under the stars and the rainbow flag, words broke free. Writers from the earlier workshop and other courageous people stood up and spoke their truth, with poetry that burned with passion, honesty, and courage. Every line was a reminder that our stories matter, and that silence is not an option.

"No Step Back" was more than a slogan. It became a rhythm, a heartbeat, a collective promise.

No Step Back. Only Forward.

With gratitude, pride, and a notebook full of inspiration,
Salomé & Lisa







Day 5: June 13th



🎵⚖️ Power, Politics & Performance 🌈

What a day, from serious conversations about rights and resistance to a night of sequins, sass, and unstoppable sparkle!

We began the day at the Annual Pride Conference at Sirius Hotel, gathering activists, policymakers, and community leaders under one roof to reflect on "The State and the Rights of LGBTQ+ People" and the shared responsibility in advancing these rights in a world that feels increasingly threatened by rising anti-gender movements. While the discussions highlighted crucial progress, they also made it clear that the fight is far from over. Significant challenges remain, not only in shifting societal mindsets but also in transforming institutional structures that still perpetuate inequality and exclusion. From legal protections to inclusive public policies, much work lies ahead to ensure that rights are not only proclaimed but effectively upheld. The conference served as both a celebration of resilience and a call to action for continued advocacy at every level. We left feeling informed, a little overwhelmed and deeply committed to keep pushing forward.

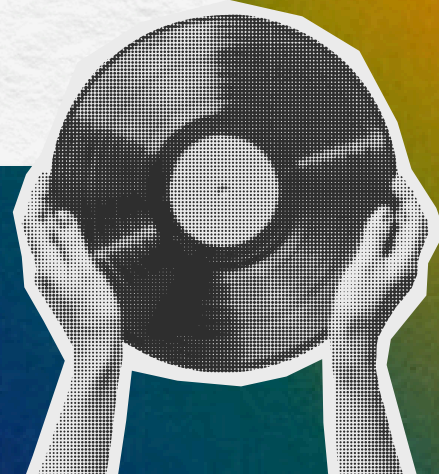
But the night? Oh, the night was for the queens. 👑

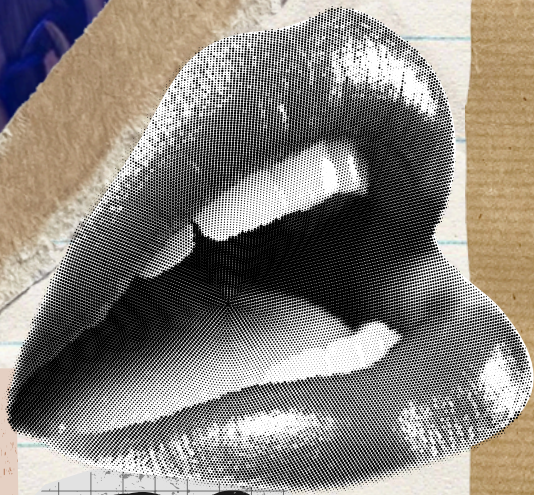
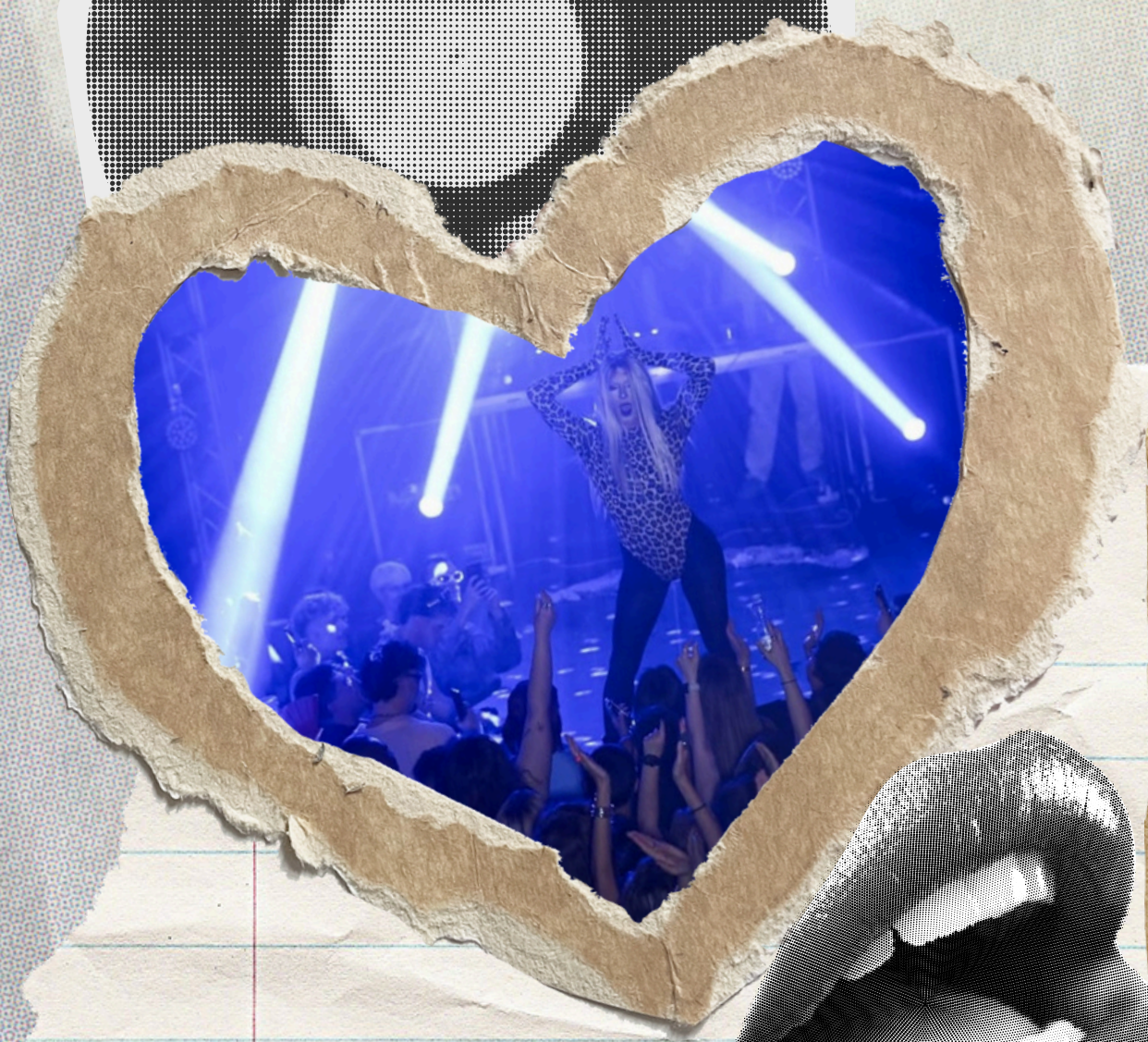
We danced, we screamed, we clapped till our hands hurt at the iconic Drag Show at Teatri Oda, hosted by the fabulous Semi, with legendary performances by Barbie MA, Diva, Queen Maggy, Seri Bazi and the ever glorious Honey. The energy was electric, the outfits dazzling, and the vibes immaculate. And let's not forget our DJs Genti & Arber who turned the room into a glittery revolution on the dancefloor.

