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**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 Membership and Policy Officer** (Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# Highlight: Equality Bodies United: Champions in fight for equality need stronger standards

**On 15th June 2016, Equinet and national equality bodies launched** [**a call for European standards**](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equality-bodies-united-Champions-in-fight-for-equality-need-stronger-standards) **on the independence, effectiveness, functions and powers of equality bodies. The following compilation outline recent references to the role of equality bodies made by EU institutions and international organisations.**

* **FRA Fundamental Rights Forum 2016: Evelyn Collins highlights the crucial role of equality bodies to address social exclusion and combat discrimination**

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| The European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) hosted the [Fundamental Rights Forum](http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/) in Vienna, 20-23 June. Under the motto "Rights, Respect, Reality: the Europe of Values in Today’s World", the Forum brought together practitioners, grassroots workers, thinkers and high-level decision makers to reflect on existing challenges and good practices as well as future challenges and opportunities. |

On 22 June, Evelyn Collins, Chair of Equinet and Chief Executive of the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, spoke in Workshop 4 (Social inclusion in the context of the Europe 2020 strategy: what is missing?) on ’Making equality, diversity and non-discrimination central to the achievement of social inclusion’. She underlined the important role and work of equality bodies to address social exclusion in their work to promote equality and diversity and combat discrimination, and the need for support for the work of equality bodies, including through the introduction of standards. [Read the full speech here](http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/docx/vienna_social_inclusion_and_equality_22.6.16.docx).

Read also the Chair’s statement which was published [following the meeting](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/frf-2016-chair-s-statement_en.pdf).

* **Council of the EU Conclusions on Gender and LGBTI equality call on the European Commission and EU Member States to reinforce equality bodies**

As part of the Council conclusions adopted on 16 June 2016, a reinforcement and continued support of the action of national institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and gender equality and non-discrimination of LGBTI people was recommended, **including equality bodies**, **as well as that of the European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)**.

Read the Council conclusions on gender equality [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Council-of-the-EU-Conclusions-on-LGBTI-Equality).
Read the Council conclusions on LGBTI equality [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Council-of-the-EU-Conclusions-on-LGBTI-Equality).

* **Council of Europe – Report by the Secretary General - “State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – A security imperative for Europe“**

The [third annual report of the Secretary General on the state of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680646af8) assesses the extent to which the Council of Europe’s 47 member states are able to make the five building blocks of democratic security a reality (efficient and independent judiciaries; free media and freedom of expression; freedom of assembly and a vibrant civil society; legitimate democratic institutions and inclusive societies).

A specific chapter is dedicated to discrimination (page 87-90). Independence and powers of national specialised bodies are considered as key institutional criteria to assess the situation in each member states. The chapter also highlights the general rise of racism and intolerance in Europe and specific vulnerabilities of Roma and LGBTI people.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Read the **Equinet Working Paper** [Developing standards for equality bodies](http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/pdf/equinet_workingpaper_standardsnebs.pdf) (2016).

# General Information

## Policy developments

* **Slovakia takes over the Presidency of the Council of the EU (July – December 2016)**

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| On 1st July 2016, Slovakia took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU. Asylum and migration policies will be one of the four priorities this semester. The [programme of the presidency](http://www.eu2016.sk/en/programme-and-priorities/priorities-of-the-slovak-presidency) also addresses the advancement of the negotiations for the adoption of the European Accessibility Act.  |

* **UK Referendum – next steps and reactions**

Following the results of the UK Referendum on EU membership, here is a compilation of relevant information on next steps and reactions by EU institutions and civil society organisations.

