**
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: Snapshots of the International Women’s Rights Day 2016

## EU and international updates on gender equality and women’s rights

Equinet has compiled **a list of the latest publications and material issued on gender equality and women’s rights at European and national level**, which can be found [on Equinet’s website](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equinet-and-Gender-Equality). Main updates include:

* **European Commission’s proposal for EU accession to the Istanbul Convention**

Reaffirming the European Union’s (EU) solid commitment to fight gender-based violence, the European Commission has [proposed](http://www.equineteurope.org/Commission-proposes-EU-accession) for the EU to **ratify the 2011 Council of Europe** [**Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168046031c)(so called **Istanbul Convention**).

* **European Commission’s 2015 annual report on ’Equality between Women and Men’**

The European Commission published its [**annual report on ’Equality between Women and Men’**](http://www.equineteurope.org/European-Commission-s-2015-Report), containing the most up-to date data on gender equality in the EU and its Member States. The report covers promising practices and challenges to the promotion of gender equality in different areas, including employment and work-life balance, decision making and representation, asylum and migration.

* **European Commission: two new calls for proposals on gender equality**
1. 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**. More information can be found [here](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rgen_ag_role_en.htm) (deadline: 27th May 2016).
2. 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**. More information can be found [here](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rdap_ag_en.htm) (deadline: 1st June 2016).
* **European Parliament: Adoption of the report on the situation of women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU**

The European parliament adopted the [**report on the situation of women refugee and asylum seeker in the EU**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2016-0024&language=EN). The report provides recommendation to ensure a gender-sensitive perspective to improve the security and safety of women and girl refugees and asylum-seekers.

* **New database on gender statistics by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)**

EIGE launched its [**new Gender Statistics Database**](http://www.equineteurope.org/EIGE-s-new-Gender-Statistics), which provides automatically updated data to ensure an accurate access to information on the situation of equality between women and men in the EU

* **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA): report on violence against women**

In 2014, FRA published **the first EU-wide** [**survey**](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2014/violence-against-women-eu-wide-survey-main-results-report) **providing comparative data on violence against women**. The research covers various instances of violence, including stalking, domestic violence and sexual harassment.

* **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights: Human rights of refugee and migrant women and girls need to be better protected**

The Commissioner of Human Rights Nils Muižnieks [issued a comment](http://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/human-rights-of-refugee-and-migrant-women-and-girls-need-to-be-better-protected) on the increasing female migration in the Mediterranean Sea and calling on European states to pay particular attention to the specific situation of migrant women and girls.

* **European Women’s Lobby : new fact-sheet on violence against women**

The European Women’s Lobby published a [fact-sheet](http://www.womenlobby.org/EWL-unveils-a-new-factsheet-on-violence-against-women) with data on violence against women and recommendations for its prevention.

* **Call for Abstracts: 7th World Congress on Women's Mental Health**

The International Association of Women's Mental Health opened the [submission for abstracts](http://iawmh2017.org/wp/) for the 7th World Congress on Women's Mental Health 2017. Deadline for submission: 30 June 2016.

## Equinet’s work on gender equality

Carried out within the Working Group on Gender Equality, **Equinet’s publications on the topic include:**

* [The Persistence of Discrimination, Harassment and Inequality for Women](http://www.equineteurope.org/The-Work-of-Equality-Bodies)
* [Harassment on the Basis of Gender and Sexual Harassment: Supporting the Work of Equality Bodies](http://www.equineteurope.org/Harassment-on-the-basis-of-Gender)
* [Equality Bodies and the Gender Goods and Services Directive](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equality-Bodies-and-the-Gender)
* [Equal Pay for Equal Work and Work of Equal Value: the Experience of Equality Bodies](http://www.equineteurope.org/Equal-Pay-the-experience-of)

**In 2016 the Working Group on Gender Equality will:**

* Discuss the best strategies to deal with equal pay complaints, and **publish a handbook on how to build a case on equal pay**
* Outline the experience of equality bodies in relation to gender equality and education, and contribute to the **preparation and organization of the Seminar ‘Gender Equality and Education’**
* Assist the Working Group Policy Formation in preparing a **paper on intersectionality with a focus on gender**
* Relay the experience of equality bodies and contribute to the preparation and organization of the **Equinet conference on ‘Gender equality: an intersectional perspective’.**

# General information

## Policy developments

* **Launch of the European Commission public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights**

The European Commission launched a [**public consultation**](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=699&consultId=22&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes) on the European Pillar of Social Rights. The consultation will run **until 31 December 2016** and will feed into the final text on the Pillar. The aim of the European Pillar of Social Rights is to set out a number of essential principles to support well-functioning and fair labour markets and welfare systems, to adequately protect European citizens against risks and to enable them to fully participate in society.

