

**HATE SPEECH AGAINST
LESBIAN AND GAY POPULATION**
in Electronic Media

Labris – Lesbian human rights organization
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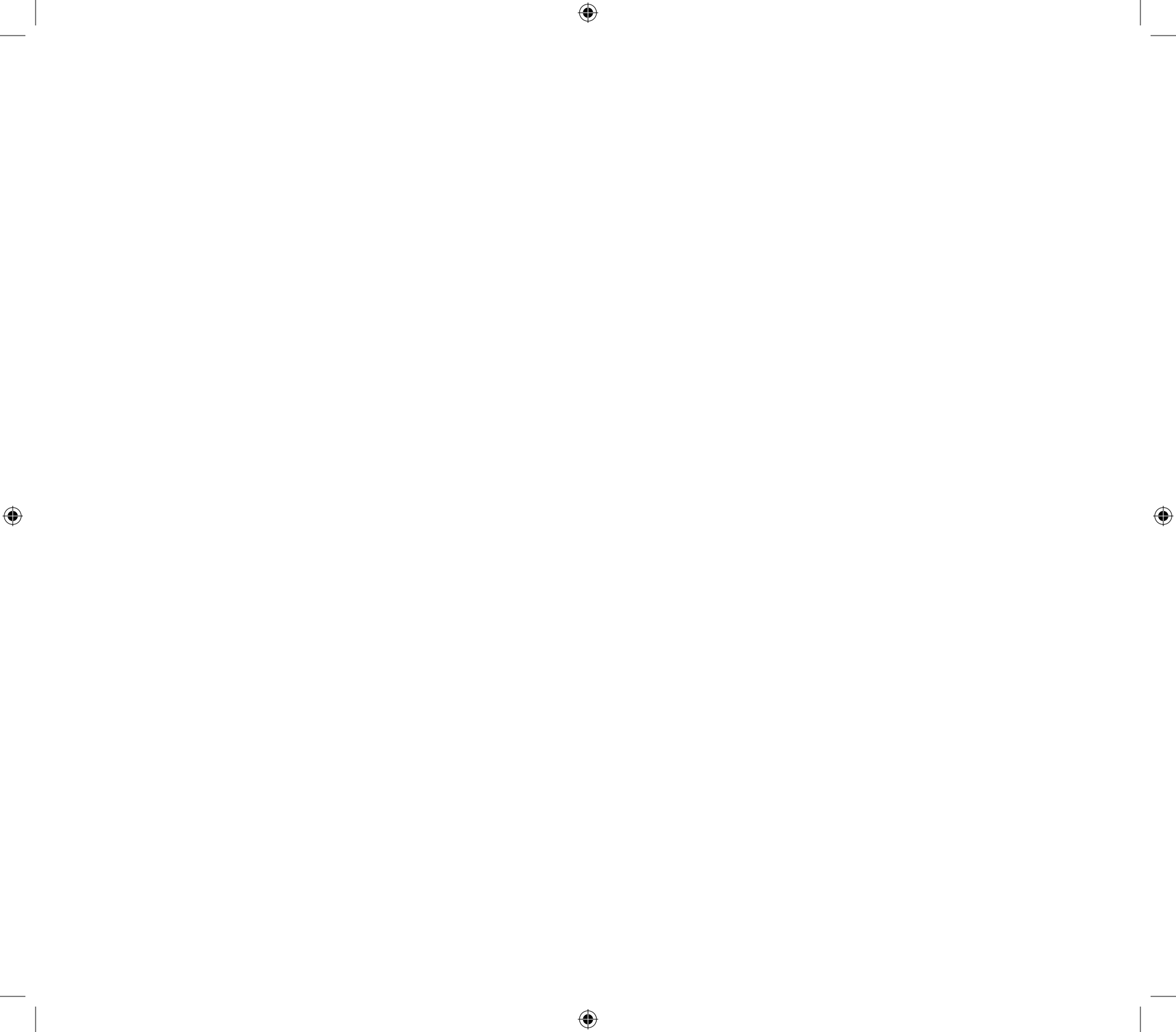
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HATE SPEECH AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY POPULATION IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA

*Hate speech is a bit controversial term for a speech intended to degrade, intimidate and induce violence or actions that are damaging for a person or a group of people on the basis of race, gender, age, ethnic background or nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, language skills, ethical or political attitudes, social and economic background, occupation and appearance (height, weight, hair color). The term covers written and oral communication, and some forms of behavior in public.*¹

Following report is a part of the project *Monitoring of Hate Speech in Electronic Media* which was realized by Labris – lesbian human rights organization, during the period from October 2006 to June 2007. Over the past four years, Labris had monitored representation of lesbian and gay population and issues in print media, and the project supported by ILGA – International Gay and Lesbian Association represents the beginning of the monitoring of hate speech in electronic media, which Labris has identified as an important but not sufficiently researched source of forming of different attitudes and stereotypes about lesbian and gay population.

Considering the fact that the Broadcasting Act², which regulates the work of electronic media, is one of the four existing laws in Serbia which explicitly bans discrimination based on sexual orientation – Labris considers the monitoring of the implementation of the Broadcasting Act and reacting to hate speech against LGBT people as very important.

1 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hate_speech

2 "Official Journal of RS", issues 42/02, 97/04, 76/05, 79/05, 62/06, 85/06, 86/06

The Broadcasting Act, passed in 2002:

Suppression of Hate Speech

Article 21

*The Agency shall ensure that the broadcasters' programmes do not contain information inciting discrimination, hatred or violence against an individual or a group of individuals on grounds of their political affiliation, or their race, religion, nationality, ethnicity, gender or **sexual orientation**. Conduct in contravention of the prohibition in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be deemed grounds for pronouncing the envisaged sanctions by the Agency, independently of the other legal remedies at the disposal of the aggrieved.*

Special Obligations Regarding News Programme Production and Broadcasting.