* Cambre Associates: [“Brexit: What now?”](http://cambre-associates.com/archive/157%3Abrexit_future_steps_europe_eu_negotiations.html) (briefing on legal, financial and political implications of a potential Brexit)
* [Speech](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-16-2353_en.htm) by Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission
* Statement by [ILGA-Europe](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/reaction-uk-referendum-result-ilga-europe-perspective)
* Statement by the [European Youth Forum](http://www.youthforum.org/pressrelease/the-united-kingdoms-decision-to-leave-the-european-union-will-impact-young-peoples-future-the-most/)
* [“EU referendum: We will be a strong independent voice in the conversation on people’s rights”](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/eu-referendum-we-will-be-strong-independent-voice-conversation-people%E2%80%99s-rights) – Equality and Human Rights Commission (Equinet member – Great Britain)
* **Equal Treatment/Horizontal Directive discussed at June EPSCO Council**

At the June meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council, the progress report of the Equal Treatment Directive, as well as conclusions on gender and LGBTI equality were discussed.

See more information about the Horizontal Directive Progress Report and the Gender and LGBTI equality progress report [here](http://equineteurope.org/Equal-Treatment-Directive-Equality-discussed-at-June-EPSCO-Council).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Commission – 2016 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights on Media Pluralism and Democracy, 17-18 November 2016, Brussels, Belgium**

A public consultation is now open to all to gather input for the preparation of the discussions. Your contribution can be sent **until 14th July 2016** following this [link](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/opinion/160519_en.htm).

**ONLINE COURSE – “Help in the 28” - “Fight against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Transphobia”**

The ‘HELP in the 28’ course “Fight against Racism, Xenophobia, Homophobia and Transphobia” covers in an interactive way the key concepts, the European (CoE and EU) non-discrimination law and the impressive body of case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), in addition to decisions of the European Committee of Social Rights. More information is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/HELP-in-the-28-free-online-course-on-Fight-against-Racism-Xenophobia-Homophobia).

**PUBLICATION – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Annual activity report 2015](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/annual-activity-report-2015)

This consolidated annual activity report provides an **overview of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) activities and achievements in 2015**.

**PUBLICATION – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Handbook on European law relating to access to justice](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/handbook-european-law-relating-access-justice)

**PUBLICATION – European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** – ECRI reports on [Azerbaijan](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Azerbaijan/AZE-CbC-V-2016-017-ENG.pdf), [Italy](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Italy/ITA-CbC-V-2016-019-ENG.pdf), [Cyprus](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Cyprus/CYP-CbC-V-2016-018-ENG.pdf), [FYROM](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Former_Yugoslav_Republic_Macedonia/MKD-CbC-V-2016-021-ENG.pdf), [Lithuania](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Lithuania/LTU-CbC-V-2016-020-ENG.pdf)

# Gender Equality

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Institute for Gender Equality** **(EIGE) –** [Online Discussion on proposed indicators for data collection on intimate partner violence, rape and femicide](http://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/events-calendar/event/6700) – Thursday 7th July 2016

**EVENT – French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)** – [9th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education (and Research)](http://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/events-calendar/event/6093) – 12th – 14th September 2016, Paris, France

**EVENT – European Institute for Gender Equality** **(EIGE) –** [High-level Conference on Mainstreaming Gender into Academic and Research Organisations](http://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/events-calendar/event/6708) – Thursday 20th October 2016, Brussels, Belgium

**PUBLICATION** – **European Institute for Gender Equality** **(EIGE)** – [Online Gender Equality Glossary](http://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/all-essential-gender-terms-now-one-place)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Summary report on violence against refugee women](http://fra.europa.eu/en/press-release/2016/women-refugees-high-risk-being-victims-gender-based-violence?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3d&urlid=8)

**PUBLICATION** – **Council of Europe** – [Gender Mainstreaming Policy Briefs and Council of Europe Activities](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680630394)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination**– [Intersectional discrimination in EU gender equality and non-discrimination law](http://www.equalitylaw.eu/downloads/3850-intersectional-discrimination-in-eu-gender-equality-and-non-discrimination-law-pdf-731-kb)

The report analyses the ways in which European states deal with multiple discrimination and intersectionality, drawing on responses by national experts from all the EU member States, as well as the candidate countries (Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey), Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway The report was produced by the gender equality experts of the European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination.