One of the three chapters of the First preliminary outline of a European Pillar of Social Rights published on the same occasion **addresses equal opportunities and access to the labour market**, including sections on Gender equality and work-life balance and on Equal opportunities.

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** - **European Parliament** - [The interpretation of Article 51 of the EU Charter of Fundamental](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=IPOL_STU%282016%29556930)

This study explores the **application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights to national measures** and what approach should be taken at EU level when examining national implementing measures of EU law raising fundamental rights issues.

**EVENT REPORT - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) - National stakeholders meeting report**

On 19th and 20th November 2015, Equinet and equality bodies gathered in Vienna to attend the FRA’s stakeholders meeting on **'Connecting FRA Bodies and Networks to help strengthen and protect Fundamental Rights nationally'**. The event report can be found [here](http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/fra-national-stakeholders-meeting-report?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3d&urlid=18).

**EVENT – European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) - Fundamental Rights Forum: connect.reflect.act (20th and 23rd June 2016)**

From 20 to 23 June 2016, FRA is organising **the first Fundamental Rights Forum** to connect practitioners, grassroots workers, thinkers and high-level decision makers in an inclusive and open platform. The Forum will have three main themes: **inclusion, refugee protection and the digital age**. More information, including the event brochure, can be found [here](http://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2016/fundamental-rights-forum-connectreflectact?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3D&urlid=9).

# Race/ethnic origin

## Policy developments

* **12th – 21st March 2016: European Action Week against Racism**

Every year, [UNITED for intercultural action](http://www.unitedagainstracism.org/) organises the [European Action Week against Racism](http://weekagainstracism.eu/). This year, the campaign will start on 12th March and finish on 21st March. You can find more information about the campaign [here](http://weekagainstracism.eu/). Equinet will also run **a campaign on social media** to raise awareness on its members’ work to prevent and fight racism.

* **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights - Letters on the forced evictions of Roma**

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muižnieks, **sent letters to seven states** (Albania, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, Serbia and Sweden) **urging the interruption of forced evictions of Roma people**. The letters can be found [here](http://www.coe.int/be/web/commissioner/-/european-countries-must-stop-forced-evictions-of-roma?redirect=http://www.coe.int/be/web/commissioner/home?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_iFWYWFoeqhvQ&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=column-1&p_p_col_count=4).

* **Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers**

Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers approved the new [thematic action plan](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2363275&amp;Site=COE&amp;BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&amp;BackColorIntranet=EDB021&amp;BackColorLogged=F5D383French) to **promote innovative programmes** to empower Roma and Traveller women and girls and protect the most vulnerable groups. The plan (2016-2019) will include awareness raising activities at a local level to help curb early or forced marriages, domestic violence, trafficking and forced begging in Roma communities by addressing negative consequences of such activities. It will foster school attendance and help prevent early school-leaving and absenteeism, particularly of girls.

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

 **PUBLICATION** - **European Network against Racism (ENAR)** - [Impact in 2015 and plans for 2016](http://enar-eu.org/Looking-back-and-ahead-ENAR-s-impact-in-2015-and-plans-for-2016)

**PUBLICATION** - **European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)** - Reports on [France](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/208_2016_03_01_France_en.asp), [Monaco](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/210_2016_03_01_Monaco_en.asp), [Liechtenstein and Ireland](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/207_2016_03_01_Conclusions_Ireland_Liechtenstein_en.asp).

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission** - [Action grants to support national and transnational projects on non-discrimination and Roma integration](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/calls/2015_action_grants/just_2015_rdis_ag_disc_en.htm) (Deadline: 12th April 2016)

# Religion and Belief

## Policy developments

* **ENAR project on the impact of Islamophobia on Muslim women**

ENAR launched a project to document the disproportionate effect of Islamophobia on women and develop alliances between the anti-racism and feminist movements in order to better address the intersectional discrimination affecting Muslim women. More information can be found [here](http://www.enar-eu.org/Forgotten-Women-the-impact-of-Islamophobia-on-Muslim-women).

# Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** - **ILGA Europe** - [Standing up for Human Rights of Intersex People](http://ilga-europe.org/resources/ilga-europe-reports-and-other-materials/standing-human-rights-intersex-people-how-can-you)

ILGA Europe prepared **a toolkit** to explain the major challenges intersex people face in different areas of life, set out intersex people’s demands, provide information about current political developments, as well as give advice on how to become a great intersex ally.

**PUBLICATION** - **European Parliament** - [Gender Mainstreaming in the work of the European Parliament](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bREPORT%2bA8-2016-0034%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN)

# Disability

## Policy developments

* **Civil society organisations - Letter on equal access to web**

20 civil society networks, representing consumers, older people and people from a range of representative organisations of persons with disabilities **issued an open letter opposing the Council’s proposals to water down the Web Accessibility Directive**. More information available [here](http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13855&thebloc=34421).

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – Council of Europe - International Conference for Exchange of Best Practices on: “Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: Achievements and challenges” (22nd March 2016, Sofia, Bulgaria)**

On 22 March 2016, Council of Europe and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria are organising an international conference on “Equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities: Achievements and challenges.” More information can be found [here](http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/disability/DisabilitySofiaConference2016_en.asp).

# Age

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**PUBLICATION** - **Age Platform Europe** - [Annual Report 2015](http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/Publications/Annual_Report_2015.pdf)

# Other

## Publications, funding opportunities and events

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

FRA publishes the [first](http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/fra-publishes-first-monthly-update-fundamental-rights-and-migration?_cldee=amVzc2ljYS5tYWNoYWNvdmFAZXF1aW5ldGV1cm9wZS5vcmc%3d&urlid=10) and [second](http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2016/fra-publishes-second-monthly-update-fundamental-rights-and-migration) monthly updates on fundamental rights and migration in Member States that have seen the greatest numbers of asylum seekers and migrants.

# Recent case-law

## European Court of Justice (ECJ)

**Joined Cases C-443/14 and C-444/14 – Kreis Warendorf v Ibrahim Alo and Amira Osso v Region Hannover (1 March 2016)**

The ECJ found that “the Directive [on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection] requires the Member States to allow persons to whom they have granted subsidiary protection status not only to move freely within their territory but also to choose their place of residence within that territory.” The summary of the case is available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-03/cp160022en.pdf).

**Case C-299/14 – Vestische Arbeit Jobcenter Kreis Recklinghausen v Jovanna García-Nieto and Others (25 February 2016)**

In this ruling, the ECJ confirms that nationals of other Member States may be refused certain social benefits in their first three months of residence and that this does not presuppose an individual assessment. The summary of the case is available [here](http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2016-02/cp160018en.pdf).

## European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)

**Application no. 55354/11 – Civek v. Turkey (23 February 2016)**

The ECtHR found a violation of Article 2 (right to life) following the authorities’ failure to react to prevent the murder of the applicants’ mother despite knowing that she was under a genuine and serious threat. The summary of the case is available [here](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Clama%5CDownloads%5CJudgment%20Civek%20v.%20Turkey%20-%20domestic%20violence%20against%20and%20murder%20of%20a%20woman%20by%20her%20husband.pdf). Since the ECtHR found a violation of Article 2, it refused to adjudicate on Article 14 (non-discrimination), despite the latter being referred to by the applicants.

**Application no. 68453/13 – Pajić v. Croatia (23 February 2016)**

Violation of Article 14 in conjunction with Article 8 (right to family life), concerning discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation. More information is available [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"documentcollectionid2":["GRANDCHAMBER","CHAMBER"],"itemid":["001-161061"]}).

**Application no. 51500/08 – ÇAM v. Turkey (23 February 2016)**

The ECtHR found a violation of Article 14 in conjunction of Article 2 of Protocol 1 (right to education). The case specifically concerns the availability and delivery of reasonable accommodations in education settings and directly mentions the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD). Information is available only [in French](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng).

**Application no.** **43494/09 – Garib v. the Netherlands (23 February 2016)**

The case concerned residential restrictions and social welfare, for which the ECtHR did not find any violation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 (freedom of movement / freedom to choose one’s residence) and did not analyse the aspect of discrimination on the basis of social origin or socio-economic status. However, Judges López Guerra and Keller expressed a joint dissenting opinion holding that there was a violation of Article 2 of Protocol No. 4 and that the “judgment fail[ed] to recognise that the exclusion of vulnerable groups on the basis of personal characteristics that individuals cannot easily amend is most problematic, given its stigmatising effect.” More information can be found [here](http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"languageisocode":["ENG"],"documentcollectionid2":["JUDGMENTS"]}).