

L'UNIONE FA LA FORSE

(Union is strenght, maybe)

L'omofobia ai tempi delle unioni civili
(Homophobia during the times of civil unions)

un documentario di Fabio Leli
(a documentary by Fabio Leli)

UNION IS STRENGTH, MAYBE by Fabio Leli

Synopsis

Many gay couples in Italy, have been waiting for years the legal recognition of their union. This has happened in 2016 ¹, giving rise to strong controversies and numerous objections.² Some Pro Life and other associations in favor of "natural family between men and women" have strongly mobilized to shout their dissent.³ A so compelling dissent to force Parliament to amend the law, eliminating the possibility of adoption of the sons already born by one of the partners of the homosexual couple. (stepchild adoption).

The ideological conflict pervading the country puts on the one hand homosexual families and LGBT associations, and on the other those who fear an attack on the concept of "traditional family", always rooted in Italy thanks to the strong Catholic tradition.⁴

Despite the new law entry into force, although weakened, Italy is facing at a moral crossroad in officially recognizing the existence of this reality kept hidden so far. A clash that probably hides ideological struggles and social theories that go far beyond the legal recognition, but invest a very wide and complex question, which is perhaps the result of fear and religious dogmas.⁵



¹ Dossier-Attachment 1: Civil Unions and Living Together: What does it changes from June,5 - Il Sole 24 ORE 21_05_2016.pdf

² Dossier-Attachment 2: Civil Unions approved - in Italy the LGBT tyranny arrived - Notizie Pro Vita 12_05_2016.pdf

³ Dossier-Attachment 3: Stop gay marriage! Stop Cirinnà! Pro-Family's people mobilize! Put your sign! - Notizie Pro Vita 8_07_2015.pdf

⁴ Dossier-Attachment 4. Illegal Families - Notizie Pro Vita 12_05_2016.pdf

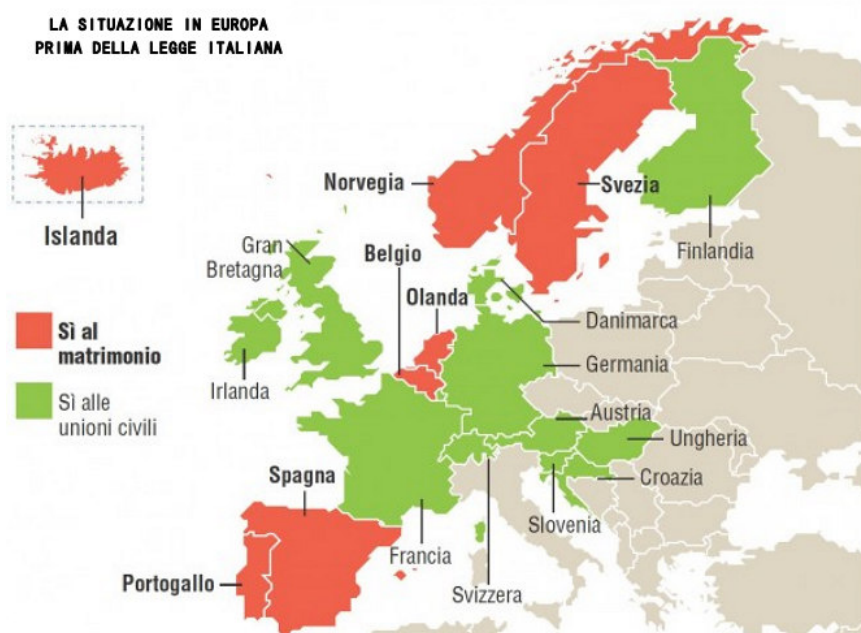
⁵ Dossier Attachment 5. Parish Priest against civil unions- God wants homosexual to die - IlGiornale 10_06_2016.pdf

Subject / Foreword / Theme of the documentary

In Italy from June 5, 2016 a new law, obtained after three years of parliamentary procedure, will regulate the unions between persons of the same sex.

Since 1986 the theme of "civil unions" hovers in the Italian political sphere, through proposals and bills that, for 27 years, have never been carried out, neither by the House nor by the Senate because of policy pressures that have always claimed the heterosexual family as the only possible family at the constitutional level and a part of society that has demonstrated, in various media and in different contexts, doubts and misgivings about claiming this right from homosexual couples, partly because of a strong Catholic tradition, whose doctrine has always placed restrictions on homosexuality broadly speaking.

In 2016, Italy is the last of the six European Union founding nations to legally recognize the right of marriage for people of the same sex.



Certainly a historic and important step which, on the one hand satisfies (in part) desires and struggles of LGBT associations, Rainbow families and movements for homosexual rights, on the other creating discontent and mobilization in associations and organizations such as Difendiamo i Nostri Figli, Pro

Vita, Famiglia Domani, Giuristi Per La Vita, Si alla Famiglia, Le Manif pour Tous, Voglio la Mamma, Sentinelle in Piedi, Uniti per la Famiglia and many others born with the aim of defending what they consider the natural family, composed of a man and a woman, and the right of a child to have a mother and a dad, obviously of opposite sexes.⁶

⁶ Dossier-Attachment 6. Civil Unions, a Government to be pressured. And on 30 January let's move to Rome - La nuova bussola quotidiana 15_01_2016.pdf

In Italy many people has replied, pouring out in squares and streets, to protest against the law on civil unions. On January 30, 2016, the symbolic event of this battle, the Family Day,⁷ filled beyond its capacity Circus Maximus in Rome.⁸

These protest movements have led to the removal, from the original law, of loyalty obligation



for homosexual couples (so that it can stand out from heterosexual marriage) and the possibility of adopting a child born from a previous relationship of one of the two partners (called stepchild adoption).