**WEBSITE** – **European Institute for Gender Equality** – [Gender Mainstreaming Platform](http://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming)

# Race/ethnic origin

## Policy developments

* **Joint statement from the Operational Platform for Roma Equality (OPRE)**

Traditionally, summer holidays coincide with the eviction of Roma and Travellers throughout Europe, which takes place almost unnoticed. The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights** (OHCHR) and the **OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights** (OSCE/ODIHR) join **the Council of Europe**, the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights** (FRA), the **European Network of European National Human Rights Institutions** (ENNHRI) and the **European Network of Equality Bodies** (Equinet) in a statement to condemn the recent evictions of Roma and Travellers in Europe. You can read the statement [here.](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=0900001680682b0a)



* **European Commission launches EU High Level Group on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of intolerance**

As a follow up of the 2015 Colloquium on Fundamental Rights, the European Commission officially launched the EU High Level Group on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and other forms of intolerance. The Group is made up of experts from civil society organisations, public authorities and EU agencies and institutions. Evelyn Collins, Equinet Chair, and Anne Gaspard, Equinet Executive Director, took part in the launch meeting. More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3425).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – [Assessing the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and the Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States 2016](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma-report-2016_en.pdf)

The Commission has adopted its annual report on Roma integration. This year’s assessment provides, for the first time, an overview of the measures put in place by Member States following the [2013 Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32013H1224(01)&from=en), which required them to develop National Roma Integration strategies to promote access of Roma to education, employment, healthcare and housing. Read more information about the report [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/Commission-calls-for-renewed-commitment-to-Roma-integration).

# Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

## Policy developments

* **UN adopts resolution to appoint the first independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

The new Independent Expert will monitor human rights violations against LGBTI people, monitor the implementation of anti-discrimination laws. More information is available [here](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/un-independent-expert-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity).

* **Joint statement from Amnesty International, ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe: Members of the French Parliament should ensure respect for the human rights of trans people**

On June 19th a Committee composed of members of the French National Assembly and the Senate discussed a legislative proposal, which allows Trans people to obtain legal recognition of their gender, but in order to do so they will have to produce evidence that may include medical certificates. These organisations call on French MPs to amend the proposal to ensure that Trans people can obtain legal gender recognition through a procedure that does not impose abusive requirements and that fully respects their human rights. You can read the statement [here](http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/2016-06-22_french_lgr_joint_pr_for_website.pdf).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** **– Council of Europe** – [National action plans as effective tools to promote and protect the Human Rights of LGBTI people](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168066d620)

**PUBLICATION** **– ILGA-Europe** – [5 key facts on the EU and LGBT equality](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/five-key-facts-eu-and-lgbt-equality)

# Age

## Policy developments

* **UN Human Rights Council adopt resolution on youth and human rights**

On 30th June, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on Youth and Human Rights, calling on the UN to address challenges specific to young people. More information is available [here](http://www.youthforum.org/pressrelease/un-human-rights-council-resolution-on-youth-and-human-rights-a-step-forward-for-youth-rights/).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** **– AGE Platform Europe**– [Applying the Right to the City to older persons: the opportunity of EU Urban Agenda](http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/Publications/papers/Applying_the_Right_to_the_City_to_older_persons_AGE_Guide.pdf)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Youth Forum** – [A Toolkit on Quality Standards for Youth Policy](http://www.youthforum.org/publication/a-toolkit-on-quality-standards-for-youth-policy/)

# Other policy areas and grounds of discrimination

## Policy developments

* **European Commission adopts EU Integration Action Plan of Third-Country Nationals**

On 7th June, the European Commission adopted an **EU Integration Action Plan of Third-Country Nationals**. The Action Plan includes actions supporting pre-departure and pre-arrival measures, education, employment and vocational training, access to basic services, active participation and social inclusion. A specific section is dedicated to non-discrimination, with a focus on racism and xenophobia. More information is available [here](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/20160607/factsheet_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf) and [here](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** – **Frontex** – [Western Balkans Annual Risk Analysis 2016](http://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/WB_ARA_2016.pdf)

