Petition to safeguard the EU Directive on anti-discrimination

The EU plans to withdraw its draft Directive on anti-discrimination. This petition, run by All Out, ILGA-Europe, AGE Platform Europe, EL*C, ENAR, ERGO Network, IGLYO, OII Europe and TGEU demands the European Commission to reconsider and work towards protection against discrimination in all areas of life.

Campaign, Inclusion and Equality, Equality, European Commission

In a move that has raised significant concerns among human rights organisations, the European Commission has announced it plans to withdraw the proposed Horizontal Equal Treatment Directive, a legislative measure aimed at strengthening anti-discrimination protections across the European Union.

How the Directive should protect your rights

This directive represents a commitment to combat discrimination in various sectors of public life, including access to healthcare, education, housing, and social benefits. It is particularly vital for protection against discrimination based on religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and is a baseline to further expand comprehensive protection to all groups at risk of marginalisation across all areas of life.

This decision comes at a time when far-right forces are gaining momentum in the EU and beyond, posing a significant threat to democracy, equality, and human rights across the continent. Instead of taking decisive action to protect groups at risk of marginalisation—including LGBTI people, older and younger people, persons with disabilities, religious minorities and those at the intersections of discrimination, including racialised people—the European Commission has chosen inaction, sending a dangerous message that equality is negotiable.

Background on the Directive

In 2008, the Commission proposed a Council directive aimed at extending equal treatment protections beyond the workplace. However, the proposal has been stalled for years due to a lack of unanimous agreement among EU member states, with only a few countries such as Czechia, Germany, and Italy blocking it before the Commission ultimately announced it would withdraw the proposal. As a result, millions of people remain vulnerable to systemic discrimination, and a hierarchy of protection has emerged, where some forms of discrimination are addressed more comprehensively than others.

The European Commission’s planned withdrawal of the Horizontal Equal Treatment Directive represents a pivotal moment for anti-discrimination efforts within the EU. At a time when human rights protections should be strengthened, the EU cannot afford to retreat.

Sign the petition

By signing this petition, you join the call for European leaders to reaffirm their commitment to a Union of Equality. Demand that they reject any regression in anti-discrimination laws and work towards strengthening protections for all people.

Sign the petition now!

The petition is available in Italian, French, German, and Portuguese.