

Dear Equinet members,

We are aware that many Equinet members are facing issues arising from the **war in Ukraine**. Following questions raised by individual members and discussions held by the Equinet Board at their Board meeting this week, Equinet has decided to facilitate an online space where all members can exchange confidentially about these issues and ask questions of other members. Therefore, we are organising an online meeting on **Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 15:30 – 17:00 (CET)** on Zoom.

This meeting will be confidential, under Chatham House Rules, and is open to all Equinet members to attend if they wish. It is not obligatory and does not have a formal agenda, rather it is a forum for members to share their experiences, work and concerns so far and to ask any questions on this topic of other members. There are some guiding questions for the discussion to try to ensure that we can cover the main issues we have heard are arising so far:

- What are the equality and non-discrimination issues that have been raised in your country by the war in Ukraine?
- Has your equality body made public statements or communications on the equality impacts of the war in Ukraine?
- Have you received complaints or queries, or have you started an own initiative inquiry on this subject and on what grounds/ in which fields?
  - From or about Russians or Russian speakers (or people perceived to be Russian) who have faced discrimination or hate speech in your country?
  - From people fleeing the war who have faced discrimination at the borders, in asylum applications or in daily life, for example, due to their nationality, ethnicity or religion?
  - From migrants, asylum-seekers or refugees originating from other countries, who feel they are discriminated compared to those arriving from Ukraine?
- Has your institution assessed or is it planning to assess whether any actions taken by the government/ businesses/ individuals related to the war in Ukraine are in compliance with equality (and human rights)?

\*\*\*Please note that as well as providing a platform for exchanges, we hope that the issues and experiences that you share at this meeting will inform a new statement from Equinet on this topic. However, this statement will not identify any members specifically, given that the meeting will be held under Chatham House Rules.

Please **register via Zoom** for this meeting ([register here](#)). This is because we would like to gather interested members' emails so that after the meeting we can share their e-mail addresses (with their permission) to create a group where the conversation can continue. If you



are unable to attend this meeting but would still like your email to be included in the group, please contact me, Sophie Hale ([Sophie.hale@equineteurope.org](mailto:Sophie.hale@equineteurope.org)).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you are blocked from using Zoom at work, please contact me so that I can send you the connection information directly and then you can use the browser version of Zoom.

Kind regards,

**Sophie Hale**

Membership and Network Development Officer