Even if Italy is legally late on this issue, there are already more than 8,000 homosexual couples in our country, 600 of which with dependent children. Despite the law does not allow it, some judicial rulings, also quite dated ⁹, have recognized some homosexual couples the custody of the children of one partner.

Many people in Italy think that granting the legal right of marriage to persons of the same sex, can undermine the present and the future of heterosexual families and the rights of children possibly adopted by homosexual couples. ¹⁰

⁷ Dossier-Attachment 9. Family Day Press Release – Famiglia Domani

⁸ Dossier-Attachment 7. Family Day- Crowds advice Renzi- No at Cirinnà bill, or we'll remember - Repubblica 30_01_2016.pdf

⁹ Dossier-Attachment 8. Homosexual couple custody for a three-years baby – Tempi.it 15_11_2013.pdf

¹⁰ Dossier-Attachment 10. Necessary observations about homosexual marriage - CR - Agenzia di informazione settimanale 18_04_2013.pdf

The associations and organizations that express these contrary opinions include doctors, psychologists, sociologists, academics and every kind of scholars ¹¹

It is therefore necessary to understand at the earliest if the reasons for these associations and their experts¹², as well as hundreds of thousands of Italian citizens and their followers, can be attributed to a serious hazards¹³ for heterosexual families and children involved in these events or if behind the protest, at times very explicit and articulated, are concealed other reasons ¹⁴ or motivations ¹⁵ that have even prompted some MPs close to these associations to deposit, just after the birth of the law, a referendum ¹⁶ to repeal it.



¹¹ Dossier-Attachment 11. Si Alla Famiglia Press Release- No at civil unions - aretiunificate.it 12_05_2016.pdf

¹² Dossier-Attachment 12. Gay suicides: Let's convert them to heterosexuality The strange theory of the anti gender neurosurgeon - l'Espresso 20_04_2015.pdf

¹³ Dossier-Attachment 13. Cirinnà: A little civil union - CR - Agenzia di informazione settimanale 13_05_2016.pdf

¹⁴ Dossier-Attachment 14. Can a Catholic recognize gay couples' rights? - CR - Agenzia di informazione settimanale 10_07_2013

¹⁵ Dossier-Attachment 15. Homosexuality: is it the real bond - La Nuova Bussola Quotidiana 15_05_2016.pdf

¹⁶ Dossier-Attachment 16. Civil Unions, ready the referendum to revoke the law - IlGiornale 12_05_2016.pdf



Treatment

On the 3 May 2007 Mike Bongiorno posed the following question in his quiz show: *"Homosexuality is: A – A deviance of the personality. B – A feature of the personality"*. The MP honourable Paola Binetti replied that homosexuality is a deviance of the personality. In the morning of 12 April 2016, in Trani, like every morning, Anna accompanies her two daughters, Chiara and Dalila, to school. And like every morning, Chiara is happier than Dalila in going to school. Chiara and Dalila are daughters of Anna and her ex-husband Lorenzo, who now lives in Germany and after the separation no longer wanted to have information about Chiara and Dalila. Anna has been living with her partner Paola for 6 years.

Yes. Anna discovered to be homosexual during her marriage with Lorenzo and, especially, to be in love with Paola. Chiara and Dalila then live with two mothers now, but only Anna can accompany them to school. Paola would need a proxy to do it. But this does not seem to bother the harmony of this special family.



Luca instead would want so see his two children, although, according to the Italian law, they are not his own . Luca is a middle-aged man from Cerignola, who recently separated from his partner, Pietro. They did not get along better, they quarrelled very much and, as often happens in many couples, they broke up. For the law the two children are exclusively of Peter, since they were born from his semen. Luca has no parental rights and, despite having raised his two children for four years, he does not have the right to see them.

On the 11 May 2016 Italian Parliament approved the law on civil unions. Anna is happy because she can legally marry Paola and share all that other Italian families share, such as survivor's pension, residence, capital regime, hospital care and also the common name. Practically everything, except for the two daughters who will remain exclusively daughters of Anna. However, they hope they will be soon both parents.

It is the same hope that pervades Luca, who has not yet the opportunity, with this law, to see his parental rights recognized.

Although the original law provided the article recognizing the custody of children already born of one partner of the homosexual couple, the final law filed in Parliament, does not include this possibility.

This result represents a defeat for the associations present at the Family Day of 30 January 2016, since they asked, in that event and in so many other protest events, the total write-off of the law, as happened with PACS in 2002 and DICO in 2007.

