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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 Project Officer** ([Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org](mailto:Jessica.machacova@equineteurope.org) / 0032 2 212 31 80).

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# Highlight: International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia 2016

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| **17th May** is the **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**. Equinet has compiled a list of the latest updates and material on the topic at the European and international levels: |  |

* **IDAHO Forum 2016**

In May, Denmark hosted the [4th European conference IDAHO Forum](http://eng.uvm.dk/Gender-Equality/IDAHO-2016). This year’s Forum was titled **“Building Bridges and Alliances”** bringing special attention to LGBTI people in the labour market and social acceptance of LGBTI people.

* **European Commission reiterates commitment to address discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

At the IDAHO 2016 Ministerial Meeting in Copenhagen, Commissioner Věra Jourová reiterated the EU's commitment to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In her [speech](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/jourova/announcements/speech-commissioner-jourova-idaho-2016-ministerial-meeting-copnehagen_en) she highlighted the progress made with the [European Commission's List of Actions to advance LGBTI Equality](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/lgbti_actionlist_en.pdf) and called the Member States for their support: **"I therefore urge all Member States lagging behind, to step up their efforts and team up for LGBTI Equality. This is what it takes to truly improve the lives of LGBTI people across Europe".**

* **ILGA-Europe publishes the Rainbow Europe Package 2016**

The opening of the IDAHO Forum was accompanied by the launch of the [ILGA-Europe Rainbow Europe Package 2016](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/rainbow-europe/2016), which gives an **annual overview of national legal and social situation affecting LGBTI people in Europe**. The Package showcases the current state of play of the laws, policies and practices that affect LGBTI people in Europe today, revealing an increasingly unequal picture of developments for lesbian, gay, bisexual, Trans and intersex people across the continent.

* **UNESCO International Ministerial Meeting and launch of “Education Sector Responses to Violence based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity/Expression"**

On 17th May, the UNESCO launched its [global report “Education Sector Responses to Violence based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity/Expression”](http://en.unesco.org/events/international-ministerial-meeting-education-sector-responses-homophobic-violence) on the nature, scope and impact of **violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity in educational settings**, and of current actions. It provides education-sector stakeholders with a framework for planning and implementing effective responses to this type of school-related gender-based violence, as part of wider efforts to prevent and address violence in schools.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**Read the **Equinet Perspective** [Equality Bodies Promoting Equality & non-discrimination for LGTBI people](http://www.equineteurope.org/IMG/pdf/lgbti_perspective_english_.pdf) (2013) and the **summary of the Equinet training event** [**on LGBTI issues**](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equinet-Training-Event-on-LGBTI)(2014).

# General Information

## Policy developments

* **European Commission and IT companies announce code of conduct on illegal online hate speech**

The Commission together with Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft (“the IT companies”) have unveiled a code of conduct that includes a series of commitments to combat the spread of illegal hate speech online in Europe.

More information is available on the [Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/European-Commission-and-IT-Companies-announce-Code-of-Conduct-on-illegal-online).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Commission** – 2016 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights: [Media Pluralism in a democratic society](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/events/161117_en.htm), 17-18 November 2016

**EVENT – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Fundamental Rights Forum: Rights, Respect, and Reality: the Europe of Values in Today's World](http://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/), **20-23 June 2016**, Vienna, Austria

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – **European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination** – Report: [A Comparative Analysis of Non-Discrimination Law in Europe 2015](http://www.equineteurope.org/A-comparative-analysis-of-non-discrimination-law-in-Europe-2015)

**PUBLICATION – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Fundamental Rights Report 2016](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/fundamental-rights-report-2016)

The **Fundamental Rights Report 2016** summarises and analyses major fundamental rights developments in the EU throughout 2015, with proposals for action in the areas of equality and non-discrimination; racism, xenophobia and related intolerance; Roma integration; information society, privacy and data protection; rights of the child; and access to justice including rights of crime victims.

The report makes several references to equality bodies, by for instant highlighting the importance of “strengthening the powers of equality bodies [in order to contribute] to more effective implementation of the Racial Equality Directive” (page 85). More information about the report is also available on the [Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/EU-s-fundamental-rights-resolve-was-sorely-tested-in-2015-finds-FRA-s).

