

Equinet Online Seminar on Trans & Intersex Rights

Building bridges between equality bodies and
trans and intersex activists

Trans persons & Equality Bodies

Dialogue between trans persons and equality bodies

- Greek Ombudsman's Experience

A case study

Discrimination against transgender woman in education

- A transgender young woman (20 years old) was attending a night/”second chance” high school .
- In her complaint she was reporting a number of serious incidents of bullying and attacks by her classmates
- She was also alleging attempts of the school itself (school director and teachers) to force her to dress up as a man and, failing to do so, suggesting she had to move to a different school .

The complaint was lodged to the Greek Ombudsman by two (2) LGBTIQ organisations (the Greek Transgender Support Association (ΣΥΔ) and Association of Teachers Against Homophobia and Transphobia)

Investigation by the Greek Ombudsman

Two (2) letters to the school :

- explaining the differences between sexual orientation and gender identity
- informing of the rights and protection provided for transgender persons according to the law
- asking to respect the student's gender identity by addressing her with her chosen name, allowing her to dress as a woman and granting her the use of women's toilets

Investigation by the Greek Ombudsman

Several meetings organised by GO with

- Teachers and students and
- Representatives of Ministry of Education

with the support of Greek Transgender Support Association and Association of School Teachers Against Homophobia and Transphobia

in order to discuss the case and identify the most effective means for further intervention

Results

Acceptance/adoption of the Greek Ombudsman's proposals by the school

Furthermore the Greek Ombudsman proposed to the Ministry of Education:

- to introduce a pilot programme for gender identity
- to build up synergies with LGBTIQ organisations
- to issue and sent to schools a circular with guidelines for diversity and non discrimination, including gender identity
- to provide support to victims of transphobic attacks
- to establish a monitoring mechanism against school violence with cooperation with civil society

Thank you very much for your attention !