

## Contact to COCKtail

Do you know someone (or are you) a new comer with a LGBT identity? Please contact **COCKtail** and learn all about the **COCKtail** project.

You may be or know someone who is capable or interested to become a **COCKtail** buddy. Also if you wish to receive more information, share ideas or feedback than we would like to hear or read from you.



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Directed to **COCKtail**

## Guidelines of the COCKtail project

**COCKtail** will not act without the permission of the newcomer to:

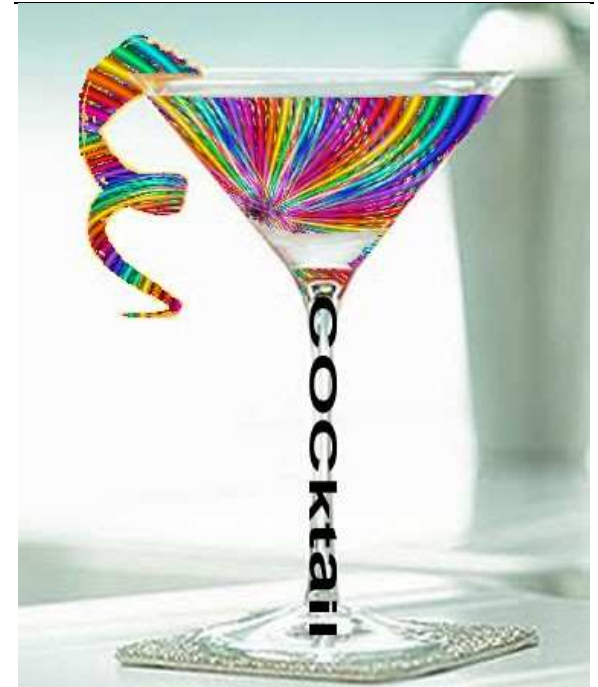
1. out them out of their closeted identity
2. force them into to gay scene
3. seduce them to a love or sexual relationship to their **COCKtail** buddy
4. help with financial problems
5. help with physical problems
6. help with mental problem
7. help with legal problems
8. accept professional help
9. make them dependent on their buddy
10. make them a member of the COC

**COCKtail** will offer the newcomer guidance to:

1. express their LGBT feelings in a way that feels safe and discrete
2. realise that their LGBT feelings are accepted and tolerated in the Netherlands
3. realise that they are protected by law against discrimination and violence, so that they can feel safe
3. brake their silent and lonely struggle about their secret identity
4. protect them for more taboo, trauma and misery
5. make them feel at ease in the (LGBT-) society in this new and strange environment
6. introduce them in the new Dutch society also to find access to practical matters easier
7. learn the Dutch language, standards and ways to communicate
8. become more confident, self assured and independent
9. prevent them to choose for the wrong and unjust path or meet the wrong people
10. experience they are not alone in this world.

# COCKtail

Wants to introduce newcomers



**COCKtail** is a project of  
COC Middle-Netherland

## What is COCKtail trying to aim?

**COCKtail** wishes to break through the isolated position of asylum seekers and refugees (newcomers) with lesbian, gay-, bi- and/or transsexual (LGBT) feelings and introduce them in the Dutch (LGBT-) society in a safe way.

Policy concerning newcomers is applying -nationally and internationally- to emotional responses again and again. Politicians respond to this rhetorically in (strict or lesser) legal policy to handle this eternal human phenomenon.

In the meantime newcomers will have to wait for a better future. This requires a lot of patience of these people. Patience is a virtue and a big effort in a asylum seekers camp, amongst different –sometimes hostile- nationalities, different cultures and their own refugee history. This histories are often filled with no coped emotions and traumas which the new comer will have to hide or cope with in the azc camp.

For a LGBT new comer in a asylum seekers camp there will be an extra factor, for the LGBT feelings have to be suppressed –just like they used to do in their home country- in a by heterosexuals dominated micro society, that has trouble accepting or tolerating a different sexual orientation. In the past this has had an effect of loneliness, fear, aggression and even an attempt to suicide.

Since homosexuality is a positive criteria for newcomers from unsafe countries to become a status and a permit, in the future more and more LGBT newcomers will appear in the cams. This is the reason for the COC region Middle-Netherlands to take action.

By flying the LGBT newcomer has hoped to find a safe climate to express her or his sexual orientation. In vain, as long as the newcomer does not find

response with the rightful guidance. By **COCKtail** the COC wants to guide the individual LGBT newcomer out of their isolation and provide them the safe climate, to express their own sexual identity in Dutch society.

## How will COCKtail accomplish it?

**COCKtail** will invite de LGBT newcomer to take part in the **COCKtail** buddy project, in which the newcomer will be matched 1 on 1 to a LGBT **COCKtail** buddy, who - if available - speaks or understands the same language.

**COCKtail** buddies are volunteers who are selected, trained and guided by the COC Middle-Netherlands. They are LGBT and wish to guide the newcomers in every social activity to help the newcomer to get acquainted with and introduce them in the Dutch (LGBT-) society.

In a first meeting a **COCKtail** volunteer -if necessary with the help of an interpreter- will ask for the need and wishes of the LGBT newcomer and explain the guidelines, limitations and practical agreements. Than **COCKtail** will apply to several networks to find a buddy that will fit to the newcomer.

**COCKtail** buddies are volunteers, who will treat the newcomer with respect and discretion. They cannot and will not offer legal, medical, mental or financial help. The buddies will be trained and guided by regular evaluation and feedback by the COC Middle-Netherlands to guide the quality and it's limitations.

**COCKtail** is a voluntary service. That is why the service is free of charge for the newcomer, except for their own travel expenses, entree and drinks, though the cost may not be a threshold. The activities that the **COCKtail** couple will do are to be agreed in this duo.

Besides this **COCKtail** will also plan group meetings, for relaxation, recreation and educational purposes.

## Who COCKtail wants to reach & how?

- LGBT Asylum seekers
- LGBT refugees
- LGBT Expat students and/or employees
- LGBT with a non Dutch background

In August 2009 **COCKtail** started with the guidance of LGBT newcomers and in January 2010 it will evaluate the first experiences.

At first **COCKtail** will direct it's attention towards LGBT asylum seekers who are living in the azc camps in the region Middle-Netherlands. This is a limitation for the project is done by the COC Middle-Netherlands Besides this the LGBT newcomers, are easy to be traced and addressed as long as they are living in the camps. As soon as they have their status they will be integrated in Dutch society or without status banned to the country of their origin or vanished in illegal and alien society.

Most newcomers will not tell their secret LGBT identity as soon as they arrive at the IND or the COA. The success of **COCKtail** will depend on the co-operation of and communication with employees of the camps and other help and aid surrounding the newcomer, to whom a relationship of trust can be expected.

Like the employees of:

- the medical staff GCA in the azc camps
- the hosting housefather in the azc camps
- the Social Service teams and the mental health service of the RIAGG concerned with asylum seekers and refugees.
- the refugee guidance by volunteers of Vluchtelingenwerk