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

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# HIGHLIGHT The European Directory of Equality Bodies is online

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The European Directory of Equality Bodies is a new database which brings together up-to-date profiles of Equinet members with comparable search options on their mandates, functions and accountability. It will give you the opportunity to:

* **See in-depth profiles of each of other Equinet members:** Find out about the history and mandates of Equinet members. Want to know how many staff members they have working on equality issues, how their management is set up and what budget is available for their work? Check out Equinet members’ individual profiles now!
* **Gather comparable, up-to-date information on equality bodies across Europe**: Equinet members have a broad range of mandates and functions. By bringing together the data in a comparable manner, you can check our maps and graphs in order to identify commonalities and differences amongst equality bodies across Europe.
* **Access and update your profile here:** <http://www.equineteurope.org/-Members-Area-> (using your Equinet login information)
* **Access the European Online Directory here:** [www.equineteurope.org/-Members-Directory-](http://www.equineteurope.org/-Members-Directory-)

**For more information, please contact Sarah Cooke O’Dowd, Equinet Communication Officer –** [**sarahcookeodowd@equineteurope.org**](mailto:sarahcookeodowd@equineteurope.org)

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**Thematic developments**

**President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker recalls fundamental values of the EU in his state of the union speech**

On 14th September 2016, President Juncker addressed the European Parliament in his annual State of the European Union speech. He recalled that values of freedom, democracy and the rule of law are inherent to the European Union. He also recalled the commitment of the EU to address “discrimination and racism”. More information as well as the full speech can be found [here](http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/state-union-2016_en).

**European Parliament – Report on the implementation of the Employment Equality Directive highlights the key role of equality bodies**

On 15th September 2016, the European Parliament adopted a report on the application of the Employment Equality Directive (Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation). The Directive prohibits **discrimination in employment and training on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation**. Even though the majority of Equinet members cover these grounds of discrimination in employment, the Directive does not mention equality bodies.

The report mentions the key role of equality bodies in implementing the Directive on several occasion. In particular, it calls **for “the role of the national equality bodies to be strengthened, their impartiality insured, their activities developed and their capacities enhanced, including through the provision of adequate funding**”.

The full report is available [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0360+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN).

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS** – **European Commission** – [Public consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=699&consultId=22&visib=0&furtherConsult=yes) – Deadline: 31 December 2016

**EVENT – European Commission** – [2016 Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights on media pluralism and democracy](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/fundamental-rights/events/161117_en.htm)  – 17-18/11/2016, Brussels, Belgium

**EVENT – European Commission** **and** **Department of Justice and Equality of Ireland** – [7th EU Diversity Charters Annual Forum 'Selling Diversity in a World of Diversion'](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/discrimination/events/160712_en.htm) – 18/10/2016, Dublin, Ireland

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – European Commission** - [To build a European justice area and uphold fundamental rights](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=34548)DG Justice and Consumers launched new calls for proposals covering a wide range of policies, from racism, xenophobia, and rights of the child to judicial training and victims' rights.

**PUBLICATION – Eurofound** – [New topics, new tools and innovative practices adopted by the social partners](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2016/industrial-relations/new-topics-new-tools-and-innovative-practices-adopted-by-the-social-partners)

The main objective of this comparative study is to gather information on how social partners in the EU28 and Norway have responded to the many new political, legal and social challenges that have arisen in recent years.

**PUBLICATION – Council of Europe** – [2nd Quarterly Activity Report 2016](https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2936458&SecMode=1&DocId=2383108&Usage=2)

On 14 September 2016 Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, published his Activity Report for the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016.

# GENDER EQUALITY

**Thematic developments**

**European Parliament calls for strengthening equality bodies in resolution on creating labour market conditions favourable for work-life balance**

On 13th September, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on “Creating labour market conditions favourable for work-life balance”. It follows up and aims to inform the proposal of [roadmap on work life balance](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2015_just_012_new_initiative_replacing_maternity_leave_directive_en.pdf) which was launched by the European Commission last year.

In particular, the report highlights “the important role of the national equality bodies in the implementation of the Employment Equality Directive 2000/78/EC, contributing to awareness raising and data collection, staying in touch with social partners and other stakeholders, addressing underreporting and making complaint processes more accessible”. It calls on “**the Member States to strengthen the role, capacities and independence of the equality bodies, including Equinet, inter alia through the provision of adequate funding**; calls in particular for strengthening of the organisations provided for in the Equal Treatment Directive 2006/54/EC, guaranteeing access to justice and legal action;”

Find the resolution [here](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0338+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN).