**PUBLICATION – Council of Europe – European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** – [Annual report 2015](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/Annual_Reports/Annual%20report%202015.pdf)

The report shows growing anti-immigrant sentiment and islamophobia in Europe. More information is available on the [Equinet’s website.](http://www.equineteurope.org/Growing-anti-immigrant-sentiment-and-Islamophobia-were-among-key-trends-in-2015)

# Gender Equality

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS** – **European Institute for Gender Equality** **(EIGE)** – [Call for expressions of interest for the establishment of a list of external experts](http://eige.europa.eu/about-eige/procurement/eige-2015-adm-33) (Closing date: 30th June 2019)

**EVENT – EuroGender Network -** [Online Discussion on Good Practice Initiatives in the Field of Prevention of Gender-based Violence in Sport](http://eige.europa.eu/news-and-events/events-calendar/event/6668) - Thursday 9th June 2016

**EVENT – Jump Forum (in partnership with OECD) –** [Jump Forum: advancing gender equality at work](http://www.forumjump.eu/) – Thursday 16th June 2016 - Paris, France

**EVENT – Council of Europe –** [Gender Equality Commission: “Are we there yet? Assessing progress, inspiring action - Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2014-2017”](http://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/tallinn-conference) – 30th June and 1st July 2016 - Tallinn, Estonia

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – **European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination** – Report: [Legal implications of EU accession to the Istanbul Convention](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/your_rights/istanbul_convention_report_final.pdf)

This report clarifies the legal preconditions and legal impact of the possible accession of the EU to the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). The report is based on a comparative study of country reports submitted by the gender equality experts of the European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination.

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – **European Network of Legal Experts in Gender Equality and Non-Discrimination** – Report: [A comparative analysis of gender equality law in Europe 2015](http://www.equineteurope.org/A-comparative-analysis-of-gender-equality-law-in-Europe-2015)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** – Study report: [Women in Power and Decision-Making in the Eastern Partnership Countries](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/gender_equality_and_decision_making_in_eap_countries_2015_-_report_and_annex_one_file.pdf)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Institute for Gender Equality** **(EIGE)** – Report: [Estimation of girls at risk of female genital mutilation in the European Union](http://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/MH0215093ENN_Web.pdf)

**PUBLICATION** – **European Parliament** – Report: [Mapping of NGO's working for women's rights in selected EU Member States](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556932/IPOL_STU(2016)556932_EN.pdf)

**PUBLICATION** – **ENAR – The European Network against Racism** – Report: [Forgotten women – the impact of islamophobia on Muslim women](http://www.equineteurope.org/Women-are-the-first-to-pay-the-price-of-Islamophobia-in-Europe)

# Race/ethnic origin

## Policy developments

* **Discrimination of Roma children in education: European Commission launches infringement procedure against Hungary**

Last week, the European Commission formally launched the procedure requesting Hungary to ensure that Roma children have access to quality education on the same terms as all other children. It also urges the Hungarian government to bring its national laws on equal treatment and education into line with the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC).

More information about the procedure is available [here](http://www.equineteurope.org/European-Commission-targets-school-segregation-of-Roma-children-in-Hungary-with).

* **Joint statement from European Network against Racism, the European Women's Lobby, CEJI and ILGA-Europe.**

On the occasion of the last General Affairs Council of the European Union discussion on integration of migrants in a rule of law dialogue, four European civil society organisations joined common grounds to **recall the spirit of Article 2 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, as “this must be the basis of any discussion within the European Union regarding fundamental values, integration and the rule of law”. You can read the statement [here](http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/joint_ngo_position_rule_of_law_and_integration_may_2016_final.pdf)

# Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – Council of Europe/Montenegrin Ministry of Human Rights and Minority Rights** – [Workshop on legal protection for same-sex couples in Montenegro](http://www.coe.int/en/web/sogi/news/-/asset_publisher/fmIWyzADpL08/content/workshop-on-legal-protection-for-same-sex-couples-in-montenegro?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.coe.int%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fsogi%2Fnews%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_fmIWyzADpL08%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-4%26p_p_col_count%3D1) – 9-10 June 2016, Podgorica, Montenegro

**EVENT – Transgender Europe** – [6th European Transgender Council](http://tgeu.org/6-european-transgender-council/) – 2-5 June 2016 - Bologna, Italy

**EVENT – Transgender Europe** – [TGEU 3rd Legal Practitioners’ Seminar](http://tgeu.org/tgeu_legal_seminar_call_for_participants/) – 8-9 September 2016, Athens, Greece (Deadline for application: 20th June 2016)

# Disability

## Policy developments

* **European Parliament adopts provisional deal on rules to help elderly and disabled people access online public services**

Public sector bodies' websites and mobile applications will have to be made accessible to everyone, under a provisional [deal struck by Parliament and Council negotiators](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160504IPR25703/Deal-on-rules-to-help-elderly-and-disabled-people-access-online-public-services) on 4th May. Over 167 million EU citizens have a disability (either medical or due to age) which prevents them accessing data and services on the Internet, e.g. to file a tax declaration, apply for an allowance, pay fees or register a child at school.   
The final deal will be discussed by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in the coming weeks.