This is confirmed by the Pro Life Association and its president, Toni Brandi, among the promoters of the Family Day, who argued: *“Many want us to believe that the law must be adapted to force the evolution of customs, the actual social situation: a situation that would see countless “gay” common law couples, eager to enjoy rights so long denied. If it is true that the law must take into account the social context, however, it must adjust this context in order to realize the common good. The right can not promote what is contrary to the common and individual good. Homosexual relations are contrary to the good of the person and granting “rights” of that assumption is also against the common good. There is no “evolution: some things are and will always be “incapable of being ordered” to good, because intrinsically disordered. Many things change in human events, but the essence of men remains the same.”*¹⁷



¹⁷ Dossier-Attachment 17. Toni Brandi interview - radiospada 22_04_2015

Words which confirm the will not to absolutely recognize the possibility of same-sex couples to exist , because they are contrary to the common good.

Rodolfo De Mattei of Corrispondenza Romana, shares the same opinion, and about the introduction of the law: *"The legalization of homosexuality, which is implemented through the legal recognition of civil unions, is enforced in the name of his estimated intrinsic goodness and normality, thus transforming a moral absolute evil in an absolute good to spread and promote in society as a fully positive model. In this sense, homosexuality is an unparalleled public scandal, because it sanctions and promotes as "good" perverse behaviors that go against human nature and which therefore deserve to be described as "abnormal." This scandal is daily perpetuated and manifested through public and stable bonds represented by same-sex "families", homosexual marriage, today recognized by the Italian State. A situation of public and permanent immorality that no society, for more than two thousand years, has never dared to legitimize or legalize".*¹⁸

From these statements it is easy to understand the dangers Italian heterosexual families are in order to meet, because of the threat posed by homosexual unions. The hardest to understand is the way in which same-sex couples will endanger all the other families.

Meanwhile in Trani, Anna is getting home from work. Paola is preparing dinner. Chiara and Dalila are playing with a noose along with Miso, their cat. Anna comes home exhausted. She greets Paola and girls.

In Cerignola, instead, Luca shows a boy,met a few days ago, the photos of his two children.

¹⁸ Dossier-Attachment 18. "Gay marriage" becomes a law . An unprecedented public scandal - CR - Agenzia di informazione settimanale 18_05_2016.pdf

Director's Statement

"Union is strength, maybe" wants to interlace the lives of homosexual families with the anti-LGBT leaders' thought, in a unique tale. Two very distant and distinct worlds, which need to be compared, because of "denied normality" from the seconds to the first, regardless of the fact that it can be accepted or not, but simply because reality presents us their existence. We will follow the "typical days" of some Rainbow families without their direct tale comes tumbling in the film, but we will use the images of family life to alternate them to the interviews of those who think that their lives do not need a legal recognition. The final result is a contrast that will lead the spectator to draw his own idea on the basis of what he will see in these families and listen from their detractors.



Motivations

The need to realize "Union is strength, maybe", comes from the need to understand the exponential evolution (or involution, depending on the points of view) of some associative movements, through events, media spaces, social networking campaigns and various publications, shout to the whole world their concern for the safety of the heterosexual family and children, because of homosexual unions.

Being a member of a heterosexual family, I could not understand how the legal recognition of the union of two persons of the same sex could endanger my safety and my family's one as well as that of my possible future progeny.

Therefore, my research, born spontaneously in November 2015, led me to collect an infinity of audio / video and journalistic material on what, finally, I have identified as the real subject of my research, of which at the beginning I really never suspected : homophobia.

Homophobia still exists in 2017 and evolved masquerading under the slogan of "Let's Defend Our Family".

Having understood this, only after a careful and extensive research, I thought about those who may really share, with me, the thought of the "defense of the family," but ignores the real and insidious reasons that lead these associations to lavish the good of "natural" family, exclusively through the propaganda of the prohibition of homosexual rights' granting.

But this is not a film about homophobia. In many of the articles I read and proof read, doctors, psychologists, scholars and academics discuss "abnormality."

So this wants to be a film about the beauty of so many "different" existing normalities, being part of a reality that must be addressed and understood, which in this country has probably never been done at anthropological level, but which today has been introduced at political level. Will italians be ready?

In a period in which even the Pope, has declared to the whole world: *"If a person is gay and seeks the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?"* ¹⁹, i wonder how it is possible that hatred is still shared towards those who have a different sexual orientation, moreover, without even declaring it openly but disguising it as "message for the defense of the family" in order to broaden the much as possible the circle of receptors of that veiled but dangerous message:

¹⁹ Dossier-Attachment 19. Pope: Who am I to judge a gay - Corriere della Sera 29_07_2013.pdf

"Your sons and your families are in danger because homosexuals come together, get married and love each other. "I believe that the veil should be lifted, even because of a 'widespread intolerance' not only in Italy, but also in the rest of the world, causing sometimes massacres²⁰ and suicides.²¹



²⁰ Dossier-Attachment 20. Killer of Orlando's father "My son killed 50 homosexuals because he saw two men kissing and shocked "- BITCHYF 12_06_2016.pdf

²¹ Dossier-Attachment 21. Bari, unaccepted by his parents 18 years gay killed himself. - La Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno 05_05_2016.pdf