



Brussels, 11 October 2019



### **NELFA and its new “RAF.TEENS” project**

Dear members of the associations affiliated to NELFA

NELFA today works to defend the interests of 38 LGBTIQ\* parents associations across Europe. It represents thousands of LGBTIQ\* people, and their children, many girls and boys, in the European institutions and organisations.

After leaving the National Presidency of Italian Rainbow Families association, one of the founding associations of NELFA, I have been dedicating myself, together with a group of European activists, to the development of the NELFA network for the last 4 years.

Following a personal experience, born by chance during our general assembly in Helsinki in March 2019, my daughter Lisa, 16 years old, spent a week in Madrid this summer with the family of Gabriel, 17 years old, son of David and Jesus who, like me, is a board member for NELFA.

Lisa went to Madrid for a week in July, Gabriel came to us for a week in August. This exchange was very pleasant for both of them, they met an LGBTIQ\* family living abroad, they practiced their English, because they communicated essentially in that language, they learned the rudimentary language of the other. They tried totally different ways of living: the metropolis and freedom of movement for Lisa, the countryside and slowness for Gabriel. They tasted different kitchens and visited places never seen before, they experienced different rhythms of life and met new friends, they also had to travel alone and overcome shyness and various embarrassments, they had to adapt to unusual ways of doing and rhythms. **An experience of growth.**

This experience could be extended to all our adolescent girls and boys from 14 to 21 years old who want to spend a week abroad and meet other families similar to theirs, living the same and different situations. We can, as NELFA, find a way to connect families so that they can independently organize exchanges, but before launching into the creation of suitable tools we want to know if this project, I would like to call RAF.TEENS (Rainbow families for our Teens) captures the interest of your families and that of your children. If you are interested, please answer the questions in the form below:

<https://bit.ly/33etteH>

**NELFA aisbl**

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If we see that there is interest, we will work to ensure that next summer our children can go across Europe to meet other teens, daughters and sons of LGBTIQ\* parents. This is just the first in a series of projects dedicated to our Teens and Youngs. I'll let you know as we go.

**Giuseppina La Delfa**

**Famiglie Arcobaleno, NELFA**



Lisa and Gabriel in a café in Madrid (1) and somewhere in South Italy (2).