Article 79

*Public broadcasting service carriers shall in their news programme production and broadcasting abide by the principles of impartiality and fairness in treating different political interests and different persons, uphold the freedom and pluralism of the public expression of opinions, and prevent any form of racial, religious, national, ethnic or other intolerance or hatred, or intolerance on the grounds of **sexual orientation**.*

Monitoring of the 13 different programmes on four national televisions channels during two separate periods of time resulted in three complaints³ because of hate speech against lesbian and gay population being sent to Repub-

3 See Appendices 1, 2 and 3

lic Broadcasting Agency⁴. Complaints were sent because of the contents of two programmes broadcast on TV Pink – The Pyramid and Bravo Show, and in the programme The Key which is being broadcast on The First Channel of the Radio-television of Serbia. At the moment of writing of this report, we have not received any feedback information from The Programme Board of the Republic Broadcasting Agency (RBA) regarding the complaints.

It should be stressed out that The Programme Board of the RBA had once already, after the complaint, having been sent by the organizations Gayten LGBT, Center for Promotion of Sexual Minorities Human Rights, and Labris – Lesbian Human Rights Organization, concluded⁵ that the programme The Pyramid, which was broadcast on TV Pink, induced discrimination against LGBT people. Although, according to RBA, TV Pink had, in the above mentioned programme, which was broadcast on October 16th 2005, violated the Article 21, Paragraph 1 of The Broadcasting Act, penal measures could not be applied because the concessions of frequencies had not yet been allocated at that moment, so TV Pink was not yet legally broadcasting. Nevertheless, the RBA report represents a historical moment since this is the first time an official institution had clearly acknowledged hate speech based on sexual orientation, i.e. against lesbians and gay men.

4 It is important to stress out that the programme The Key, which was broadcast on RTS 1 on March 26th 2007, induced hate speech against women, so Labris also sent a complaint on the grounds of misogyny in the mentioned programme.

5 See Appendix 4

Monitoring of electronic media representation of lesbian and gay issues was organized in two time cycles. The selection of TV channels and TV shows was based on the previous Labris research on the level of representation of lesbian and gay issues in electronic media and the gathered data are relevant for the used sample only. The first cycle lasted from November 15th to December 15th 2006, and the second cycle lasted from February 15th to April 15th 2007.

The first cycle

During the period from November 15th to December 15th 2006, the following TV shows on our national TV networks were monitored – B92, The First Channel of the Radio-television of Serbia (RTS 1), TV Pink, and Studio B.

1. Big Brother
(Monday to Friday – Daily Review,
Big Brother – Eviction, Saturday, Big
Brother’s Big Brain, Sunday) - TV B92
2. Magazine In – TV Pink
3. Timofejev – TV B92
4. Impression of the Week – TV B92
5. Agape - Studio B
6. The Key – RTS 1
7. The Pyramid – TV Pink
8. Bravo Show – TV Pink
9. News – B92
10. National News – TV Pink

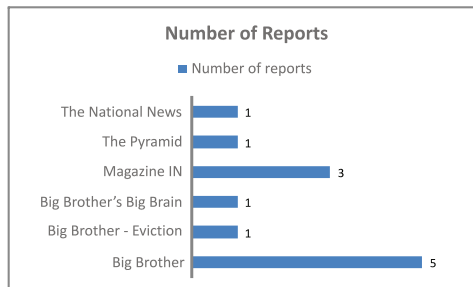
MEDIA ANALYSIS FROM NOVEMBER 15TH TO DECEMBER 15TH 2006

TOTAL REPRESENTATION OF LESBIAN AND GAY ISSUES PER TV PROGRAMME

Representation of TV reports per programme

In 12 TV shows that were monitored during the first cycle, and which were broadcast on 4 national television channels (B92, RTS, Studio B, TV Pink) from November 15th to December 15th 2006, there were 12 TV reports where lesbian and gay terminology and/or issues were mentioned. These 12 reports were broadcast on two TV channels – B92 and TV Pink, i.e. on the monitored programmes on RTS 1 and Studio B there were not any reports of this kind. Those 12 reports were shown in the following programmes – Reality Show Big Brother (B92) and programmes The Pyramid, Magazine In, and Bravo Show (TV Pink). Out of 12 broadcast reports, 7 were in the Big Brother programme, i.e. 58.3%. In the Magazine In, LG terminology and/or issues were mentioned three times, i.e. 25% out of total number. As much as 91.7% reports were broadcast as part of the entertainment programmes, and only one report was broadcast as part of the news programme, and that was the one broadcast in the TV Pink National News.

TV Programme	Number of reports
Big Brother	5
Big Brother – Eviction	1
Big Brother’s Big Brain	1
Magazine In	3
The Pyramid	1
National News	1
TOTAL	12



Type of representation in monitored programmes

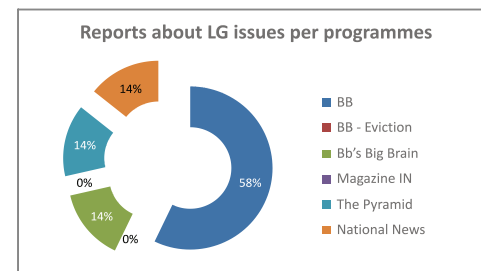
Reports were completely dedicated to lesbian and gay issues most frequently in the Big Brother serial, where out of 7 broadcast reports, LG issues were dominant in 5 of them (71.4%). LG issues were dominant in only one report in the news programme, and that is the already mentioned report in the TV Pink National News. 91.7% of all programmes in which LG issues were mentioned were entertainment programmes.

TV Programme	LG issue	LG issue incidentally mentioned
Big Brother	4	1
Big Brother – Eviction	0	1
Big Brother – The Big Brain	1	0
Magazine In	0	3
Timofejev	0	0
Impression of the Week	0	0
Agape	0	0
The Key	0	0
The Pyramid	1	0
Bravo Show	0	0
B92 News	0	0
National News	1	0

Type of representation

Seven reports (58.3%), were dedicated to LG issues and participants, while in the other 5 reports LG issues and terminology were incidentally mentioned.

