

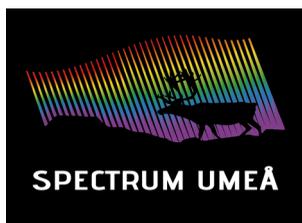
The
Nobel Pride
Award 2016

By
Spectrum Umeå

Spectrum Umeå is holding a queersittning on December 10, 2016. On this day, we wanted to award some people who has made contribution to the Swedish LGBTQ+ movement and community. We wish to show our respect to the wonderful people who have been working hard to in various ways for the rights of LGBTQ+ people. Through this award we want to share information and knowledge about different activities and work that is going on around Sweden, which in turns, we believe can help in spurring future effect on the LGBTQ+ movement.

As we did not want to take the decision of winners by ourselves, so we called for nomination from people through our facebook page and event page. And discussed all the nominations with the Queersittning organizers and volunteers. Then through a democratic vote we decided the winners.

Now, we proudly announce 6 individuals and institutes as the winners of the Nobel Pride Award 2016 by Speqtrum Umeå.



Evelina Liliequist

Evelina Liliequist, maiden name Lindahl, has been a familiar face in the Swedish LGBTQ+ rights activities and movement for a very long time. She has brought her experience and passion of the movement in the academia. And, among all her achievements, she has contributed in the book 'Boréa Bokförlag' which was an anthology about non-heterosexual womens' lifestories. Here, she wrote the chapter 'De försvinner nästan. När de blir äldre, alltså' which was about ageing women. She also has a music band with her wife. So, we are proudly announcing Evelina Liliequist as the winner of Nobel Pride Award 2016 by Spectrum Umeå for being a face of motivation and her relentless involvement in multifaceted activities related to LGBTQ+ questions.

Josefine Wälivaara

Josefine Wälivaara is a cinema scholar who research here on Umeå University and has written 'Dreams of a subversive future: sexuality, (hetero)normativity, and queer potential in science fiction film and television', a PhD which she spoke about with us during Umeå Pride. She explores and discusses how science fiction despite being a genre depicting the future, different times, places and societies, it has been very normative in terms of sexuality. Why has there been so few LBGTQ+ characters in popular science fiction and why does the genre so seldom use the queer potential for the genre? As her work is a very interesting and thought-provoking about the representation of LGBTQ+ people and issues in popular media, particularly the genre which is based on the idea of how the future will, should or could change, we believe it deserves recognition! So, we proudly announce Josefine Wälivaara the winner of Nobel Pride Award 2016 by Spectrum Umeå for her excellent work.

Queering Sápmi

Queering Sápmi may have only been a time-limited "project" but the photography, the stories, the installations, and the information that the

project team created and published during this time were outstanding and are continuing to have a big impact in and beyond Sápmi. We think that, this is a great example of a timeless project. Their work is not only helping Queer Sápmi individuals find themselves and be proud of their identities, but even helping the wider Swedish community to understand what it means to be Sápmi or to be from Sápmi, as well as increasing the space for minority groups to take positions of power and be represented within the LGBTQ+ movement in Sweden. So, we proudly announce Sara Lindquist and Elfrida Bergman, the project leaders of Queering Sapmi, the winners of Nobel Pride Award 2016 by Spectrum Umeå, for their excellent work.

RFSL Newcomers

RFSL Newcomers Umeå is driven completely by volunteers and provides support and a social network to around 20 individuals living in Västerbotten. RFSL Newcomers Umeå started in February 2015 and has since then held regular meetings. Among other activities, they usually cook food together and talk about their stories. They even organise game nights, excursion to the museum and so on. The situation for asylum seeking lgbtq-people is shocking, and sometimes they live in homophobic environments with very little economic support. They must fight to "convince" the migration board of their sexuality or gender identity and even show evidence of how bad their lives were back homes. In Umeå Newcomers group we have members that have not received any answer after two years of waiting. So, RFSL Newcomers Umeå is trying to offer social and mental support to the LGBTQ+ newcomers. They also direct the LGBTQ+ newcomers to RFSL federation and RFSL Newcomers (national) for further legal and other supports. So, we proudly announce Elin Byström and Helena Gard the winners of Nobel Pride Award 2016 by Spectrum Umeå for their patience, hard work, and relentless cooperation in carrying on the RFSL Newcomers Umeå with minimum resources.

Silvana Imam

Silvana Imam is an openly lesbian rapper on a mission to crush racism and homophobia, and she does this by using her voice, art and performance. She is also loudly criticizing people of power who threaten future equality. Her unapologetic attitude, her talent and her fearlessness in combination with her very popular music is empowering and inspiring to many other people in Sweden. She was made Artist of the Year 2016 at the Grammy awards and has been touring the country spreading her ideology and boosting the LGBTQ+ movement, as well as adding to the arsenal of powerful and beautiful queer music out there! So, we proudly announce Silvana Imam as the winner of Nobel Pride Award 2016 by Spectrum Umeå.

Xulhaj Mannan

It is a punishable crime in Bangladesh to be a homosexual. Moreover, non-normative sexuality and gender are socially unacceptable and could be severely punished by the State and society. In this extreme set up, Xulhaj Mannan believed in the rights of LGBTQ+ people and worked for the community for many years gradually becoming an excellent leader for the LGBTQ+ community in Bangladesh. He was the founder and publisher of the first and only LGBTQ+ magazine named Roopbaan in Bangladesh. The magazine later turned into a platform that organized the first Rainbow Rally, a local version of Pride Parade, in Dhaka in 2014 and then again in 2015. However, as the extremism started increasing in the country, the LGBTQ+ community in general along with their leaders started facing huge difficulties. In this situation, Xulhaj Mannan did not stop working for the community. He neither wanted to leave the country nor hide in fear. As a consequence he was hacked to death by the religious extremists on April 25, 2016. So, we want to honor his sacrifice for the LGBTQ+ community in Bangladesh. We proudly announce Xulhaj Mannan the winner of Nobel Pride Award, 2016 by Spectrum Umeå.