**
Dear Equinet Members,**This Members’ Bulletin gathers **the latest European Union (EU) and international developments**. It aims to give you an **overview of relevant policy and legal developments**, as well as latest calls for interest, funding opportunities and upcoming events. We very much hope this members’ bulletin will be useful in your day-to-day work and we would be grateful if you could **disseminate it among your colleagues**. Your feedback is also greatly appreciated. Should you have any comments or further questions, **please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Machacova, Equinet Project Officer** (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# Highlight: The European Commission presents first outline of the European Pillar of Social Rights

On 8 March 2016, the European Commission presented a [preliminary outline](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15274&langId=en) of the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and launched a broad [public consultation](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=699&consultId=22&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes).

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| According to the European Commission, the European Pillar of Social Rights “will set out a number of essential principles to support well-functioning and fair labour markets and welfare systems within the euro area”. Once adopted, the Pillar should become a reference framework to screen employment and social performance of participating Member States and to drive reforms at national level. More specifically, it should also serve as a compass for renewed convergence within the euro area. |

The aim of the public consultation is to make an assessment of the present [EU social acquis](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15292&langId=en), to reflect on new trends in work patterns and societies and to gather views and feedback on the principles identified in a preliminary outline of the Pillar. The results of the consultation will contribute to its final outline and help to identify the scope of future action where necessary. The consultation will run until **31 December 2016** and a consolidated version of the European Pillar of Social Rights should be presented early in 2017.

**Please let us know if you are planning to send a contribution.** We would be also very happy to receive your draft contribution or, if written in your national language, a summary of the key messages you conveyed to the European Commission. In any case, the Equinet Secretariat remains at your disposal in case you need assistance and more information. Please contact Katrine Steinfeld, Equinet Policy Officer (katrine.steinfeld@equineteurope.org / 0032 212 31 86).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**European Pillar of Social Rights**

[Webpage on the European Pillar of Social Rights](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/towards-european-pillar-social-rights_en)

[Memo: Towards a European Pillar of Social Rights – Questions and Answers](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-16-545_en.htm)

[Factsheet: Economic and social trends and developments](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15186&langId=en)

[Communication: Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15141&langId=en)

[Key economic, employment and social trends behind a European Pillar of Social Rights](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=15142&langId=en)

 **Equinet**
Read the **Equinet Perspective** [Equality Bodies contributing to the protection, respect and fulfilment of Economic and Social Rights](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equality-Bodies-contributing-to) (2015).

# General Information

## Policy developments

* **Council of Europe publishes decisions on the execution of judgements of the Strasbourg Court**

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe published the decisions and resolutions adopted at its 1250th special “Human Rights” meeting (8-10 March 2016), during which it examined the state of implementation of judgments of the Strasbourg Court. The texts adopted concern Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic and Turkey. More information can be found [here](http://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/-/committee-of-ministers-published-its-decisions-on-the-execution-of-european-court-of-human-rights-judgments?redirect=http://www.coe.int/en/web/human-rights-rule-of-law/news?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_qI77sHb3q28L&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=1).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission** – [Call for proposals for policy reform: Social inclusion through education, training and youth](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/librarydoc/call-for-proposals-for-policy-reform-social-inclusion-through-education-training-and-youth) (Deadline: 30 May 2016)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – Leaflet: [How is the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights used at national level](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/how-eu-charter-fundamental-rights-used-national-level)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** – [General Policy Recommendations No 15 on combating hate speech](http://www.equineteurope.org/States-should-sanction-the-use-of)

ECRI issued guidelines to all 47 member States of the Council of Europe on how to **prevent hate speech**, support those targeted by it, and deal with its consequences. The guidelines reiterate the importance of the work of equality bodies on hate speech, including in relation to data collection, counter hate-speech and redress measures.

This leaflet explains how national parliaments, governments and courts can use the Charter and shows how the Charter was used at the national level in 2015.