TV Programme	LG issue
Big Brother	4
Big Brother - Eviction	0
Big Brother’s Big Brain	1
Magazine In	0
The Pyramid	1
National News	1



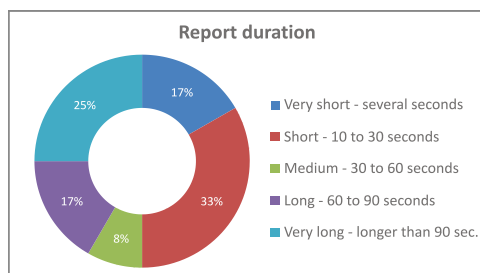
Report duration

Most of the broadcast reports were of short duration (10 to 30 seconds) – four reports (33.3%), the following are very long reports (longer than 90 seconds) – three reports (25%). Two reports were very short, and those were reports where lesbian/gay terminology was mentioned in one word.

Report duration	Number of reports
Very short - several seconds*	2
Short – 10 to 30 seconds	4
Medium – 30 to 60 seconds	1
Long – 60 to 90 seconds	2
Very long – longer than 90 sec.	3

* LG issues were mentioned in one word

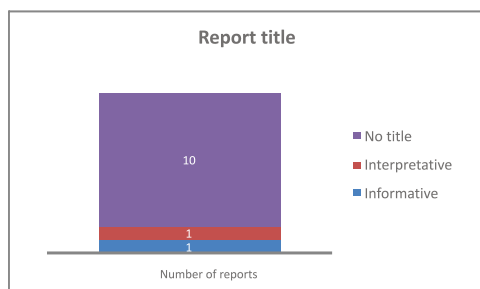
HATE SPEECH AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY POPULATION IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA



Report title/announcement

As much as ten reports (83.3%), did not have a title, while one title was of informative character, and the other was of interpretative character. There were not any titles where LG population was mentioned in a negative context.

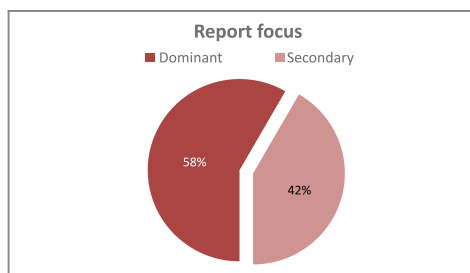
Report title	Number of reports
Informative	1
Interpretative	1
Openly negative context	0
No title	10



Report focus

Focus of the author's interest was dominant in 7 reports, (58%), and in 5 broadcast reports (42%), the focus of the author's interest was secondary.

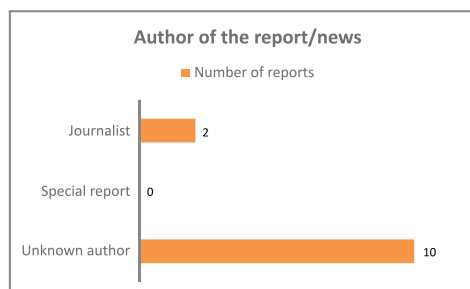
Report focus	Number of reports
Dominant	7
Secondary	5



Authorship and report source

Most reports were unsigned – 10, (83.3%).

Author of the report	Number of reports
Journalist	2
Special report	0
Unknown author	10



Report source

Source of all 12 broadcast reports in which LG issue and/or terminology was mentioned was a national TV network, i.e. none of them was taken from a foreign television network.

Report source	Number of reports
National media	12
Taken from the foreign TV network	0

Report subject

Perhaps the most important information is the fact that all reports deal with social perceptions of lesbians and gay men, i.e. neither report deals with legislation, gay pride parades, health, culture, political actions and initiatives, etc.

Report subject	Number of reports
Culture, entertainment, show business	0
Health	0
Social perception of lesbians and gay men	12
Conflicts	0
Political actions and initiatives	0
Legislation, regulations	0
Personal lives, affairs, scandals	0
Religion and lesbians and gay men	0
Gay pride parades	0
Other	0
TOTAL	12

Place of event

All 12 broadcast programmes report on the events that took place in Serbia.

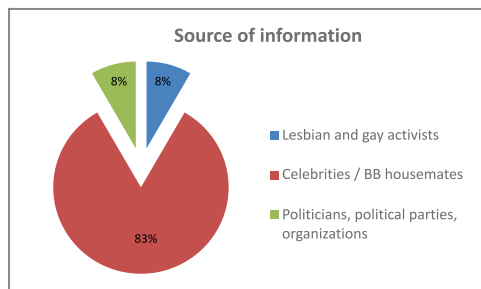
Place of event	Number of reports
World	0
USA	0
Europe	0
Former Yugoslavia	0
Serbia	12
Unspecified	0
Other countries	0

HATE SPEECH AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY POPULATION IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Source of information

The most frequent source of information is celebrities, stated in 10 reports/programmes (83,3%), while lesbian and gay activists are stated as sources of information in only one report. This information is very important, considering the fact that we are talking about events all taking place in Serbia and also all twelve reports dealing with social perceptions of lesbian and gay population. Therefore, the conclusion that everyone is invited to talk about lesbians and gay men except for lesbians and gay men themselves is actually very disappointing.

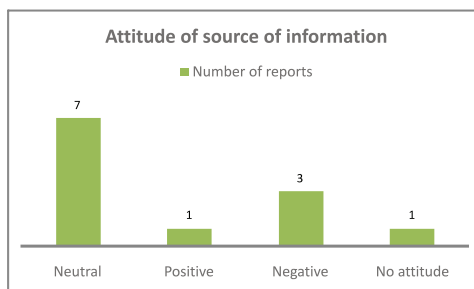
Source of information	Number of reports
Lesbian and gay activists	1
NGO activists	0
Participants, witnesses to events	0
Celebrities/BB housemates	10
Unspecified	0
Experts, expert agencies	0
Media, journalists, news agencies	0
Others	0
State officials	0
Politicians, political parties, organizations	1
Church, religious groups and organizations	0



Attitude of source of information

In most cases, the attitude of source of information is neutral, (58,3% of reports). While in only one report the source of information has a positive attitude, in 3 reports (25%) the sources of information have negative attitudes toward lesbians and gay men and issues.

Attitude of source of information	Number of reports
Neutral	7
Positive	1
Negative	3
No attitude	1



LG participants

Lesbian/gay organizations/activists are appearing in only one report as LG participants.

