

**Building an inclusive European Union of Equality**  
**Key demands from ILGA-Europe for the next European Commission structure and work programme, 2024 -2029**

**1. An ambitious second EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy**

The 2020-2025 LGBTIQ Equality Strategy was a landmark step in anchoring the work on LGBTI rights firmly in the European Commission and a key element of the EU Union of Equality. The new EC President as well as relevant Commissioners, need to clearly commit to a renewal of the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and this ask needs to be clearly made in the EU election campaign.

**2. Strong institutional infrastructure for full implementation of the Union of Equality**

As set out in ILGA-Europe's [evaluation of the strategy in 2023](#) and in the [European Parliament's Implementation Report](#), stronger institutional structures in the EC are needed to ensure the strategy can fully realise its political ambition.

To this end, ILGA-Europe calls for:

- A clear commitment to the Union of Equality and to revise and introduce strong strategies on all grounds under the Equality Framework beyond 2025 and ensure their mainstreaming in all policy areas by the next EC President and in the EC work programme.
- an EU Commissioner with a strong mandate for Equality and Fundamental Rights.
- Strengthen the European Commission's services working on equality, non-discrimination and anti-racism, especially by establishing a new Directorate-General for Equality and Fundamental Rights.
- An envoy on LGBTI rights
- Ensure that the Equality Task Force has a strong mandate to ensure cooperation between different services on the implementation of the Equality Frameworks and that it works transparently and in close consultation and cooperation with European Equality networks.
- Ensure the next EU budget properly funds civil society organisations working on equality, non-discrimination and anti-racism.
- Ensure discrimination is also addressed in the work of the EU in external action, international cooperation and humanitarian action.

### **3. Legal and policies initiatives to further strengthen the protection of the fundamental rights of LGBTI people**

Building on the important advances made through the first EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, ILGA-Europe call on the renews LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2025 – 2030 to include (amongst other initiatives):

#### **Closing gaps in protection**

- Committing to propose and work towards any future EU Treaty revision includes adding the grounds of gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics to Art. 19
- Ensuring Freedom of movement across the EU for all LGBTI people: proposing draft legislation to complete freedom of movement for LGBTI people and their families (supplementing the EC parenthood recognition)
- Continue to work with member states towards adoption of the proposal to expand the list of EU crimes to include hate speech and hate crime to which would add the ground of sexual orientation amongst others to the Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA.
- Advancing the protection of the human rights of intersex people through an EC communication on Intersex Genital Mutilation (following from the EC communication on FGM in 2014 and the EC Intersex study (yet to be published))
- Strong engagement of EU in external policies, including trade policies to push for respect for LGBTI rights and against criminalisation
- Conducting a Study on how to ensure inclusion of LGBTI community in EU humanitarian aid and emergency responses, that are safe and accessible to the community
- Work with member states to ensure humanitarian visa made available to LGBTI HR defenders

#### **Supporting full and inclusive implementation of existing laws and standards**

- Implementing trainings for member states on the full implementation of the Parenthood recognition directive (once adopted)
- Ensuring full implementation of key CJEU judgements on LGBTI rights, including infringement procedures if necessary
- Planning and implementing Good practice exchange with member states based on the EU harmful practices recommendation (that should be published before the end of this EC term)
- Good practice exchange on gender-based violence and domestic violence policies including LGBTI people, based on implementation of EU GBV directive

## **Focus Health**

- Putting in place ambitious action on combatting HIV/AIDS
- Ensuring continuation of efforts through a renewed EU Horizon programme

## **Focus Socio-economic inequality**

- Including LGBTI people as target group in the next ESF+ regulation
- Including LGBTI people as a target group in EU housing policies and policies tackling homelessness and identifying specific actions to ensure the specific needs of LGBTI people are met

## **Focus Intersectional policy-making and data**

- Targeted action on data segregation on socio-economic situation and health (following the EU Equality Data collection guidelines)
- Legal study on including intersectional discrimination in anti-discrimination legislation and identification of good practices
- Working with Eurostat to ensure inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics throughout data collection



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