

## **Five key facts on the EU and LGBT equality**

The European Union (EU) has been a driver of equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people over the past 20 years.

In light of the upcoming referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union on 23 June, ILGA-Europe want to present a few key facts about the role of the EU in advancing equality for LGBT people in Europe, including in the UK.

### **FACTS**

#### **1. The European Union has set standards internationally**

It was the first international organisation to explicitly recognise sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds of discrimination in law.

#### **2. EU legislation was a trigger for UK equality laws**

LGB people are protected against workplace discrimination as a result of the EU's initiative.

#### **3. EU court cases have introduced even more protection**

As a result of the EU Court of Justice decisions, protection against gender identity-based discrimination became a reality in UK workplaces and the rest of the EU.

#### **4. The EU has brought greater protection for UK citizens in a same-sex partnership and their family members when they work, live and travel within the European Union**

#### **5. The EU encourages solidarity with LGBT people in Europe and beyond**

**Both the EU and the UK have made great advances on the road to full equality for LGBT people in the past few years. Activists all over Europe are still working to make that vision a reality – but the UK and the EU have certainly been a positive force for good. Any attempt to weaken the EU and its influence in fighting discrimination could remove a valuable layer of protection for LGBT people – something that everyone has worked for decades to achieve.**