LG participants	Number of reports
LG population/issue – social perceptions of lesbians and gay men	0
LG organizations/activists	1
LG individuals	0

LG participants' context

Bearing in mind the fact that the social perception is a subject of all twelve reports, it is important to stress out that the context in nei-

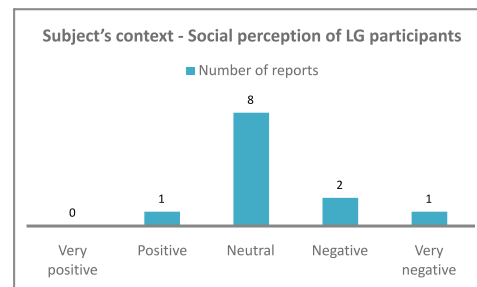
ther report is portrayed in a very positive manner, and only one report is contextualized in a positive manner. On the other hand, three reports with LG issue and/or terminology (25%) had portrayed the context of lesbian and gay population/issues in a negative and in a very negative manner. Eight reports (66.7%) had portrayed the context of LG participants in a neutral manner.

LG organization/activists' context

A report that had stated LG organizations/activists as a source of information portrayed their context in a neutral manner.

Subject's context Social perception of LG participants	Number of reports
Very positive	0
Positive	1
Neutral	8
Negative	2
Very negative	1

LG organization/activists' context	Number of reports
Very positive	0
Positive	0
Neutral	1
Negative	0
Very negative	0



Terminology

Most frequently, the term gay was used in broadcast reports – in three reports (25%)

Terminology	Number of reports
Gay	3
Homosexuality	1
Faggot	1
The feminized ones	1
“A fashionable man”	1

Two terms have appeared in a very negative context – **the feminized ones** (programme The Pyramid – guest Milan Paroski, politician) and **a fashionable man** (in an ironic/mocking way – programme The Pyramid – guests Velimir Ilic and Vladan Batic, politicians).

The use of pronouns when referring to LG population is also very interesting:

“I think that **they** did it with women first” (programme Magazine In – guest Milan Kalinic, actor) and:

“I’m a fan of women. But not **that** fan you think...” (programme Magazine In – guest Snezana Savic, actress).

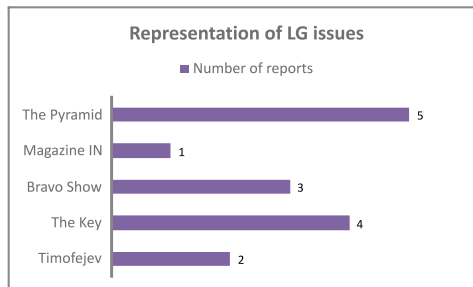
MEDIA ANALYSIS FROM NOVEMBER 15TH TO DECEMBER 15TH 2006

REPRESENTATION OF LG ISSUES

During the period from February 15th to April 15th 2007, total of 15 reports were broadcast. Out of that number, as much as 5 reports (33.3%) were broadcast in the TV Pink programme The Pyramid. The programme The Key follows with 4 reports (26.7%) in which LG issues/terminology was mentioned. All 15 reports were broadcast in the so called talk show programmes, and there were five different programmes on three televisions – RTS 1, B92, and TV Pink.

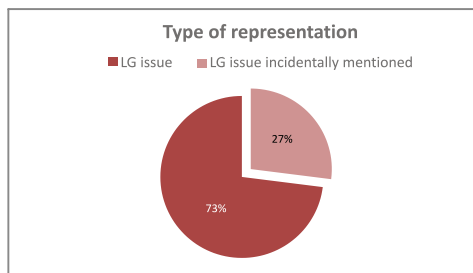
As far as the representation of LG issues is concerned, out of total of 15 reports (4 LG issues (27%), and 11 LG issues incidentally mentioned (73%)), 5 reports were broadcast in the TV Pink programme The Pyramid (4 LG issues, and 1 LG issue incidentally mentioned), 4 reports were broadcast in RTS 1 programme The Key, 3 reports were broadcast in TV Pink programme Bravo Show (2 LG issues, and 1 LG issue incidentally mentioned), 2 reports were broadcast in the TV B92 programme Timofejev (both incidentally mentioned issues), and one report was broadcast in TV Pink programme Magazine In.

TV Programme	Number of reports
Timofejev	2
The Key	4
Bravo Show	3
Magazine In	1
The Pyramid	5
TOTAL	15



Type of representation

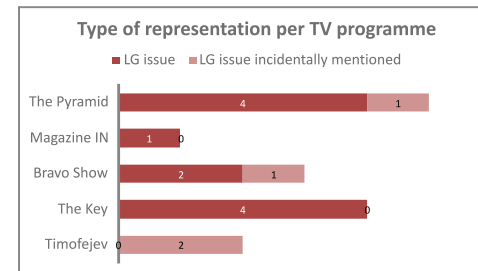
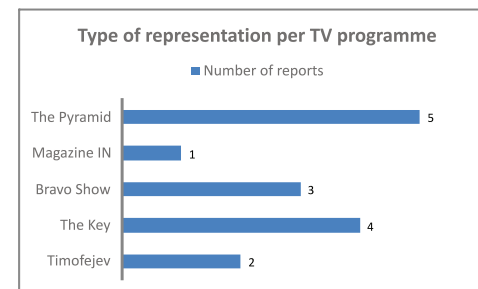
As much as 11 reports (73.3%) were completely dedicated to LG issues, and in four reports LG issues were incidentally mentioned.



Type of representation per TV programme

Two very popular talk shows – RTS 1 programme The Key and TV Pink programme The Pyramid make as much as 72.7% of total number of programmes where reports about lesbian/gay issues were broadcast, and it should be stressed out that these reports were completely dedicated to LG issues. So, in both of these programmes, LG issues were mentioned 4 times, in the programme Bravo Show, LG issues/terminology was mentioned 3 times (2 reports were completely dedicated to LG issues, and once the issue was incidentally men-

tioned), and one report was broadcast in the programme Magazine In.

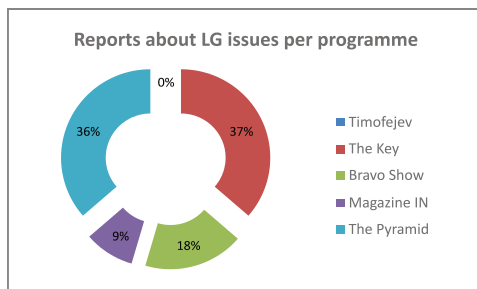


Reports about LG issues per programme

Most reports, which were completely dedicated to lesbian/gay issues, were broadcast in the programmes The Key and The Pyramid (4 in each).

