

Advancing LGBTIQ+ Equality in Europe.

The Role of Equality Bodies in other aspects of the lived experience of LGBTIQ+ persons



Sport

State of Play

LGBTIQ+ individuals, especially transgender people and LBTI women, face widespread discrimination and stigma in sports across Europe, often compounded by a sexist and misogynist environment that marginalizes them further.

Good Practices

Equality Bodies cooperate with actors in the field of sports, such as national football organisation and sports federations, to address discrimination and promote equality for LGBTIQ+ persons. For instance, the **Danish Institute for Human Rights** is part of the Sports Rainbow Coalition.

Freedom of expression and assembly

State of Play

Despite their universal value, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly of LGBTIQ+ persons are curtailed in many European countries. The work of Equality Bodies in this context is therefore vital.

Good Practices

After a local government's refusal to allow LGBTIQ+ flags to be displayed in a pavilion for more than a day, the **Gender Equality Ombudsperson in Croatia** issued a recommendation to the local government arguing that LGBTIQ+ flags are not advertising and promoting human rights should not be restricted to specific time frames, leading to approval for a weekend-long display.

The **Commissioner for Human Rights in Poland** challenged the discriminatory "Anti-LGBT" resolutions adopted by over 100 local governments, resulting in administrative courts declaring these resolutions invalid and emphasizing their violation of constitutional and human rights protections.

The rights of LGBTIQ+ prisoners

State of Play

LGBTIQ+ prisoners, particularly transgender individuals, experience high levels of homophobia, harassment, and (sexual) violence from both fellow inmates and prison staff.

Good Practices

In Croatia, the **Gender Equality Ombudsperson**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Administration, the Directorate for the Prison System and Probation as well as the NGO "TransAid", provided training for prison and judicial police officers on the rights of transgender and gender-diverse persons.

LGBTIQ+ persons and care

State of Play

Older LGBTIQ+ people are more likely to be carers than the general population, but their specific needs are often overlooked in care support, and they may face additional challenges such as providing care for family members who are hostile or discriminatory. LGBTIQ+ individuals in care, particularly those with disabilities, frequently experience stigmatization, discrimination, and the need to navigate their identity with shifting carers in often heteronormative environments.

Good Practices

The **Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission** recommended that care policies be human rights and equality-proofed, in consultation with vulnerable groups, to address intersectional discrimination and ensure that care needs are met throughout the life cycle.