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Commission** – [2016 Work Forum on the implementation of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1112&furtherEvents=yes) – 10th June 2016, Brussels

**EVENT** - **European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities** - [Webinar on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.easpd.eu/content/webinar-un-convention-rights-persons-disabilities#sthash.TL8XIMND.dpuf) – 14th June 2016   
  
**PUBLICATION** – **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Opinion concerning requirements under Article 33 (2) of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities within the EU context](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-opinion-03-2016-crpd.pdf)

# Age

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – European Commission, Council of Europe, AGE Platform Europe and ENNHRI** – [Fighting elder abuse in health and long-term care](http://www.age-platform.eu/events-by-years/icalrepeat.detail/2016/06/16/295/-/fighting-elder-abuse-in-health-and-long-term-care-age-joint-event) – Thursday 16th June 2016, Brussels, Belgium

**EVENT – Council of Europe** – [Global High-Level Conference ‘Towards Childhoods free from Corporal Punishment’](http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/home/-/asset_publisher/E7ra6N1ilJmd/content/conference-on-corporal-punishment-vienna?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.coe.int%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fchildren%2Fhome%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_E7ra6N1ilJmd%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-1%26p_p_col_pos%3D1%26p_p_col_count%3D3) – 1st and 2nd June 2016, Vienna, Austria

**PUBLICATION** – **European Youth Forum** – [Social inclusion and young people – excluding youth: a threat to our future](http://www.youthforum.org/assets/2016/05/Excluding-youth-a-threat-to-our-future.pdf)

# Other policy areas and grounds of discrimination

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** – **Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)** – Monthly report on migration – [Thematic focus on trafficking in human beings](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/overviews/focus-trafficking?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3d&urlid=1)

**PUBLICATION** – **Council of Europe** – Report on the [situation of refugees and migrants in Greece and FYROM](http://www.coe.int/en/web/children/home/-/asset_publisher/E7ra6N1ilJmd/content/new-report-on-action-needed-to-improve-living-conditions-for-migrants-and-refugees-and-to-protect-unaccompanied-children?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.coe.int%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fchildren%2Fhome%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_E7ra6N1ilJmd%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-1%26p_p_col_pos%3D1%26p_p_col_count%3D3)

# Recent case-law

## European Court of Justice (ECJ)

* **Case C-558/14 – Mimoun Khachab v Subdelegación del Gobierno en Álava (21 April 2016)**

The Court decided that EU Member States may refuse an application for family reunification if it is apparent from a prospective assessment that the sponsor will not have stable and regular resources which are sufficient in the year following the date of submission of the application. More information can be found [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-04/cp160042en.pdf).

* **C-157/15 Samira Achbita and Centrum voor gelijkheid van kansen en voor racismebestrijding v G4S Secure Solutions NV – Opinion of the Advocate General Kokott (31 May 2016)**

In case [C-157/15 Samira Achbita and Centrum voor gelijkheid van kansen en voor racismebestrijding v G4S Secure Solutions NV](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62015CN0157), the first ever case in front of the Court of Justice of the EU concerning discrimination on the grounds of religion and belief, Advocate General Kokott issued her Opinion on 31 May 2016.

The Opinion states that if the ban on wearing the headscarf at the workplace is based on a general company rule which prohibits political, philosophical and religious symbols from being worn visibly in the workplace, such a ban may be justified if it enables the employer to pursue the legitimate policy of ensuring religious and ideological neutrality. The Advocate General’s Opinion is not binding on the Court of Justice, however, it is often followed by the Court.

More information about the opinion is available on the [Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/A-ban-on-wearing-headscarves-in-companies-may-be-admissible-in-the-view-of).

## European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

* **Application no.** **27013/07 – Winterstein and Others v. France (28 April 2016)**

The European Court of Human Rights judgement on the question of just satisfaction in the case Winterstein and Others v. France (application no. 27013/07) ruled that 25 French Travellers, evicted from land they called home, should receive awards totalling more than €350,000. The applicants are 25 French nationals acting on their own behalf and on behalf of their minor children. More information can be found [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng?i=001-162706).