TV Programme	LG issue
Timofejev	0
The Key	4
Bravo Show	2
Magazine In	1
The Pyramid	4

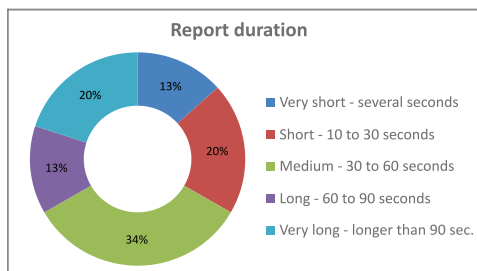
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Report duration

Most reports – 5 (33.3%) in which LG issue and/or terminology were mentioned, were of medium duration, i.e. 30 to 60 seconds. Very long reports follow, i.e. reports longer than 90 seconds (3 reports or 20%), and short reports, 10 to 30 seconds long (three reports or 20%).

Report duration	Number of reports
Very short - several seconds*	2
Short – 10 to 30 seconds	3
Medium – 30 to 60 seconds	5
Long – 60 to 90 seconds	2
Very long – longer than 90 sec.	3



Report title/ announcement

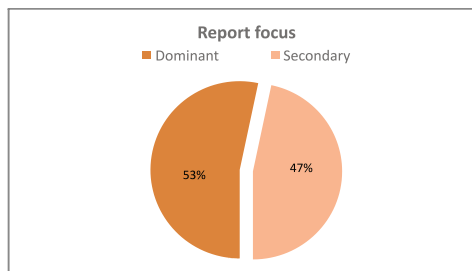
Neither one of 15 broadcast reports about lesbian/gay issues and/or terminology had a title.

Report title	Number of reports
Informative	0
Interpretative	0
Openly negative context	0
No title	15

Report focus

Focus of the author's interest was dominant in 8 reports, (53.3%), and in 7 broadcast reports (46.7%), the focus of the author's interest was secondary.

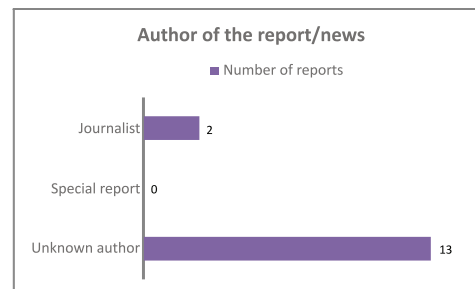
Report focus	Number of reports
Dominant	8
Secondary	7



Authorship and report source

Most reports were unsigned, as much as 13 (86.7%), and only 2 reports were written by a journalist.

Author of the report	Number of reports
Journalist	2
Special report	0
Unknown author	13



Report source

The source of all 15 broadcast reports about LG issue and/or terminology was a national TV network.

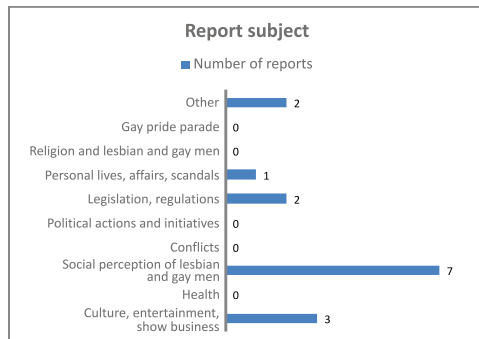
Report source	Number of reports
National media	15
Taken from the foreign TV network	0

Report subject

Of all 15 broadcast reports, 7 reports (46.7%) deal with social perceptions of lesbians and gay men. 3 reports (20%) deal with culture, entertainment, and show business and 2 reports (13.3%) are about legal initiatives and legislation.

Report subject	Number of reports
Culture, entertainment, show business	3
Health	0
Social perception of lesbians and gay men	7
Conflicts	0
Political actions and initiatives	0
Legislation, regulations	2
Personal lives, affairs, scandals	1
Religion and lesbians and gay men	0
Gay pride parades	0
Other	2
TOTAL	15

HATE SPEECH AGAINST LESBIAN AND GAY POPULATION IN ELECTRONIC MEDIA



Place of event

Like in the first analyzed period, all broadcast programmes report on the events that took place in Serbia.

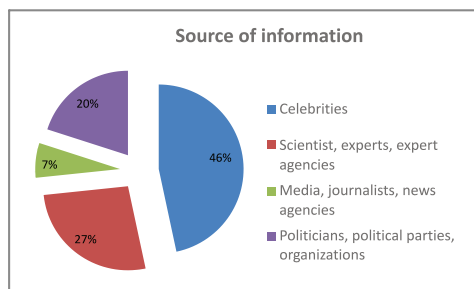
Place of event	Number of reports
World	0
USA	0
Europe	0
Former Yugoslavia	0
Serbia	15
Unspecified	0
Other countries	0

Source of information

Again, the most frequent source of information for the reports about LG issues are celebrities – 7 broadcast reports (46.7%), the following are scientists and experts – in 4 reports (26.7%), than the politicians, political parties and other organizations – 3 reports (20%).

Source of information	Number of reports
Lesbian and gay activists	0
NGO activists	0
Participants, witnesses to events	0

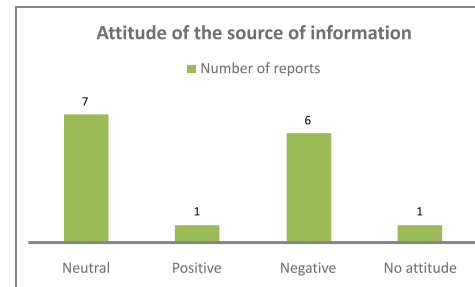
Celebrities	7
Unspecified	0
Scientists, experts, expert agencies	4
Media, journalists, news agencies	1
Others	0
State officials	0
Politicians, political parties, organizations	3
Church, religious groups and organizations	0



Attitude of the source of information

The attitude of source of information in seven reports (46.7%) about LG issues or reports, which mention the LG terminology, was neutral. What we should worry about is the fact that the attitude of the source of information was negative in as much as 6 reports (40%), while only one report about the LG issues with a positive attitude of the source of information was broadcast.

