

Inclusion and Equality

[Inclusion and Equality](#)

For more information, contact: [Belinda Dear, Advocacy Officer](#)

Equality for LGBTI people and full inclusion are at the core of our rights.



Effective anti-discrimination laws — explicitly including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics — are crucial to ensure equality in all areas of life, including employment, education, health and access to goods and services.

In addition to legislation, independent and well-equipped equality bodies with a clear mandate including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), play a significant role in

ensuring that non-discrimination can be a reality for all LGBTI people. That's why at ILGA-Europe, we work to close legislative gaps across the EU — ensuring that non-discrimination legislation covers all areas of life and explicitly includes SOGIESC. But even in countries where legal equality for LGBTI people exists, many in the community are disproportionately hit by social deprivation and poverty. LGBTI people can be discriminated against when accessing services, in education and in access to employment and healthy working conditions.

Taking the above into account, equality and inclusion need to go beyond legal non-discrimination. We must actively reach out to the most marginalised in our communities and work with key partners, like trade unions, business associations and governments. Only then can we ensure that all LGBTI people can safely access services, as well as educational and income opportunities.

At ILGA-Europe, we strive to extend inclusion and equality to all LGBTI people by focusing on the following areas: access to goods and services, education, employment and housing.

Here is how we work with each of these focus areas:

1. [Access to goods and services](#)
2. [Education](#)
3. [Employment](#)
4. [Housing](#)

Access to goods and services

To ensure more LGBTI people can access goods and services, our team works to identify the existing barriers and raise awareness about the issue. We want people to understand why mainstream services often fall short of serving marginalised LGBTI people and work together to ensure LGBTI people are included and served.

We also work to close legislative gaps as part of our aim to increase legal protection against the discrimination LGBTI people can face when accessing goods and services. For example, we strive to secure new anti-discrimination legislation in Europe; we also help implement relevant international and European human rights standards.

We also work to close legislative gaps as part of our aim to increase legal protection against the discrimination LGBTI people can face when accessing goods and services, both on EU and national level, and work towards the full implementation of relevant international and European human rights standards.

Education

When it comes to ensuring that LGBTI people can safely access education, our overall aim is to increase legal protection against discrimination. As part of that, our team advocates for safer, more inclusive schools across our region. In tandem, we closely monitor developments within European institutions and provide input whenever possible.

Education is usually handled nationally — and not an EU competence. With that in mind, a great portion of our work focuses on supporting our members across the EU. We help them identify good practices and challenge discrimination and/or legal proposals that further put LGBTI pupils at a disadvantage.

We work closely with relevant partners like [IGLYO](#). Together, we contribute to relevant policy processes at international and European levels; we also identify and share good practices in education policies, like developing inclusive curricula that covers LGBTI rights and families.

Last but not least, we support our members and NGO partners by sharing our knowledge and expertise. We also help coordinate their initiatives all over Europe.

Employment

At ILGA-Europe, our goals in this area are twofold. First, we want to ensure full protection against discrimination when LGBTI people seek employment. Next, we aim to secure healthy working conditions for our community in the labour market and workplace.

Specifically, we promote inclusive employment policies that ensure safe and welcoming workplaces for all. For example, we try to enable LGBTI-supportive human resources policies and workplace cultures. We also work with businesses — helping them become authentic allies to LGBTI communities. We help them commit to creating LGBTI-inclusive workplaces, respecting human rights standards throughout their operations and supporting the advocacy efforts of LGBTI organisations in different countries.

In addition, we advocate for strong non-discrimination legislation in employment. We monitor how existing legislation is implemented and advocate for support in the labour market across Europe. Throughout it all, we draw attention to the persistent discrimination LGBTI people face in labour markets — both across Europe and Central Asia and in individual countries.

To achieve our goals, we liaise with [Equinet](#) — a network of national equality bodies in the EU — and national equality bodies in the broader region. We also collaborate with trade unions and businesses to effectively tackle discrimination based on SOGIESC within employment.

Last but not least, we identify and support strategic litigation cases to close gaps in LGBTI people's legal protection in employment across Europe.

Housing

Housing instability and homelessness impact LGBTI people — especially youth and young adults — disproportionately across the globe. We work with the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless ([FEANTSA](#)) and [True Colors United](#) to better understand LGBTI youth homelessness in Europe. Our collaboration also enables us to advocate for homelessness policies and services that are inclusive and accessible for LGBTI people.

Moreover, we raise awareness around the prevalence of LGBTI homelessness — and encourage data collection to back up our claims. And together with LGBTI organisations and Homelessness service providers, we identify the obstacles LGBTI people face when trying to access these services — and develop solutions.

Overall, we advocate for homelessness policies on both European and national levels that pay specific attention to the needs of LGBTI people. In this way, we hope to ensure that the most marginalised members of our community are protected and supported.

Subscribe for more info on this topic

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Media

PERCEPTIONS



Report

28.04.2021

Perceptions: Addressing LGBTI Youth Homelessness in Europe and Central Asia

In April 2021, ILGA-Europe in association with the LGBTIQ Youth Homelessness organisation True Colors United, and the Silberman Center for Sexuality and Gender (SCSG) at Hunter College published a report based on [...]

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Report

01.11.2021

EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy – First year implementation evaluation

The first ever EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, adopted in November 2020, is a major step in the EU's overall commitment and detailed efforts to ensure [...]

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Report

05.06.2020

COVID-19 and specific impact on LGBTI people and what authorities should be doing to mitigate impact

COVID-19 is generating complex challenges and risks and while the virus does not discriminate, it is very clear that it hits marginalised communities in our [...]

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Report

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COVID-19 impacts on LGBTI communities in Europe and Central Asia: A rapid assessment report

COVID-19 and the resulting measures to contain and combat the virus are generating complex challenges and risks. While the virus does not discriminate per se, [...]

