

# Good practices for LGBTI activists on engaging with local and regional authorities

Workshop organised by the Council of Europe  
at the ILGA Annual Conference 2015

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2015, 9.30-11 AM

Divani Caravel Hotel, Athens, Greece

The Council of Europe standards and mechanisms seek to promote and ensure respect for the human rights of every individual, as well as the equal rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. Local and regional authorities play an important part in this, as many of the human rights violations that LGBTI people face take place within local and regional institutions: in schools, police stations, health care centres, local sports clubs.

— The aim of this workshop is to share good practices on enhancing co-operation between local and regional authorities and LGBTI civil society, building on the report of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities: "Guaranteeing LGBTI people's rights: a responsibility for Europe's towns and regions", which was adopted in March 2015.

— The Rapporteur of the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities will share the main findings and outcomes of the report. Rainbow Cities, a network of international cities from all over Europe concerned with LGBTI policies, will share their good practices with LGBT cities. Three LGBTI activists will share their experiences regarding co-operation between civil society and local and regional authorities.

## PANELLISTS

- ▶ **Yoomi Renström**, Rapporteur, Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- ▶ **Juul van Hoof**, Rainbow Cities Network
- ▶ **Lorenzo Benedetti**, Omphalos Arcigay Arcilesbica (Perugia, Italy)
- ▶ **Simeon Vasilev**, GLAS foundation (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- ▶ **Turgay Bayandir**, LambdaIstanbul (Turkey)

## MODERATOR

- ▶ **Eleni Tsetsekou**, Head of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit, Council of Europe

■ The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

■ The European Court of Human Rights is an international court set up in 1959 by member states of the Council of Europe. It rules on individual or State applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.

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## **Combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI)**

**Council of Europe**

[sogi@coe.int](mailto:sogi@coe.int)

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