

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:	HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
Country:	POLAND
Name of Candidate: <i>(Firstname SURNAME)</i>	Anna BŁASZCZAK
Position in the Member organisation:	deputy director of the Department for Equal Treatment and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Contact Email: Telephone:	a.blaszczak@brpo.gov.pl
Year of joining Member Organisation in your country:	2007

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.

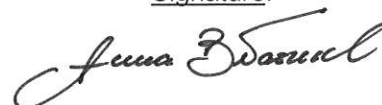
The Secretariat will also need to receive a picture of the candidate (see page 4 of Elections guide).

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:

18.08.2015.

Signature:



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)*

There are two main reasons why I'd like to continue my work as a member of the Equinet Executive Board. First of all, in the past two years **I have been involved in the preparation of the strategic plan of our organization for the years 2015-2018**. It was a very exciting process, which allowed me to get to know the opinions and needs of member organizations. I do believe in future goals of Equinet and I'd like to participate in their implementation. Secondly, I have worked at the Office of the Human Rights Defender in Poland, which has very wide range of competencies. In addition to its function of the national human rights institution, it is also became an equality body, and since 2012 also an independent institution for monitoring implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The regulations of the Polish Constitution allow the Ombudsman to take action in any case of infringement of the principle of equal treatment, regardless of its grounds and area of discrimination. As a result, the Office of the Human Rights Defender considers about 1.000 complaints about violation of the principle of equal treatment a year. **This makes me deal with the full range of issues connected with this area**. The powers granted to the Ombudsman also allow the selection of the most effective measures against discrimination. In practice of operation of the Polish office for equal treatment we have put, among others, motions to the Polish Constitutional Tribunal (including matters of equal treatment, discrimination on the grounds of gender, age and disability), lodging legal remedies in court proceedings (including proceedings against discrimination on the grounds of race and age) as well as the so-called indirect legislative initiatives (including in the area of equal treatment regardless of sexual identity, gender, age and disability). **Working in the Office of the Ombudsman has allowed me to gain a lot of experience in the field of research on discrimination**. My recent research included the issues of prevention of discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion. **I am convinced that this broad perspective may be valuable for such an organisation as Equinet, and my experience regarding various measures of prevention of discrimination on multiple grounds will be useful in the tasks of Executive Board**.

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

In the Office of the Human Rights Defender I occupy position of **deputy director of the Department for Equal Treatment and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and Secretary of the Experts' Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities. I coordinate the work of the Unit of Anti-Discrimination Law. I am a lawyer, a graduate of the Law and Administration Faculty at University of Warsaw. I completed postgraduate studies in public international law as well as European law and legislation issues at the University of Warsaw and Foreign Policy Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of the Polish Institute of International Affairs. I have been a member of non-governmental organisations for many years. I am the author and editor of numerous publications and reports of the Human Rights Defender on prevention of discrimination. I am writing a doctoral dissertation on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. I am an attorney, member of the Regional Chamber of Barristers in Warsaw. **Since 2013 I've been a member of the Equinet Executive Board**.

The text boxes are expandable