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Policy Paper

01.04.2020

EU LGBTI Strategy 2020-2024: Key EU legislative and policy initiatives for LGBTI rights in Europe and beyond – Proposal by ILGA-Europe

The policy brief presents concrete proposals of legislative and policy initiatives to be included in the EU LGBTI Strategy.

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Report

01.02.2020

Briefing note: LGBTI-inclusive Gender Equality work

It is a pivotal moment in Europe, and beyond, when it comes to discussions of gender and gender equality. With the European Commission's next Gender [...]

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Report

16.08.2021

LBTI women in sport: violence, discrimination, and lived experiences

In March 2021, a coalition of European networks working on LGBTI rights and including ILGA-Europe, EL*C, TGEU, OII Europe and EGLSF submitted to the Parliamentary [...]

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See also



Blog

21.01.2022

The EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy: What's Happening One Year On?

Just over a year ago, the European Commission adopted the first ever EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, committing to be at the forefront of efforts to better protect LGBTIQ people's rights. But how far has the Commission gone in its implementation so far? We looked closely, and here are our five conclusions.

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[Blog](#)

10.12.2021

6 Ways Forward for LGBTI Organisations to be Inclusive of People With Disabilities

BeLonG To, the leading Irish organisation for LGBT young people is on the vanguard of working on the intersection of LGBTI and disability. Here we share their journey so far, and some great tips for for LGBTI organisations who want to be inclusive of people with disabilities in their work.

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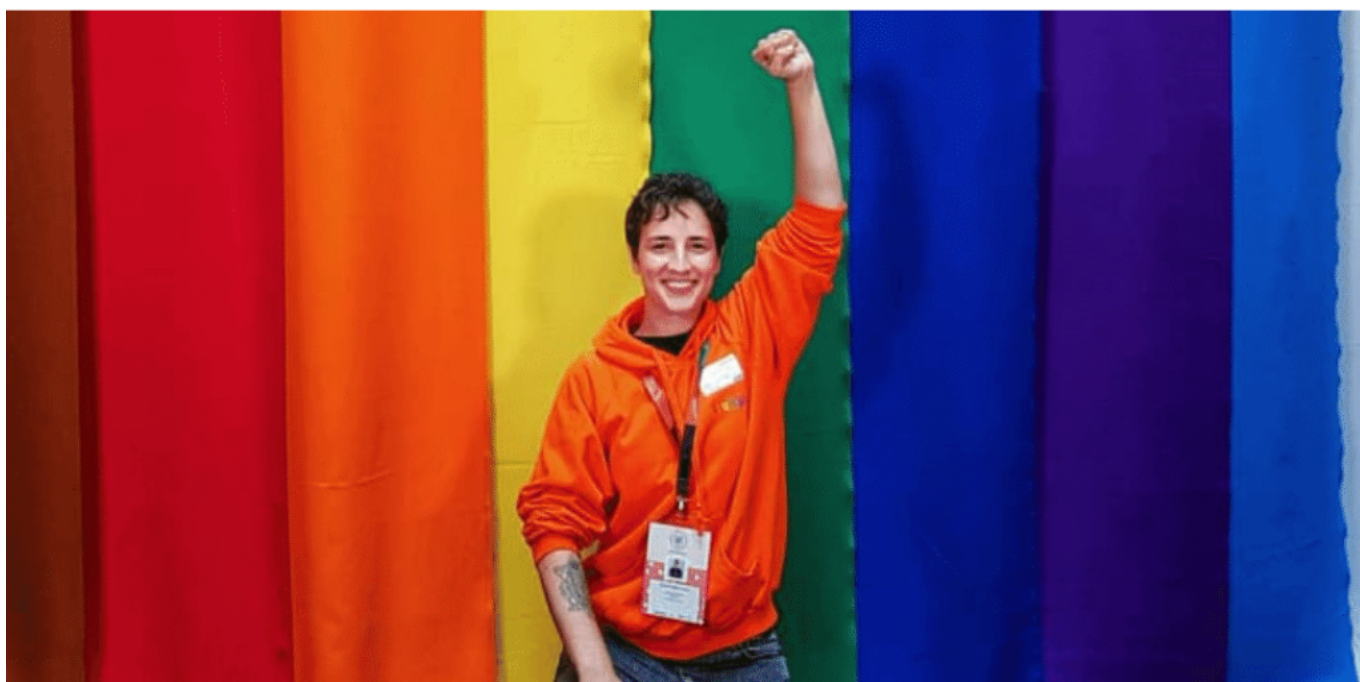
[Blog](#)

06.12.2021

5 profound lessons we learned from working with disabled LGBTI activists and organisations

Making our work more inclusive is at the core of ILGA-Europe's purpose. This is especially true in the case of disabled LGBTI people, who continue to be marginalised in our movement. In this blog, we share some of our learnings from working alongside disabled LGBTI activists. If you are part of a queer rights organisation, this may be particularly useful for you!

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03.12.2021

#IDPD2021: Meet these powerful activists in the intersection of LGBTI and disabilities!

Dina, Ingrid and Louise are three LGBTI activists with disabilities based in different parts of Europe. They're fighting for disabled LGBTI people to have a seat in LGBTI movements, and for equal rights in society. This International Day of Persons With Disabilities, they tell us about their aims and activism, and how can everyone be an ally under their motto: Nothing about us without us!

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Press Release

28.04.2021

Survey finds that LGBTIQ organisations and homeless services across Europe are

dealing with large numbers of LGBTIQ youth homelessness

A survey of 71 organisations across 32 European countries finds that over 60% have worked with LGBTIQ youth experiencing homelessness, while homeless services lack the [...]

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