From morning panels to midnight voguing, June 13 was a perfect snapshot of what Pride is all about: truth, struggle, beauty, and joy all in one fierce package.

Always proud,

Salomé & Lisa





Drag Show





Day 6 : June 14th

🌈🌟 Marching Forward, Dancing Free 🏳️‍🌈

And just like that... the week came to a close, but not quietly.

The streets of Prishtina came alive in the afternoon with the Pride parade, a powerful, colorful, and emotional celebration of visibility, resistance, and love. Hundreds gathered, flags flying high, chanting with pride and purpose. From activists and allies to families and friends, the energy was electric, a collective heartbeat echoing the message loud and clear: "No Step Back."

We walked through the city not just to celebrate how far we've come, but to demand how much further we need to go. The march wasn't just symbolic, it was a declaration, a living, breathing reminder that queer lives matter, that queer joy is political, and that we are here to stay.

And then came the night...

We ended Pride Week the only way we know how: with music, lights, and an explosion of joy. Right in front of the National Library, the square transformed into an open-air celebration for the final concert and DJ set. The beats pulsed through the crowd, carrying everything we'd lived this week, the tears, the stories, the resistance, the pride into one unforgettable party under the stars. This wasn't just a concert. It was a release, a reunion, a revolution in rhythm.

Our feet may have been tired, but our hearts were fuller than ever. Thank you, Prishtina. Thank you, Pride.

We'll be back: louder, prouder, and more united than ever.

With all the love in the world,

Salomé & Lisa

PRIDE PARADE
admit one





IT'S

ALL

about

Pride





Thanks



🇫🇷🌟 From France to Kosovo, With Pride 🌈🌍

When we arrived in Pristina a few weeks ago as two French interns at YLH Ks, we knew we were in for something special, but nothing could have prepared us for the depth, emotion, and intensity of this Pride Week.

Living Pride here, in the heart of the Balkans, was about more than just witnessing it. It was about being part of it. Every step we took from painting brushes to protest chants, from panel discussions to drag dancefloors felt like a lesson in courage, in community, in unapologetic joy.

As outsiders who became insiders for a week, we were moved by the strength and vibrancy of Kosovo's LGBTQ+ communities, who show up every day with resilience, creativity, and love not just for themselves, but for everyone fighting to be seen, heard, and celebrated.

We saw how Pride here is resistance, how each rainbow flag is a political statement, how queer joy is an act of rebellion, and how solidarity knows no borders.

This blog was our way of documenting it all but also of honoring it. To those who danced with us, cried with us, and marched beside us, thank you. You've left a mark on us that we'll carry long after the glitter fades.

From Prishtina with love, we'll keep echoing your rainbows in France, and wherever the fight continues.

Goodbye from Echoes of Rainbows, with endless gratitude
Salomé & Lisa