# Gender Equality

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – Equinet and Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) – Roundtable Event: The Parenthood Penalty? – Wednesday 20th April, 13:30 – 15:00 – European Parliament, Brussels**

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| On 20 April, Equinet and the [Equality and Human Rights Commission](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/) are co-organising a roundtable event at the European Parliament in Brussels. The event is hosted by the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D). It will address the issues of **work-life balance, pregnancy and parenthood related discrimination at national and EU levels**. It will gather Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and representatives of national equality bodies. More information can be found [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equinet-EHRC-roundtable-event-The).**EVENT – ENAR (European Network against Racism) -** [Symposium: Muslim women, forgotten women?](ww.enar-eu.org/26-May-2016-Symposium-Muslim-women-forgotten-women-Understanding-the-gender) – Thursday 26th May 2016, Brussels |

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission** – [Call for proposal for action grants to support transnational projects to promote good practices on gender roles and to overcome gender stereotypes in education, training and in the workplace](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rgen_ag_role_en.htm) (Deadline: 27th May 2016).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission** - [Daphne call - Action grants to support national or transnational projects on multi-agency and multi-disciplinary cooperation to respond to violence against women and/or children, and on tackling underreporting](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rdap_ag_en.htm) (Deadline: 1st June 2016).

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – [Study on the gender dimension of trafficking in human beings](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings_en)

This study aims to look at the **gender dimension of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation**. This follows evidence from statistical data from Eurostat, as well as data from The European Police Office (Europol) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), according to which the most reported form of exploitation of victims is that of sexual exploitation and its strong gender dimension (96 % women and girls).

**PUBLICATION** – **OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights** – [Compendium of Good Practices for Advancing Women’s Political Participation in the OSCE Region](http://www.osce.org/odihr/224206)

To mark 20 years since the launch of the Beijing Platform for Action, ODIHR has published this compendium of good practices to reflect on where progress has been made and identify some of the continuing challenges to achieving gender equality in politics. The compendium explores the **participation of women through political parties, in elections, local politics and in parliaments**, recognizing that these should be seen as connected and related areas.

# Race/ethnic origin

## Policy developments

* **International Roma Day: EU calls for more action to address discrimination and anti-Gypsyism**

8th April marks the **International Roma Day**. On that occasion, the European Commission and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) released statements reaffirming their commitment to fight anti-Gypsyism and calling on Member States to ensure inclusion and non-discrimination of Roma, Sinti, Traveller and other similar communities.

**Read the European Commission’s statement** [**here**](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-16-1245_en.htm)**.
Read the FRA’s statement** [**here**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/more-action-needed-support-roma-inclusion-and-combat-anti-gypsyism)**.**

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** – **European Network against Racism (ENAR)** - [Shadow Report on Afrophobia in the European Union](http://www.equineteurope.org/Black-people-in-Europe-report)

# Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

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| **PUBLICATION** – **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) –** [New LGBT report](http://equineteurope.org/FRA-report-Professionally-speaking)FRA published its **report “Professionally speaking: challenges to achieving equality for LGBT people**” revealing how wrong and outdated views towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people could endanger their fundamental rights. Among the various opinions, FRA also advises that the "EU Member States should ensure that competent public authorities, such as **equality bodies**, national human rights institutions and children’s ombudspersons, are properly mandated, resourced and encouraged to deal with bullying and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and/or gender identity in education."  |

**PUBLICATION** – **Transgender Europe (TGEU)** – [Trans Murder Monitoring Update](http://tgeu.org/transgender-day-of-visibility-2016-trans-murder-monitoring-update/)

On occasion of the International Transgender Day of Visibility held on the 31st of March every year, [Transgender Europe (TGEU)](http://tgeu.org/) published the Trans Murder Monitoring project.

# Disability

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) –** [Public hearing on the European Accessibility Act](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-eu-accessibility-act) **(13th April 2016, 09:30 – 13:00, EESC, Brussels)**

**PUBLICATION** – **European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination**– [Reasonable accommodation for disabled people in employment contexts](http://www.equalitylaw.eu/downloads/3724-reasonable-accommodation-for-disabled-people-in-employment-contexts)

# Age

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Parliament – Fighting ageism and age discrimination (26th April 2016, 14:00 – 16:00, European Parliament, Brussels)**

The European Parliament Intergroup's sub-group on Active Ageing is organising, with the cooperation of [AGE Platform Europe](http://www.age-platform.eu/), an event at the European Parliament in Brussels on 26 April to mark the **European Day of Solidarity between Generations**. More information can be found [here](http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/EN/AGE_events/AGE_Joint_event_April2016_invite.pdf).