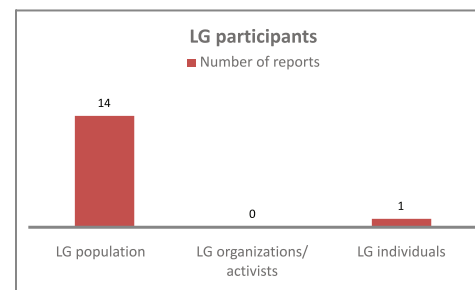
Attitude of the source of information	Number of reports
Neutral	7
Positive	1
Negative	6
No attitude	1



LG participants

The most frequently, in as much as 14 reports (93.3%), the LG participant is the LG population in general, and in only one report the LG participant is an individual.

LG Participants	Number of reports
LG population/issue social perceptions of lesbians and gay men	14
LG organizations/activists	0
LG individuals	1



LG individual's context

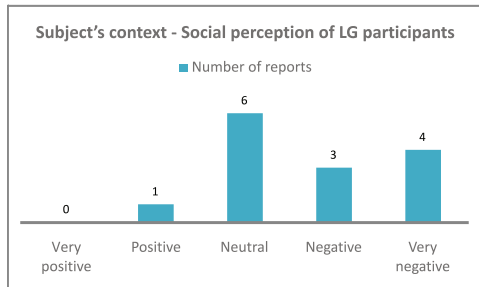
There is only report about a LG individual, which is contextualized in a neutral manner.

LG Individual's context	Number of reports
Very positive	0
Positive	0
Neutral	1
Negative	0
Very negative	0

Subject's context

The context of most of the subjects was portrayed in a neutral manner – 6 reports (40%). A very negatively portrayed context follows in 4 reports (26.7%), and the context negatively and very negatively portrayed makes 46.7% of all reports about the social perception of LG population. In only one report the subject was contextualized in a positive manner.

Subject's context Social perception of LG participants	Number of reports
Very positive	0
Positive	1
Neutral	6
Negative	3
Very negative	4



Terminology

As far as the terminology is concerned, most often the term faggot is used and offensive terms make as much as 40% of all used terms in the 15 reports that mentioned LG issue and/or terminology.

The term **faggot** was used by the anthropologist Jovica Stojanovic, guest in the programme The Key in 3 out of 4 reports broadcast in that programme. Two terms appeared in a very negative context – **abnormal and pathological occurrence** (programme The Pyramid

– guest Ivana Zigon, actress), and **sickness i.e. sick love** which apply to same-sex orientation (programme The Pyramid – guest Ivana Zigon, actress and programme The Key – guest Jovica Stojanovic, anthropologist). Statement of the politician Marjan Ristic, guest of the programme The Pyramid, about the issue of imposing taxes for unmarried men, implies the same: **“The only thing left for men in villages is to marry each other but since they are mentally healthy people, we don’t even consider that...”**

Terminology	Number of reports
Gay	2
Homosexuality – homosexual	2
Faggot	3
Lesbian	2
“A fashionable man”	1
Abnormal and pathological occurrence	1
Sickness – sick love	3

Major findings of this report show that lesbian and gay issues are mostly mentioned in entertainment programs, in most cases, events concerned take place in Serbia and the most frequent subject of all reports is the social perception of lesbians and gay men. Still, it seems like everyone else is more invited to talk about lesbians and gay men than lesbians and gay men themselves. Therefore, lesbian and gay activists, lesbian and gay organizations and/or members of lesbian and gay population very rarely appear as sources of information in the reports.

Also, the terminology used is often very offensive and discriminating against lesbians and gay men, and television channels, contrary to what they are obliged by the Broadcasting Act,

broadcast hate speech against people of different sexual orientation than heterosexual.

We plead with all national TV networks, as well as other media, not to broadcast hate speech on any ground, i.e. against any person or group of people, and not to open up the space in their programmes for ideas and attitudes, which incite hatred, discrimination and/or violence of any kind. We, also, plead with more media space to be dedicated to all diversities and we ask for more members of different marginalized and vulnerable groups to be referred, quoted and cited as sources of information.

Labris – lesbian human rights organization will keep pointing out the existence of the practice of expressing and advocating offensive and discriminatory remarks about lesbians and gay men in the public media discourse. We ask the Programme Board of the RBA to recognize the harmfulness and danger of hate speech for society that it will work towards the establishment of a tolerant and democratic social climate, dialogue and understanding.

1 COMPLAINT ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE TV PINK PROGRAMME BRAVO SHOW

To: The Programme Board of the Republic Broadcast Agency

Occasion: complaint about hate speech

Number 50/07

Belgrade, April 4th 2007

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Labris – lesbian human rights organization, and based on the Article 14 of the Broadcasting Act, we address you with the complaint about a broadcaster’s programme content, which represents hate speech as stated in the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act.

The actual example of hate speech against people of different sexual orientation is the TV Pink programme Bravo Show, which was aired on March 7th 2007. Guests of the programme were Drazen Zeric (pop singer), Sladjana Delibasic, and Snezana Babic (folk singers), and programme host was Jelena Bacic Alimpic.

Here are some programme excerpts which indicate hate speech and violation of the ban on hate speech according to the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act.

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“Well, Drazen, how is your girlfriend doing?”

Drazen Zeric:

“I don’t have a girlfriend.”

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“No, no, no... it’s impossible there aren’t any girls around... There aren’t any boys, are there!?”

Drazen Zeric:

“No, no, no, there are girls around me... Boys, God forbid! Although, that’s fashionable in Zagreb, but...”

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“It’s fashionable in Zagreb?”

Drazen Zeric:

“It’s not fashionable here as well, is it? I’ve expected all, but here... and in Sarajevo! Luckily, it hasn’t arrived in Sarajevo yet!”

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“Not yet? That’s what you think!”

Drazen Žeric:

“But it has...the Deen boy... what’s his name... singer... he swings a bit that way.”

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“Swings a bit? (laughter) Well.. he is a bit spoiling this macho image, isn’t he?”

