Denmark

Asylum

NGO LGBT Asylum arranged a conference in the Parliament in August on politics and policies on LGBT asylum seekers and refugees in Denmark. In addition to asylum seekers speakers and panelists included NGOs LGBT Asylum, Danish Refugee Council, Amnesty International, Danish Red Cross, LGBT Denmark and politicians. Themes included housing while seeking asylum, decision practice and life as a refugee.

Employment

As part of the Government’s action plan a survey of the conditions of LGBTI persons in the labour market was carried out. The results are not yet available.

Equality and non-discrimination

In 2017, the Government established a coordinating minister regarding LGBTI people’s rights and non-discrimination and announced Denmark’s first ever action plan on LGBTI, but had to negotiate with Folketinget (Parliament) about funding. On January 11, 25 million DKK (approx. 3.4 million EUR) were allocated to ensure the implementation of the action plan. In June, the fleshed out action plan was presented, setting out 42 initiatives for the period of 2018-2021. Based on the action plan, the department of the minister has reached out to the community widely and engaged in communication and meetings.

Under the action plan, the Government is evaluating current legislation to identify inequalities regarding LGBTI persons. To support this, NGO LGBT Denmark conducted an evaluation and highlighted a number of gaps in the anti-discrimination and equal treatment legislation, family law and regarding legal gender recognition.

Family

In connection with the Danish chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe, the Danish Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe jointly organised a conference on LGBTI people’s right to private and family life (video recording available here), focusing on achieving equality in private and family life regardless of sexual orientation.

Freedom of association

NGO LGBT Denmark obtained core funding from the state of 15 million DKK (approx. 200,000 EUR). Except for 1990 this has never happened before. The funding is now secured on an annual and ongoing basis.

Sabaah, the LGBT+ organisation focusing on ethnic minorities, received project funding of 2.9 million DKK (approx. 390,000 EUR) in the Government’s action plan and was the only organisation specifically mentioned in the plan. The project, which concerns counseling for minority-ethnic LGBT-persons and their relatives, will run for four years.

Health

In 2018, the state has started providing free HPV vaccination for boys who are attracted to boys between the ages of 15 and 20. The Health Authority has also initiated an evaluation of the possibility to provide HPV-vaccination to all boys in the same way as it is available to all girls today. The results are expected for spring 2019. In anticipation, the government already included funding for free HPV-vaccination for all boys who turn 12 years old 1 July 2019 or later in the state budget for 2019-2022.

In November, the Danish Regions - the political bodies running the regional health care including the major hospitals - decided to follow the recommendation from the Health Authority to provide PrEP to persons at high risk of HIV infection. Implementation is expected in 2019.

In spring, the Gender Equality Committee and the Health and Senior Citizens’ Committee of the Parliament held a hearing on blood donation by men who have sex with men (MSM). Subsequently the Government decided to abolish the permanent ban of MSM to donate blood. The new rule establishes that MSM can make a blood donation four months after having sexual intercourse.

Participation in public, cultural and political life

LGBT Denmark celebrated its 70th anniversary this year in August. The anniversary celebration was hosted by the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen and speakers including the LGBTI-coordination minister as well as the last living founding member of the organisation.

For more information visit rainbow-europe.org