



What Is RFSL?

Riksförbundet för homosexuellas, bisexuellas och transpersoners rättigheter (RFSL—The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights) is a non-profit organization that works with and for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT). It consists of 27 independent divisions and an independent youth federation. It is non-partisan and not affiliated with any religious organization.

RFSL was founded in 1950 and is one of the world's oldest LGBT organizations. It currently has approximately 4,000 members.

What are RFSL's goals?

RFSL's vision and ultimate goal is a society that is characterized by respect for and acceptance of people's differences on such a sweeping scale that organizations such as RFSL are no longer necessary.

RFSL's objective is that the same rights, opportunities and obligations will be applicable for LGBT people as they are for everyone else in society.

What Does RFSL Do?

RFSL works to improve the quality of life for LGBT people through political lobbying, information dissemination, and the organization of social and support activities. Internationally, RFSL works with The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA) and also collaborates with other LGBT organizations in neighboring countries.

The federation operates counseling centers for both women and men in Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The counseling is intended for people who need to talk about coming out, sex, HIV/AIDS and other health issues, and relationships, as well as who need assistance in their contact with the authorities and health care institutions, or who require legal assistance with, for example, asylum and wills.

RFSL produces the Kom Ut ("Come Out") magazine. In addition, the federation maintains three websites with general information as well as specific information regarding LGBT health issues and for LGBT crime victims.

Contact Information

Mailing address:	Street address:
RFSL	RFSL
Box 350	Sveavägen 59, 2tr
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E-mail: forbund@rfsl.se

Telephone numbers:

Federation National Office: +46-8-501 62 900

RFSL Media (Kom ut): +46-8-501 62 910

HIV Office: +46-8-501 62 905

Fax: +46-8-30 47 30

www.rfsl.se (general information)

www.rfsl.se/halsa (health)

www.rfsl.se/brottsoffer (crime victims)

Local divisions can be reached via the federation national office or via www.rfsl.se.

RFSL's counselors can be reached at the

following telephone numbers:

Stockholm: +46-8-501 629 70

Gothenburg: +46-31-775 40 15

Malmö: +46-40-611 99 50

Some of what RFSL has achieved in recent years:

1995: The Registered Partnership Act goes into effect

1999: Ban on discrimination in working life on the grounds of sexual orientation goes into effect

2000: RFSL named Lobbyist of the Year by Resumé magazine

2002: The Equal Treatment of Students at Universities Act goes into effect

2003: Sexual orientation is included in the ban against incitement to violence against ethnic or similar groups; same-sex couples given the same rights as opposite-sex couples with respect to all forms of adoption and legal custody of children; broader ban on discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation goes into effect

2005: Ban on discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation within the social welfare and health care systems goes into effect; lesbian couples gain the right to medically assisted insemination

2006: Ban on discrimination and other insulting treatment of children and students goes into effect

2009: Gender-neutral marriage goes into effect; transgender identity or expression is added as a ground of discrimination in Sweden; transvestism is removed from the National Board of Health and Welfare's list of mental illnesses