**PUBLICATION** – **Child Rights International Network (CRIN)** – [Rights, Remedies and Representation: A global report on access to justice for children](https://www.crin.org/en/library/publications/rights-remedies-and-representation-global-report-access-justice-children)

# Other policy areas and grounds of discrimination

## Policy developments

* **Asylum: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) publishes opinion concerning an EU common list of safe countries of origin**

FRA’s [opinion](http://fra.europa.eu/en/opinion/2016/fra-opinion-concerning-eu-common-list-safe-countries-origin?_clde=laura.marchetti%40equineteurope.org&urlid=1) highlights **general fundamental rights implications to be considered when applying the safe countries of origin concept**. They should be read together with the relevant safeguards the Asylum Procedures Directive establishes. These safeguards provide for minimum guarantees that must also fully apply to applicants originating from countries on the proposed EU common list of safe countries of origin.

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** – **European Parliament** – [Labour Market Integration of Refugees: Strategies and Good Practices](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/578956/IPOL_STU%282016%29578956_EN.pdf)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – Monthly updates on fundamental rights and migration

FRA publishes the [third](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/overviews/february-2016) monthly update on fundamental rights and migration in EU Member States, with a specific thematic focus on [children](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/overviews/focus-children).

**PUBLICATION** – **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** – [Making Integration Work](http://www.oecd.org/migration/making-integration-work-humanitarian-migrants-9789264251236-en.htm)

The OECD recently published a [policy-oriented booklet](http://www.oecd.org/migration/making-integration-work-humanitarian-migrants-9789264251236-en.htm) reviewing OECD countries' experiences with the **integration of refugees and humanitarian migrants**.

# Recent case-law

## European Court of Justice (ECJ)

* **Case C-695/15 PPU – Shiraz Baig Mirza v Bevándorlási és Állampolgársági Hivatal (17 March 2016)**

The Court convened that Dublin III Regulation allows Member States to send an applicant for international protection to a safe third country, irrespective of whether it is the Member State responsible for processing the application or another Member State. More information can be found [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-03/cp160032en.pdf).

* **Joined Cases C-404/15 and C-659/15 PPU – Pál Aranyosi and Robert Căldăraru (5 April 2016)**

The Court decided that the execution of a European arrest warrant must be deferred if there is a real risk of inhuman or degrading treatment because of the conditions of detention of the person concerned in the Member State where the warrant was issued. More information can be found [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-04/cp160036en.pdf).

## European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

* **Application no. 16899/13 – Kocherov And Sergeyeva v. Russia (29 March 2016)**

The case concerned the restriction of Mr Kocherov’s parental authority on account of his disability. The Court found a violation of Article 8 (Right to respect for private and family life). More information can be found [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-161760#{"itemid":["001-161760"]}). Since the ECtHR found a violation of Article 8, it refused to adjudicate on Article 14 (non-discrimination), despite the latter being referred to by the applicants.

* **Application no. 23682/13 – Guberina v. Croatia (22 March 2016)**

The case concerned the complaint by the father of a severely handicapped child about the tax authorities’ failure to take account of the needs of his child when determining his eligibility for tax exemption on the purchase of property adapted to his child’s needs. The Court considered that, by failing to recognise the factual difference of Mr Guberina’s situation with regard to basic infrastructure requirements meeting the housing needs of his family in comparison with other persons seeking tax exemption, the domestic authorities had taken an overly restrictive approach when applying the relevant tax legislation. The Court found a violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property) to the Convention. More information can be found [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":["001-161530"]}).

* **Application no. 61495/11 – M. G. C. v. Romania (15 March 2016)**

The case concerned defective legislation for the prosecution of rape and/or sexual abuse of children in Romania. The ECtHR concluded that there was a violation of the respondent State’s positive obligations under both Articles 3 (Prohibition of torture) and 8 of the Convention. More information can be found [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"languageisocode":["ENG"],"documentcollectionid2":["JUDGMENTS"],"itemid":["001-161380"]}).

* **Application no. 31039/11, 48511/11, 76810/12, 14618/13 and 13817/14 – Novruk and Others v. Russia (15 March 2016)**

The Court found a violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8. The case concerned non-Russian nationals who were prevented from entering and residing in Russia because HIV-positive. The Court found that the applicants have been victims of discrimination on the ground of their health because the Russian legislation aimed at preventing HIV transmission had been based on an unwarranted assumption that they would engage in unsafe behaviour, without carrying out a balancing exercise involving an individualised assessment in each case. The ruling summary can be found [here](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Clama%5CDownloads%5CJudgment%20Novruk%20and%20Others%20v.%20Russia%20-%20unwarranted%20exclusion%20of%20HIV-positive%20foreign%20nationals.pdf).