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – Council of Europe** - [Good practices and resources in the field of gender equality and sports](http://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/news/-/asset_publisher/DuQXw0uxJTNY/content/call-for-good-practices-and-resources-on-gender-equality-in-sport?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.coe.int%2Fen%2Fweb%2Fgenderequality%2Fnews%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_DuQXw0uxJTNY%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-4%26p_p_col_count%3D1) – Deadline: 15 November 2016

**EVENT – Gender, Science, Technology and Environment (genderSTE)** – [Conference “Engendering Habitat III: Facing the Global Challenges in Cities, Climate Change and Transport”](http://engenderinghabitat3.genderste.eu/)– 5-6/10/2016, Madrid, Spain

**EVENT – Women in Development Europe+ (WIDE+) and the European Women’s Lobby (EWL)** – [International Conference: Movements, Borders, Rights? Feminist perspectives on global issues in Europe](http://www.womenlobby.org/Movements-Borders-Rights-Feminist-perspectives-on-global-issues-in-Europe) – 24-25/10/2016, Brussels, Belgium

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission** - [Restricted action grants to support national information, Awareness-raising and education activities aimed at preventing and combating violence against women](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/open-calls/index-pp_en.htm) - Deadline: 27 October 2016

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** **- European Commission** – Action grants on gender-based violence – Opening: 24 and 25 November 2016 – Deadline: 8 March 2017   
The European Commission is launching two Action Grants:

1. [Action grants to promote the access to justice and support of victims of gender-based violence and the treatment of perpetrators](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rdap-vict-ag-2016.html)
2. [Action grants to educate and raise the awareness of girls and boys about gender-based violence as a way to prevent it at an early stage](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/rec-rdap-awar-ag-2016.html)

**PUBLICATION** **– European Commission** - [Study on the implementation of the autonomous framework agreement on harassment and violence at work – Final report](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7922&type=2&furtherPubs=yes)

On 26 April 2007, the European social partners BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC signed an autonomous framework agreement on violence and harassment at work which requires that the member federations of signatory parties cooperate on the improvement of working conditions by establishing and promoting mechanisms to identify, prevent and manage problems of harassment and violence occurring at the workplace. This study and [annexes](http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16192&langId=en) provide an assessment of the implementation of the agreement at national level, while taking into account the procedures and practices specific to management and labour in each country, as well as information on the extent of the phenomenon across Europe.

**PUBLICATION - European Gender Equality Institute (EIGE)** - [An analysis of the Victims’ Rights Directive from a gender perspective](http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/analysis-victims-rights-directive-gender-perspective)

**PUBLICATION - European Gender Equality Institute (EIGE)** – [Gender Equality in Power and Decision-Making: Main Findings](http://eige.europa.eu/rdc/eige-publications/gender-equality-power-and-decision-making-main-findings)

# RACE AND ETHNIC ORIGIN

**Thematic developments**

**Council of Europe appoints new Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues**

On 1 September 2016 Valeriu Nicolae, a Romanian Roma, has taken up the post of Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) of the Council of Europe for Roma Issues. Read more [here](http://www.coe.int/nl/web/portal/roma/-/asset_publisher/8woM0jEw4fpo/content/new-special-representative-of-the-secretary-general-for-roma-issu-2?inheritRedirect=false&redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.coe.int%2Fnl%2Fweb%2Fportal%2Froma%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_8woM0jEw4fpo%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-1%26p_p_col_pos%3D3%26p_p_col_count%3D10).

**UN Special Rapporteur on Racism publishes report on National Specialised Bodies**

The report aims to discuss the role of National Specialised Bodies (equality bodies) in combating racism, xenophobia and related intolerance at national level. It for instance recommends to ensure these bodies have appropriate mandates and resources, both human and financial. It also “calls upon States, when establishing a national specialized body against racism and other forms of discrimination, **to distinguish it from the general national human rights institutions**, but to do so in compliance with the Paris Principles of independence and impartiality.”. The report is available [here](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/301).

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**PUBLICATION** - European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) – Monitoring reports on [Armenia](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/ARM-PR-V-2016-224-EN.asp), [Turkey](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/TUR-PR-V-2016-225-EN.asp), [UK](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/GBR-PR-V-2016-226-EN.asp)

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS – ILGA Europe -** [Data-collection on LGBTI-phobic hate crimes in Europe](http://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/call-proposals-data-collection-lgbti-phobic-hate-crimes-europe) – Deadline: 8 November 2016   
ILGA-Europe announces XVI call for proposals within its Documentation and Advocacy Fund. This call will specifically focus on data-collection of LGBTI-phobic hate crimes

**CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS** – Transgender Europe – [Health Care Survey](http://tgeu.org/healthcare_en/)   
TGEU is conducting a survey on healthcare for trans people who are age 16 and older in **Georgia, Poland, Serbia, Spain, or Sweden**. People from these countries can fill in the online survey.

# DISABILITY

**Thematic developments**

**European Commission launches proposal for a Regulation on cross-border exchange of accessible format copies for persons who are blind or visually impaired**

The proposed Regulation will allow the Union to fulfil an international obligation under the **Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled**. The proposal 2016/0279 (COD) was launched on 14th September 2016. It can be found [here](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2016/EN/1-2016-595-EN-F1-1.PDF).