Drazen Zeric:

“It’s not a macho image. Normal way is when a man is with a woman. A man and a man is not normal.”

.....

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“... Your colleague Zijo Rizvanbegovic, when we did an interview some 18 years ago,... I asked him something about nationalism, and than he told me “Back then in Sarajevo, being called a homosexual was more offensive than being called a nationalist.”

Drazen Zeric:

“Well, of course. There is no way gay pride parade is going to happen there.”

Jelena Bacic Alimpic:

“No way, right?”

Drazen Zeric:

“Of course, there’s no way! Nowadays, Hvar is a gay destination in Croatia...”

In this way, we wish to underline that the above mentioned statements induce hate and discrimination against gay and lesbian community in Serbia, and violate broadcasters' legal regulations. We also point out that the programme host did not intervene and interrupt hate speech but rather she induced homophobic statements.

We demand from the Programme Board to acknowledge the violation of the broadcasting regulations according to the Articles 17 i 18 of the Broadcasting Act, and to deliver appropriate measures against the broadcaster.

We are stressing out that TV Pink has already induced discrimination against people of different sexual orientation than heterosexual (programme The Pyramid), which was also concluded by the Programme Board of the RBA, after the complaint had been filed by Labris – lesbian human rights organization and Gayten – LGBT – Center for promotion of sexual minorities.

Having considered the complaint, the Programme Board of the RBA decided that the statements made by Toma Fila and the host Branka Nevistic induced discrimination against lesbians and gay men, as stated in the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act, which is, according to the Paragraph 2 of the same Article, the ground for delivering adequate measures by the RBA. Discrimination against lesbians and gay men is also banned by the Public Information Act.

Also, we are reminding you that the Programme Board of the RBA sent a complaint to the broadcaster – TV Pink, according to the Article 14 Paragraph 2, but the broadcaster did not reply in the appointed deadline, which is a violation of the Article 14 of the Broadcasting Act.

We are hoping that you will take our complaint into consideration and, also, consider repeated instances of encouraging hate speech against people with same-sex orientation by this broadcaster and in accordance with the Article 18 of the Broadcasting Act.

2 COMPLAINT ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE TV PINK PROGRAMME THE PYRAMID

To: The Programme Board of the RBA
Occasion: complaint about hate speech

Number 51/07
Belgrade, April 4th 2007

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Labris – lesbian human rights organization, and based on the Article 14 of the Broadcasting Act, we address you with the complaint about the broadcaster's programme contents, which represents hate speech as it is stated in the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act.

The actual example of hate speech against people of different sexual orientation is the TV Pink programme The Pyramid, which was aired on March 18th 2007. Guests of the programme were Ivana Zigon (actress), Goran Paunovic (?) and Aleksandar Filipovic (TV host), and the programme host was Branka Nevistic.

Here are some programme excerpts which indicate hate speech and violation of the ban on hate speech according to the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act.

Ivana Zigon:

"So, human rights, I think, don't protect any more what's dignified and human in a man, but we listen more and more about, I don't know, about rights of some pathological and abnormal occurrences. For example, rights of homosexuals, rights... well I don't know if there were so many drug addicts until Europe and the West started teaching us how we should live."

Ivana Zigon:

"It's important for me that a man should be either romantic or macho, but to be alive, it's important for me that there are not many gay pride parades".

Branka Nevistic:

"And why is that Ivana? I didn't understand... Perhaps people of different sexual orientation are really the ones who are the most romantic? Why, a man to a man for example..."

Ivana Zigon:

"You think the most imaginative ones? To see in that something romantic."

Branka Nevistic:

"Imagination is, maybe, part of the romance."

Ivana Zigon:

"No! When it's sickness, you know, that sickness should be treated, but when it becomes the sphere of influence..."

In this way, we would like to underline, for the fourth time, that the above mentioned statements broadcast on the TV Pink, induce hate and discrimination against gay and lesbian community in Serbia, and violate broadcasters' legal regulations.

We demand from the Programme Board to acknowledge the violation of the broadcasting regulations according to the Articles 17 i 18 of the Broadcasting Act, and to deliver appropriate measures against the broadcaster.

We are pointing out that TV Pink has already induced discrimination against people of different sexual orientation than heterosexual (programme The Pyramid), which was also concluded by the Programme Board of the RBA, after the complaint filed by Labris – lesbian human rights organization and Gayten – LGBT – Center for promotion of sexual minorities.

We are hoping that you will take our complaint into consideration and, also, consider repeated instances of encouraging hate speech against people with same-sex orientation by this broadcaster and in accordance with the Article 18 of the Broadcasting Act.

3 COMPLAINT ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAMME, THE KEY, BROADCAST ON CHANNEL 1 OF THE RADIO-TELEVISION OF SERBIA

To: The Programme Board of the RBA
Occasion: complaint about hate speech

Number 52 /07
Belgrade, April 9th 2007

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Labris – lesbian human rights organization, and based on the Article 14 of the Broadcasting Act, we address you with the complaint about a broadcaster’s programme content, which represents hate speech as is stated in the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act.

The actual example of hate speech against women and people of different sexual orientation is the TV programme The Key, which was aired on March 26th 2007, on Channel 1 of the Radio-television of Serbia. Guests of the programme were Danica Maksimovic (actress), Marta Mratinkovic (?), Jelena Kajgo (?), Jelena Pantovic (?), and Jovica Stojanovic (anthropologist). The author and host of the programme The Key is Natasa Miljkovic.

Here are some programme excerpts which indicate hate speech and violation of the ban on hate speech according to the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act. Hate speech was used by the programme guest Jovica Stojanovic. We wish to underline the fact that programme author and host did not react in an appropriate manner having interrupted hate speech, i.e. this part of the programme was not left out during the subsequent editing of the programme.

Jovica Stojanovic:

“The women’s essential narcissism is a well known fact.”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“I think that love was really invented by you women, and you imputed it to us and that is your biggest process in the history of the world... And you did that to make us love you!”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“I, personally, think that you are the uglier sex, and we are the weaker sex. And we should be protected from you.”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“You are the uglier sex – for example, you deteriorate faster in a psycho-physical way! Your body deteriorates faster, and that’s why you need liposuctions, face lifting, etc.”