# Recent case-law

## European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

* [**Application no. 38590/10 - Grand Chamber Judgement – Biao v. Denmark**](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf?library=ECHR&id=003-5383202-6728313&filename=Grand%20Chamber%20judgment%20Biao%20v.%20Denmark%20-%20discriminatory%20legislation%20on%20family%20reunion.pdf)(24 May 2016)

The case concerned the complaint by a naturalised Danish citizen of Togolese origin, Ousmane Biao, and his Ghanaian wife that they could not settle in Denmark. Notably, the Danish authorities refused to grant them family reunion as the couple did not comply with the requirement under the relevant domestic law that they must not have stronger ties with another country, Ghana in their case, than with Denmark (known as the “attachment requirement”). They also complained that an amendment to the Aliens Act in December 2003 – lifting the attachment requirement for those who held Danish citizenship for at least 28 years – resulted in a difference in treatment between those born Danish nationals and those, like Mr Biao, who had acquired Danish citizenship later in life.

The Court therefore concluded that the Government had failed to show that there were compelling or very weighty reasons unrelated to ethnic origin to justify the indirect discriminatory effect of the 28-year rule. That rule favoured Danish nationals of Danish ethnic origin, and placed at a disadvantage, or had a disproportionately prejudicial effect on persons, such as Mr Biao, who acquired Danish nationality later in life and who were of ethnic origins other than Danish.

* [**Application no. 63034/11 - Halime Kılıç v. Turkey**](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf?library=ECHR&id=003-5420099-6785234&filename=Judgment%20Halime%20Kili%E7%20v.%20Turkey%20-%20authorities%27%20failure%20to%20protect%20the%20life%20of%20a%20woman%20subjected%20to%20domestic%20violence.pdf) (28 June 2016)

The case concerned the death of Ms Kılıç’s daughter, Fatma Babatlı, who was killed by her husband despite having lodged four complaints and obtained three protection orders and injunctions.

The Court found in particular that the domestic proceedings had failed to meet the requirements of Article 2 of the Convention by providing protection for Fatma Babatlı. By failing to punish the failure by Fatma Babatlı’s husband to comply with the orders issued against him, the national authorities had deprived the orders of any effectiveness, thus creating a context of impunity enabling him to repeatedly assault his wife without being called to account.

The Court also found it unacceptable that Fatma Babatlı had been left without resources or protection when faced with her husband’s violent behaviour and that in turning a blind eye to the repeated acts of violence and death threats against the victim, the authorities had created a climate that was conducive to domestic violence.

* [**Application no.** **51362/09 – Taddeucci and McCall v. Italy**](http://www.coe.int/en/web/sogi/-/judgment-on-taddeucci-and-mccall-v-italy)(30 June 2016)

The European Court of Human Rights judgement in the case Taddeucci and McCall v. Italy held that a refusal to grant a residence permit to a gay couple on family grounds was unjustified discrimination.

Six votes to one voted that a violation had taken place of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken together with Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Read the analysis of the case by ILGA-Europe [here](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/ecthr-taddeucci-mccall-italy).

* [**Application no. 9912/15 – O.M. v Hungary**](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng-press?i=003-5427545-6797362#{%22itemid%22:[%22003-5427545-6797362%22]}) **(5 July 2016)**

The applicant, O.M., is an Iranian national who was born in 1982 and currently lives in Budapest. The case concerned his detention for 58 days following his request for asylum in Hungary. Relying on Article 5 (right to liberty and security), O.M. complained that his detention had been arbitrary and unjustified and that the authorities had failed to take into consideration the individual circumstances of his case, in particular, his belonging to a vulnerable group. The court ruled that Hungary violated the article 5.

Read the analysis of the case by ILGA-Europe [here](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/european-court-strikes-against-hungarys-arbitrary-detention-lgbt-asylum).