

Notice: Undefined index: et_header_layout in /home/hrwfe90/domains/hrwf.eu/public_html/wp-content/plugins/pdf-print/pdf-print.php on line 1214

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MEXICO: Queer couples stage kiss-in protest in shopping mall

Unfurling a sprawling LGBT+ Pride flag, protesters packed a shopping mall in Mexico on Sunday after security staff banned a gay couple from kissing and holding hands.

By Josh Milton

Pink News (02.03.2020) – <https://bit.ly/3c0sqHK> – “Love is love!” the demonstrators chanted as they walked by luxury fashion stores and coffee house chains, kissing one another and waving flags as shoppers exchanged quizzical looks.

The *Besotón vs Homofobia* 2020 march was held in defiance after

Galerías Monterrey, Monterrey, security officers demanded a gay couple stop kissing in the plaza.

Jorge and Iván were waiting in the square until a movie started in the cinema nearby when the patrolling guards cornered them and asked them to leave.

Officers asked if the couple “could not be groping” outside in case children see them, Jorge, one half of the couple, claimed in a viral Facebook video.

Regias del Drag, a drag queen collective in the northern city, organised the protest to openly defy the guards who, Jorde said, claimed they were “only following orders”.

At around 3pm, the shopping center of the plaza was paralyzed by the impassioned protesters, who rolled out rainbow banners and draped flags around them as capes. Some hoisted poles with unmissable trans-inclusive gender symbols on top.

Chants of “education is the option”, “no to discrimination” and “not a step back” echoed across the canyon of shops as protesters descended down the escalators.

The group, which included Jorge and Iván alongside dozens of supporters and drag queens, later spilled into one of the major walkways of the shopping mall and kissed and embraced one another. A circle of supporters cheering each on.

LGBT+ rights in Mexico

Mexico City, a liberal island in the vastly conservative United Mexican States, first paved the way for marriage equality and a seismic shift towards acceptance in Latin America in 2009.

In breaking long-held taboos around homosexuality, the jurisdiction became the first to legalise same-sex marriage.

Years on, and each of the 31 states of Mexico have unique

codes around marriage, forming a patchwork of states that have various degrees of marriage equality but, overall, it is not illegal.

Moreover, LGBT+ citizens enjoy study anti-discrimination laws and acceptance is on the up. Although, rights around parenthood and the military remain in limbo.

Some bills are still pending, clogging the Congress of Mexico, while others, such as banning conversion therapy, are being proposed.

Furthermore, in 2019, Mexico was considered the world's second-deadliest country for trans people.

A study by Mexican LGBT+ rights organisation Letra Ese has shown that, between 2013 and 2016, at least 473 LGBT+ people have been killed in the country, and 261 of these were trans women.

According to the report, the last two years have been the most violent, with a 30 per cent increase in the number of murders in relation to the average of previous years.

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