

CONFERENCE

Poverty and Discrimination: two sides of the same coin

**22 March 2018
(09:00 – 17:30)**

**LOCATION: Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission,
16-22 Green Street, Dublin 7, Ireland**

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Combating poverty is a key undertaking of the European Union in the field of economic and social rights. This is reflected not only in the European Pillar of Social Rights, but also in fighting poverty and social exclusion being one of the five targets of Europe 2020, the EU's ten-year jobs and growth strategy. Further to this, one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations is to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Equinet's earlier work on '[Addressing Poverty and Discrimination: Two Sides of the One Coin](#)' and '[Equality Bodies Contributing to the Protection, Respect and Fulfilment of Economic and Social Rights](#)' demonstrates, based on the experiences of equality bodies, the inextricable link between discrimination and poverty. Most equality bodies have a broad mandate covering discrimination not only in the field of employment but also in fields such as housing, access to education, healthcare and other services where a number of grounds intersect with socio-economic status as a cause of social exclusion. Important intersections include the grounds of race and gender.

There is growing recognition that socio-economic status as a ground of discrimination is an important tool to tackle inequality. Recent years have seen legislative initiatives in a number of European jurisdictions where the anti-discrimination legislation did not historically recognize socio-economic status as a discrimination ground, including France and Ireland.

OBJECTIVES

This conference will therefore aim to:

- Review the mutually reinforcing links between poverty and discrimination
- Take stock of recent initiatives introducing socio-economic status as a discrimination ground
- Explore the manner in which grounds such as race and gender intersect with poverty to result in aggravated forms of social exclusion
- Discuss what can be done at EU and national levels to break the vicious cycle of social exclusion

REGISTRATION

Registration is open until 10 March via [this link](#). Practical information will be sent in due time to registered participants.

**For more information, please contact Katrine Steinfeld, Equinet Policy Officer
(katrine.steinfeld@equineteurope.org)**

DRAFT AGENDA

08:30 – 09:00 Welcome & Registration

OPENING SESSION

09:00 – 09:15 **Tena Šimonović Einwalter**, Chair of the **Equinet Executive Board**

09:15 – 09:30 **Emily Logan**, Chief Commissioner of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission

09:30 – 10:00	Keynote Address Ireland: toward a new discrimination ground?	David Stanton , Minister of State for Justice
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10:00 – 10:30	Keynote Address Social condition and access to rights	Philippe-André Tessier , Vice-President of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Québec
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10:30 – 11:00 Q&A

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break

SESSION 1

Poverty and discrimination: a vicious cycle?

Chair: Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Chair of the Equinet Executive Board

This session aims to explain the mutually reinforcing links between poverty and discrimination and how various policy and legal tools are able to tackle this complex relationship.

11:15 – 11:35	Ending poverty – meeting the SDGs	Birgit Van Hout , Regional Representative, OHCHR
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11:35 – 11:55	Breaking the vicious circle of discrimination and poverty: The case of Roma	Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos , Fundamental Rights Agency
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11:55 – 12:15	European Social Charter	Jarna Petman , former member of the European Committee of Social Rights
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12:15 – 12:35	Ireland: making rights a reality for persons in poverty	Laurence Bond , IHREC (TBC)
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12:35 – 13:00 Q&A

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break

SESSION 2

Socio-economic status: a ground for discrimination?

Chair: Anne Gaspard, Equinet Executive Director

This session aims to map the country specific situations which have led to and in some cases are currently leading to the introduction of socio-economic status as a ground for discrimination.

14:00 – 14:20	Toward protection from discrimination on the ground of socio-economic status	Niall Crowley , Equality and Rights Alliance
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14:20 – 14:40	Poverty as a discrimination ground, a French perspective	Sophie Latraverse , Defender of Rights, France
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14:40 – 15:00	Different approaches in working with poverty and discrimination	Henk van Hootegem (Service to Combat Poverty) and Emmanuelle Devillé (UNIA),
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		Belgium
15:00 – 15:20	Crucial intersection: poverty and other grounds of discrimination	Adél Lukovics , Hungarian Equal Treatment Authority
15:20 – 15:45	Q&A	
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break	
SESSION 3 PANEL DEBATE Ways Forward Chair: Tamas Kadar , Equinet Head of Legal and Policy		
What can be done to promote full inclusion of persons experiencing poverty and what are the next steps that can be envisioned on the European and national levels?		
16:00 – 17:15	Laurence Bond , Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	
	Philippe-André Tessier , Vice-President of the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse du Québec	
	Birgit Van Hout , Regional Representative for Europe, United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR)	
	Robert Anderson , Eurofound (European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions)	
	Jarna Petman , former member of the European Committee of Social Rights	
	Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin , Chair of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality (<i>TBC</i>)	
Concluding Session		
17:15 – 17:30	Anne Gaspard , Equinet Executive Director	