

Our speakers

[Ms Tena Šimonović Einwaller](#)

Equinet Chair & Deputy Ombudswoman Office of the Ombudswoman, Croatia

Tena graduated from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Law, awarded the Diploma of the International Institute for Human Rights in Strasbourg, holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Zagreb Faculty of Political Science and a Master's degree in European and Comparative Law from the University of Oxford Faculty of Law.



As one of the drafters of the Croatian Anti-Discrimination Act, Tena began working in the Office of the Ombudsman in 2008 to set up its equality body mandate. She was elected by the Croatian Parliament as a Deputy Ombudswoman in 2013 and has overseen the institution's non-discrimination and equality work ever since. As an independent expert, she is also a member of the Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI). She also delivers lectures and training and publishes on human rights, the rights of national minorities and particularly non-discrimination and equality law.

[MEP Alice Bah Kuhnke](#)

Vice-president of the Greens/EFA, Sweden

Alice Bah Kuhnke is a member of the European Parliament from Sweden and vice-chair of the Greens/EFA party group. She is full member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the Greens/EFA's Coordinator in the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, and co-chair of the European Parliament's Intergroup on the Green New Deal. Before she came to the European Parliament, she was Minister for Culture and Democracy in the Swedish Government. Ms. Bah Kuhnke has been vocal on issues related to anti-discrimination, gender equality, sexual and reproductive rights, refugee rights and poverty during her time as a politician.



Mr Silvan Agius

Cabinet expert for Commissioner of Equality Helena Dalli, European Commission

Mr Silvan Agius is the Cabinet Expert in Commissioner Dalli's Cabinet since December 2019. Her role is to coordinate the equality policy framework within the team and its key messages, as well as to lead on LGBTI+ equality, racial and ethnic origin equality and anti-discrimination legislation.

Before taking his role in the European Commission, Agius was the Director of the Human Rights and Integration Directorate within the Maltese Government (2015-2019). Previously he worked in the Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties' secretariat, leading on the equality and civil liberties portfolios (2013-2015). Agius worked at ILGA-Europe as a Policy Officer and later as the Policy Director (2007-2013), and at the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality, the Maltese equality body.



Mr Patrick Charlier

co-director of UNIA (Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities), Belgium

Patrick Charlier is a lawyer by training. He worked at the Human Rights League, first as legal advisor (1992 to 1996), then as director (1996 to 2001). Since his arrival to Unia in 2001, he has held various positions in the racism department at the Migration Observatory before becoming coordinator of the Discrimination department and finally director.

He is also a former member of the management board of FRA, and is currently Deputy member of ECRI, member of the management board of Equinet and an alternate member of the Central Prison Supervisory Board.



MEP Maria Walsh

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats), Ireland

Maria has been a Fine Gael member of the European Parliament for Midlands North-West since 2019. She is the Vice-Chair of the LGBTI Rights Intergroup which advocates for equality in the EU and monitors Member States' legislative initiatives. She always takes stances on policy and legislation that align with her values of inclusion, equality, and respect, even if this entails some difficult conversations with her EPP Group colleagues.

Maria has advocated for the inclusion of younger people in politics, which spurred her to run for office herself. She is a firm believer that it is crucial for politicians to be representative of their electorate, with greater representation of people from black and minority ethnic backgrounds, LGBTI people, and equal gender parity.



Mr Bernhard Franke

Acting Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, Germany

Bernhard Franke has served as Acting Head of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency since 2018. A labour law expert by training, he joined the then Federal Ministry for Family Affairs and Seniors in 1992. He worked in the Ministry's Directorate-General for Gender Equality before joining FADA in 2008. He co-drafted the Gender Equality Act and the Equal Treatment Act and was closely involved in Germany's ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.



MEP Malin Björk

Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left, Sweden

Malin Björk of the Swedish Left Party has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2014. She is a long-time feminist activist and during her first parliamentary term, she was a member of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM). She is also one of the founders of the pro-choice network All of Us, which supports and connects pro-choice activists from all over Europe. Malin Björk is the spokesperson for the Swedish Left Party on LGBTI issues.