Danica Maksimovic:

“But we also mature faster.”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“Exactly! You mature faster and you rot faster! What matures fast, rots fast.”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“... You women have also invented that land mine for us... we are usually the dumber sex... that’s a fact too... And we keep loving you! How many of you, women, have killed themselves for love? You haven’t killed yourself! Not one woman has ever killed herself for love, but because she had dreamed of a cemetery of men... every woman dreams about a small cemetery of men who got killed because of her!”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“No. I couldn’t have become a faggot. I have too much testosterone in me. So, I’ve tried but not too hard... I’m not good at that...”

Danica Maskimovic:

“Aha, so you’ve tried?”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“Yes, I’ve tried everything...I’ve tried everything. But not that.”

Danica Maksimovic:

“That man has a name, last name, his personality, a character, just like me...”

Jovica Stojanovic:

“A character that you, women, love to mold.”

APPENDICES

Danica Maksimovic:

"Well, probably, that, as well."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"That is your hidden aggression."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"Every woman dreams about, besides that cemetery, the same thing, a harem... every man dreams about a harem of women."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"All normal people think like that. If lesbians can marry each other, if that's the western creation for us to enter Europe, thank you very much, Europe and America, and I don't know how... Then I'll go living with penguins. That's the thing... penguins act normal! It's not normal for men to... that law should not be legalized... everyone has right to be a faggot and to be a lesbian, because homosexuality... in fact, homo means the same. There isn't much talking, it's just... regarding one's sex. The thing is that this is very abnormal, and we, Serbs, had not been known for being faggots! But since this is the one of the entrance tickets for Europe, I think that some people may... I'll vote against it, and you... I mean you who are here."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"The Constitution grants us the freedom of confession of faith, but hasn't yet granted us the freedom of sexual orientation! But, marriages... between two men... there is pederasty in the animal kingdom too."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"Women love masters."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"Of course... I stick to women and mastering, and I'm very skilled at that!"

Jovica Stojanovic:

"If someone asked women who should be awarded the Nobel prize for technical innovations, I bet it would be..."

Danica Maksimovic:

"Marie Curie."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"... no, but the one who invented the mirror! Because you spend most of your time in front of the mirror!"

Jovica Stojanovic:

"Slovenians have first invented marital rape. Thank God, we have not started adopting diseases..."

Danica Maksimovic:

"How do you mean, invented, I suppose marital rape does exist?"

Jovica Stojanovic:

"No, no, no... But look! The thing is that the legislator thinks that if you are in a marital relationship with a person, then sexual relations imply and, therefore, rape is impossible! Sexuality, inherently, comes from, among other things, love, marriage, it satisfies economical, sexual, psychological, existential, and metaphysical needs."

Jovica Stojanovic:

"All women in Serbia love millionaires! It's very strange they don't love something else!"

Jovica Stojanovic:

"As far as I am concerned, love is when I meet a woman who is an average Serbian cow, and I make a goddess out of her! I'm proud of myself then."

In this way, we wish to underline the fact that the above mentioned statements of the programme guest Jovica Stojanovic, which were broadcast on the Channel 1 of the Radio-television of Serbia, i.e. the national public service that is being maintained by Serbian tax payers, induce hate and discrimination against women and gay and lesbian community in Serbia, and violate broadcasters' legal regulations.

We demand from the Programme Board to acknowledge the violation of the broadcasting regulations according to the Articles 17 i 18 of the Broadcasting Act, and to deliver appropriate measures against the broadcaster.

4 REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME BOARD OF THE REPUBLIC BROADCASTING AGENCY ON HATE SPEECH IN THE TV PINK PROGRAMME THE PYRAMIDE

THE RBA PROGRAMME BOARD REPORT

On November 16, 2005, Labris – the lesbian human rights organization filed a complaint to the RBA stating that the Pyramid programme, aired on TV Pink on October, 16th 2005 through the statements made by programme guests Toma Fila, Milorad Vucelic and a show host Branka Nevistic, had manifested hate speech against persons of different sexual orientation than heterosexual, which allegedly violated the Article 21 of the Broadcasting Act.

The RBA Programme Board, in accordance with the Article 14, Paragraph 2, having received the Labris complaint immediately submitted a complaint to the broadcaster - TV Pink, demanding an explanation.

The broadcaster did not provide an explanation in a given deadline, thus violating the Article 14 of the Act.

ANNOTATION:

TV Pink is not a broadcaster, before the law, since the RBA has not allocated concessions of frequencies yet. There is a possibility of commencing the offense procedure to be documented and presented at the public discussion regarding the allocation of concessions of frequencies.

Having considered the complaint the RBA Programme Board concluded that Toma Fila's statement: "...put them in a barrel filled with something...and said it was for them..." (the description of an alleged procedure with lesbians and gay men under Milos Obrenovic's rule) and that of the programme host Branka Nevistic: "Mr. Fila, when did you think – well, these faggots have really gone too far?" induced discrimination against people of different sexual orientation than heterosexual, as is stated in Article 21, Paragraph 1 of the Broadcasting Act, which is in accordance with the Paragraph 2 of the same Article and creates a ground for delivering appropriate sanctions by the RBA, and is also a violation of Article 38 of the Public Information Act. Toma Fila had clearly contextualized his statement on the alleged extremely brutal practice by prince Milos in a positive manner, while the host

Branka Nevistic not only had disassociated from this statement but in her question used an unambiguously derogatory term for homosexuals, by which, apart from the quoted Articles, she violated the elementary professional ethics.

Other statements that the complaint contains do not manifest examples of hate speech but legitimate personal attitudes. The RBA Programme Board believes that the possible sanctioning of these statements would violate the provision stated in the Article 3, Paragraph 3, of the Broadcasting Act, which condemns any form of "...censorship and/or influence on the work of radio broadcasting public stations, by which their independence, their editorship and journalists independence is guaranteed", thus regarding these quotes from the complaint as unfounded.

Labris - the lesbian human rights organization is being encouraged to take possible legal actions in concordance with the Public Information Act, Article 39, Paragraph 2 and to file a complaint against the author and/or editors-in-charge.