

Redistribution of all-gender toilets

Erasmus University Rotterdam is committed to inclusivity, valuing diversity across its community. Recognizing the varied needs within our community, including the introduction of all-gender toilets, we acknowledge the importance of adapting to better serve everyone. Initiated from findings by the IDEA Center, highlighting a need among non-cisgender individuals, all-gender toilets were established at the start of the 2023/2024 academic year. However, feedback suggests a need for a more balanced distribution that accommodates all preferences.

Concerns

The crux of the matter lies in the distribution of toilets, which isn't able to adequately accommodate for the diversity of the EUR community. In certain locations, such as the third floor of the Mandeville building, all toilets are of the all-gender type. This decision was made by RE&F due to the majority of people being concentrated on the main floors of educational buildings.

The unbalanced distribution of such facilities may breed discord and feelings of discomfort, as individuals who prefer gender-segregated toilets might still find themselves compelled to use all-gender toilets in certain situations. This is caused by the absence of gender-segregated toilets on the main floors of educational buildings. Overall, we've observed a need to balance the distribution of all-gender toilets with traditional gender-segregated facilities, ensuring comfort and accessibility for all.

Disproportionate Allocation

The IDEA Center has indicated that potentially over 1000 students and staff do not identify with the binary gender. According to their data, the university counts 33,334 students (BA, MA, and students in bridging programs) and 5,892 staff members (both academic and support staff). This implies that the number of individuals not identifying as cisgender constitutes approximately 2.55% of the total student and staff population.

Furthermore, the RE&F team has reported a total of 159 public toilet blocks in the educational buildings on campus. Among these, 28 are designated as all-gender, which translates to roughly 17.6%. This discrepancy highlights that the number of all-gender toilets surpasses the proportionality indicated by the provided data.

Discomfort

Various indications of discomfort regarding the all-gender toilets have been reported, as conveyed to us as a university council. Students and staff express unease about sharing restroom facilities with individuals of a different gender. Mostly women don't feel comfortable and safe.

A pilot study conducted at the University of Utrecht also revealed instances of discomfort in the all-gender toilets (All-Gender Toilets, 2023). This pilot study indicated that individuals, mostly women, don't feel safe and often prefer toilets without urinals. These findings align with the complaints we have received from fellow students at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Practical Concerns

The current distribution of all-gender toilets raises practical concerns as well. Women who wish to adjust their headscarves in the restroom may feel uncomfortable doing so in the presence of individuals of a different gender. Consequently, in some cases, they must travel a considerable distance to be able to do this in privacy. Additionally, religious students also experience discomfort regarding these toilets, as their usage is unfamiliar to them.

Given the aforementioned concerns, we advocate for a reconsideration of the distribution of toilets to better align with the diversity of the EUR community.

Current Composition

Erasmus building	AB-9918	Van der Goot	M1-9923
Erasmus building	AB-9920		
Library	B1-9901A	Van der Goot	M1-9945
Library	B1-9903		
Theil	CT-99127	Van der Goot	M1-9949
Theil	CT-99135	PT	PT-99067e
G gebouw	GB-99091	Mandeville	T03-9940
G gebouw	GB-99092	Mandeville	T03-9941
Langeveld	LAN00.034	Mandeville	T03-9942
Langeveld	LAN00.072	Mandeville	T03-9943
Sanders	LB-99081	Mandeville	T03-9945
Sanders	LB-99091	Mandeville	T03-9946
		Mandeville	T03-9948
		V	VB-9920
Van der Goot	M1-9919	Polak	Y1-9901
		Polak	Y1-9926

Proposed composition

Erasmus Building	AT-9922
Library	1.9901a
Theil	CT-99135
G gebouw	G1-99091
Langeveld	LAN 01.072
Sanders	LB-99091
Van der Goot	M1-9919
Van der Goot	M1-9945
PT	PT-99067e
Mandeville	T03-9948
Mandeville	T04-9942
Mandeville	T05-9946
V	VB-9920
Polak	Y2-9926

Current: 28 out of 159 (approximately 17.6%)

Proposed: 14 out of 159 (approximately 8.8%)

Explanation for proposed composition

In formulating the proposed composition, we considered the distribution of all-gender toilets with urinals, as studies like the University of Utrecht's pilot indicate that such facilities can make some individuals, mostly women, feel uncomfortable and unsafe. Therefore, it is desirable to provide an alternative, such as a separate women's toilet on the same floor. This is particularly relevant for buildings like Langeveld, where, according to the current proposal, LAN 01.034 will be designated as a women's toilet, while LAN 01.072, with urinals, will become an all-gender toilet.

We also believe that adapting the G-building is crucial. The quiet room, frequently used by religious students, is located on the ground floor. Hence, there is a strong preference for gender toilets to be closest to this space. Therefore, we propose placing one all-gender toilet on the 1st floor of the G-building. Again, this also remains easily accessible for students who require it.

This proposed composition is more balanced because it better reflects the diversity within the EUR community while also maintaining accessibility to the all-gender toilets. Furthermore, we would like to signal all toilets that have a urinal to make it known for everyone nearby.

Conclusion

Our proposal seeks to refine the current distribution of all-gender toilets, making a significant step towards accommodating the entire community's preferences. For those who do prefer all-gender toilets, they will remain easily accessible in the proposed layout. We believe these adjustments will foster a more comfortable and inclusive environment for all students and staff at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

Yours sincerely,
Erasmus University Council

Bron:

All-gendertoiletten. (2023, February 2). Universiteit Utrecht.
<https://www.uu.nl/nieuws/all-gendertoiletten>

PROPOSAL FOR VOTING