

**BOARD CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM
EQUINET AGM ELECTIONS 2015**

Please return this form to:
**Anne Gaspard, Executive Director
EQUINET Secretariat**

Anne.Gaspard@equineteurope.org
Rue Royale 138, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Fax +32 (0)22123030

Deadline for nominations: 8 September 2015

Member Organisation / Equality Body:	Defenseur des droits
Country:	France
Name of Candidate: <i>(Firstname SURNAME)</i>	Sarah BENICHOU
Position in the Member organisation:	Head of "Access to rights and discriminations" Unit
Contact Email: Telephone:	Sarah.benichou@defenseurdesdroits.fr +33 153296121
Year of joining Member Organisation in your country:	2012

Please note that a candidacy form will only be valid with page 2 (overleaf) fully completed and accompanied by a CV/profile in English. Please hand-sign and date the form below.

The Secretariat will also need to receive a picture of the candidate (see page 4 of Elections guide).

Your CV/profile may contain only information that you deem relevant to the position of Board Member (e.g. professional experience) and is **NOT** required to include personal data (e.g. date of birth, personal address)

Date:

Signature:

8/09/2015

S. Benichou

Please note that your candidacy information will be made available to Members prior to AGM and access to this information will be restricted to Equinet Members only.

My motivation for becoming a member of the Equinet Executive Board: *(please explain why you would like to sit on the Equinet Executive Board)*

I have acquired a great expertise in the field of non-discrimination. After a PHD devoted to anti-discrimination law and several professional experiences on the issue of non-discrimination and equality (associative manager, consultant, trainer) I have developed a comprehensive view on the matter. Being in charge of the "Access to Rights and Discrimination" Unit, I have adopted a cross-disciplinary, concerted and forward-looking approach to discussions, actions and projects. This will allow me to relay all the ongoing debates of the Defender of Rights related to discrimination, whether it concerns legal issues or prevention projects, studies and communication.

As a result of my professional experience, I consider that coordination and dialogue between Equality Bodies at European level is essential to make the non-discrimination Community law effective and to progress together towards Equality.

Equinet is a great network which facilitates exchanges of tools, experiences and thoughts and presently endeavors to build a common and stronger voice in order for NEBs to weight in the EU debate and to seek new improvements of the antidiscrimination law and public policy.

I had the pleasure to represent my institution at several thematic Equinet meetings and worked successfully and fruitfully with my European counterparts.

I am therefore particularly motivated to become member of the Board.

Additional note or other relevant information relating to your application (if any):

Regarding challenges in Europe and the work already accomplished by Equinet, I propose the following priorities:

- Racial discrimination, linked to religion and the global issue of racism. We know that in many countries it is the first cause of discrimination, even more so in the context of the economic crisis, and the increasing racism driven by the refugees issue.
- Continuing our fruitful discussions and the pooling of tools and projects between the members, on gender (discrimination based on gender, pregnancy, marital status, gender identity, and harassment). Founded on legislative developments or identified backlash.

With regards to the methodology, I consider it important that we collectively assess the written productions of the network (multiplicity and diversity) in order to reinforce their impact and the visibility of Equinet.

The capitalization of tools could also be strengthened beyond the legal issues, in the field of Promotion of Equality (communication, education, training ...).

Finally, it might be relevant for Equinet to rely even more on the member organizations with special expertise on particular issues in order to benefit from their already established practices and/or the originality of their work.

Some of them, in specific issues could definitively open the way on certain issues, even more so when this is on the agenda of the EU institutions.

The text boxes are expandable

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