Ms Sandra Konstatzky

Director of the Ombud for Equal Treatment at the Federal Chancellery, Austria

Sandra is, since 2018, Director of the Ombud for Equal Treatment at the Federal Chancellery in Austria. She was previously Deputy Director and Legal advisor at the same Equality Body. She is a Lawyer by training and holds a master's degree in law with a speciality in Legal Gender Studies.

She performs trainings at the European Law Academy and lectures at the Law University of Vienna. Additionally, Sandra is an Equinet Board member since 2015, as well as Board member of the Austrian Women Lawyers' Association.



MEP Robert Biedroń

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Poland

Robert Biedroń is a Polish human rights activist and a politician. He has a long-standing career as a local and national politician in his natal Poland and was elected as a Member of the European Parliament in May 2019. Robert currently serves as vice-chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality and chairs the EP Delegation for relations with Belarus. He also seats on the Budget Committee and is a substitute member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is also an active member of the European Parliament's LGBTI Intergroup.

In addition, Robert has substantial experience in human rights organisations in both Poland and abroad. He set up the Institute of Democratic Thought and was instrumental in the launch of the Campaign against Homophobia.



Mr Csaba Ferenc Asztalos,

President of the National Council for Combating Discrimination, Romania

Since 2002 is member of the Steering Board of The National Council for Combating Discrimination and since 2005 is the president of the institution. Graduated in law sciences, PhD in law sciences at The Law School – Bucharest University. Since 2004 is trainer at The National Institute of Magistracy on preventing and combating discrimination, tenured of the course on Work Equality at Postgraduate Studies on Human Resources - Department of Sociology and Social Work, University of Bucharest. Expert on anti-discrimination within the framework of the TAIEX Instrument, European Commission's DG Enlargement (reports and trainings in Moldavia and Ukraine). Since 2020 -member of the FRA Board. Trainer within different projects on non-discrimination and equality field.



Ms Sophie Latraverse

Director of Legal Expertise to the General Secretariat for the Defender of Rights, Defender of Rights, France

Sophie Latraverse has been litigation lawyer in Montreal 10 Years before working in France since 1998. She specialises in French discrimination law. She joined the first French anti discrimination body, the GELD in 2000 and contributed to the creation of the French equality body since 2002. She was deputy legal Director of the first French Equality Body HALDE from 2005 to 2011 and is currently director of the General Secretariat of the French constitutional authority that has succeeded to the Halde, le Défenseur des droits. Ms Latraverse is also the French expert in the European Network of Legal Experts in the non-discrimination field since 2004.



MEP Radka Maxová

Renew Europe Group, Czechia

Radka Maxova is a member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and a substitute member of Committee on Culture and Education and Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality. She is also a Co-Chair of the European Parliament Intergroup on Disability, Co-Chair of MEP Alliance for Mental Health and member of the European Parliament LGBTI Intergroup. She focuses mainly on social policy, including the protection and promotion of rights of persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ community and she is a strong advocate for gender equality.



Mr Martin Mörk

Deputy Ombudsman and Head of Litigation, The Equality Ombudsman, Sweden

Martin Mörk is Deputy Ombudsman and Head of Litigation at the Office of the Swedish Equality Ombudsman. In the latter capacity, he argues for individuals in public interest discrimination cases. Mr Mörk holds a Magister Juris with Distinction from Balliol College, University of Oxford, and an LL.M. from Stockholm University.



Mr Tamás Kádár

Deputy Director and Head of Legal and Policy, Equinet

Tamás Kádár is Deputy Director (Head of Legal and Policy) at Equinet. Tamás worked previously at the Hungarian Equal Treatment Authority as a legal officer, investigating discrimination cases on all grounds and drafting decisions of the Authority.

He graduated from the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest as a Doctor in Law. Tamás also holds a Master of Economic Science degree from University College Dublin in Ireland.

Tamás has published articles on equality and non-discrimination, spoken at numerous international conferences and acted as a trainer and expert in various EU, Council of Europe, OSCE and USAID-funded projects.