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**EVENT**– European Commission - [European Day of Persons with Disabilities](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=88&eventsId=1152&furtherEvents=yes) – 29-30/11/2016, Brussels, Belgium

# AGE

**Thematic developments**

**European Commission report highlights progress of the Youth Guarantee and of the Youth Employment Initiative**

On 4th October 2016, the European Commission adopted a Communication that highlights the **main achievements of the Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)** since their launch in 2013 and draws lessons on how to improve the EU and national efforts on deploying national Youth Guarantee schemes. More information can be found [here](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2629&furtherNews=yes).

**EU Council of Ministers adopts Recommendation on young people’s access to rights**

The Council of Ministers recommendation address some of the key priorities of the Council of Europe’s youth sector, encouraging member States **to develop and apply youth policies which support young people’s access to rights.** The Council of Europe recognises that it is important to do more to guarantee young people access to rights especially during a period of transition when they are taking on new responsibilities and duties but are subject to discrimination by virtue of their youth, for example in the labour market. Recommendation *CM/Rec (2016)7* of 28 September 2016 can be found [here](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=09000016806a93e2).

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## Publications, funding opportunities and events

**EVENT – AGE Platform Europe** – [4th AGE Annual Conference](http://www.age-platform.eu/age-news/age-invites-you-its-4th-annual-conference-18-november-2016) – 18/11/2016, Brussels, Belgium

# MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

**Thematic developments**

**European Commission reported on progress made under the European Agenda on migration**

On 29th September, the Commission reported on the progress made on the EU's relocation and resettlement schemes and the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement. At the same time, it outlined the steps still needed to be taken by Greece in view of a future resumption of Dublin transfers from other Member States while also reporting on the temporary border controls carried out at internal Schengen borders under the Council recommendation of 12 May 2016. More information can be found [here](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-is-new/news/news/2016/20160928_3_en.htm).

**Publications, funding opportunities and events**

**EVENT – Eurofound** – [EU labour market integration of asylum-seekers and refugees - Eurofound National Cluster Seminar](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/events/working-conditions-labour-market-quality-of-life-social-policies/eu-labour-market-integration-of-asylum-seekers-and-refugees-eurofound-national-cluster-seminar) – 28 - 29 November 2016, Berlin, Germany

**EVENT - The Research and Information Center on Immigrant Integration (CDCDI) of the Romanian Association for Health Promotion (ARPS) -** [3rd CDCDI International Conference - Changing migration policies: national perspectives and supra-national strategies](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/event/bucharest---3rd-cdcdi-international-conference---changing-migration-policies-national-perspectives-and-supra-national-strategies) - 10-11 November 2016, Bucharest, Romania

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY** – **European Commission -** [New EU funding available to foster entrepreneurship among young migrants](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-new-eu-funding-available-to-foster-entrepreneurship-among-young-migrants)– Deadline: 30 November 2016

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY -** **European Commission -** [Call for proposals to enable European collaboration among migrants entrepreneurship support schemes](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-call-for-proposals-to-enable-european-collaboration-among-migrants-entrepreneurship-support-schemes) – Deadline: 20 December 2016

**PUBLICATION** – **European Commission** - [How are refugees faring on the labour market in Europe? Working Paper 1/2016](http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=738&langId=en&pubId=7921&type=2&furtherPubs=yes) This paper is a joint effort by the OECD and the European Commission to make a first evaluation of the situation on refugees on the labour market. It is based on the 2014 EU Labour Force Survey.

**PUBLICATION** – **European Network against Racism (ENAR) -** [Updates its map of anti-migrant violence & hatred](https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/europe-enar-updates-its-map-of-anti-migrant-violence-hatred)  
The European Network against Racism has launched an update of its interactive map of incidents of racist discourse and violence against migrants in EU Member States, including demeaning speeches by politicians, violence, anti-migrant demonstrations, and discriminatory practices by national authorities.

**PUBLICATION** – **EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)** – [Monthly Data Collection on Migration Situations – Family tracing and family reunification](http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/asylum-migration-borders/overviews/focus-family)

# RECENT CASE-LAW DEVELOPMENTS

## European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

[**British Gurkha Welfare Society and Others v. The United Kingdom (Application no. 44818/11)**](file:///C:\Users\jema\Desktop\Google%20Chrome.lnkhttp:\hudoc.echr.coe.int\eng#{"sort":["kpdate Descending"],"kpthesaurus":["343","44","100","27","42","217","257","258","298","309","353","395","413","464","473","292"],"documentcollectionid2":["GRANDCHAMBER","CHAMBER"],"itemid":["001-166691"]})**-** 15 September 2016

The applicants of the case were Gurkha soldiers alleging they have been discriminated against based on their **nationality, race and age**. Relying on Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property), the applicants argued that their pension entitlements were less favourable than those of non-Gurkha soldiers in the British Army. The Court did not find a violation.

A summary of the case can be found [here](file:///C:\Users\peter\Downloads\Forthcoming%20judgments%20and%20decisions%2013-15.09.16.pdf) (p.8-9).