



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

2013/2183(INI)

6.12.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the EU Roadmap against homophobia and discrimination on grounds of
sexual orientation and gender identity
(2013/2183(INI))

Rapporteur: Minodora Cliveti

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas following case-law discrimination against transgender people is defined under gender equality legislation, but conceived as making up a social movement and in terms of civil society organisations, transgender people fall within the scope of the LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) movement rather than the gender equality movement;
- B. whereas transgender people face severe discrimination based on gender in and outside the labour market, while in many Member States organisations involved in gender equality or dedicated to combating gender discrimination or handling individual complaints of gender discrimination are not accessible or do not possess adequate information and skills to further their interests or handle their complaints, and those involved in the judicial chain are not properly equipped or informed to handle cases of gender discrimination against transgender people;
 - 1. Is concerned that the rights and interests of transgender people are not being properly addressed either by civil society organisations or by equality bodies concerned with gender equality; calls on the Member States to specifically assign tasks regarding combating discrimination against transgender people to publicly funded civil society organisations and equality bodies, and to ensure that those involved in the judicial chain are adequately equipped and informed to handle complaints of gender discrimination against transgender people;
 - 2. Calls on the Commission and on Parliament's committees to mainstream issues concerning transgender people in their work in fields such as civil rights, healthcare, education and employment;
 - 3. Emphasises the need to comply with and secure the principle of equality among people, irrespective of their gender, gender identity and gender expression, race or sexual orientation;
 - 4. Highlights the invisibility of intersex people in European and national legislation and the lack of knowledge and research in this area; calls, in this context and in particular with respect to gender identity, for the stepping-up of efforts to make equality legislation work;
 - 5. Calls on the Member States to ensure that LGBTI people are protected from homophobic hate speech and violence, and that same-sex partners enjoy the same respect, dignity and protection as prevail in the rest of society; emphasises the often negative public perception regarding LGBTI people and the role of the media in eliminating such perceptions; stresses the need to organise awareness-raising campaigns at national and European level regarding the rights of LGBTI people;
 - 6. Stresses that lesbians often suffer from accumulated discrimination (both for being women and for being lesbians), and that actions in support of equality for LGBTI people must go

hand in hand with actions for equality for women and girls in order to achieve equality, non-discrimination and a life free from violence for lesbians;

7. Highlights the need to promote policies and practices aimed at combating discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and to promote policies to foster diversity in the workplace, together with initiatives which encourage full inclusion of and respect for LGBTI staff in the work environment;
8. Stresses that reproductive choices and fertility services should be provided to LGBT persons in a non-discriminatory framework;
9. Underlines that sexual education must include non-discriminatory information and convey a positive view of LGBTI people, in order to underpin and protect in an effective manner the rights of young LGBTI people;
10. Underlines the need for the education and training of social and health care professionals to emphasise, by developing specific programmes as part of the relevant curricula, the importance of respecting the dignity of LGBTI people, as well as their specific healthcare needs and choices;
11. Calls on the Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that transgender people in particular have effective access to appropriate gender reassignment services, including psychological, endocrinological and surgical expertise in the field of transgender healthcare, without being subject to unreasonable requirements;
12. Condemns the forced sterilisation of transgender people, which still occurs in some Member States, and calls for an immediate end to this breach of human rights;
13. Calls on the Member States to take action to promote respect for and inclusion of LGBTI people at school, and to foster objective knowledge on issues concerning sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression in schools and other educational settings; expresses concern that young LGBTI people and those perceived as LGBTI are at an increased risk of being bullied; stresses the need to build a safe environment for all young people, irrespective of their gender, race or sexual orientation;
14. Underlines the importance of recognising the civil rights of LGBTI people without discrimination on grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity; urges the Member States to recognise, in accordance with EU rules, all forms of marriage, partnership and parenthood contracted elsewhere by those resident or working within their borders, and calls on the Commission to take action against Member States that fail to comply;
15. Invites the Member States to reflect on ways to adapt their family law to today's changing family patterns and forms, and to include the possibility for children to have more than two parents (or legal guardians), as this would open up possibilities of increased recognition for rainbow families and LGBT families, as well as for recomposed families;
16. Calls on the Member States to ensure access for single and lesbian women to fertility treatment and assisted reproduction;
17. Underlines the need to respect the right of freedom of expression in practice by

safeguarding the possibility of receiving and imparting information on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity by means of all forms of expression, including the press, publications, oral and written statements, the arts and the media; stresses the need to respect the freedom of peaceful assembly and association of all LGBTI people; considers that local and regional authorities should therefore facilitate efforts by LGBTI organisations to organise events such as 'Pride parades', since these can raise public awareness on LGBTI issues and empower LGBTI people;

18. Highlights the significant lack of data and research on the problems facing LGBTI people, the scale of the problems and the steps being taken to address them; points out that such information is crucial for developing appropriate policy and prioritising actions, and calls on the EU and the Member States to address these problems and to act in consequence;
19. Encourages the Member States to ensure that relevant quantitative data in the form of regular surveys concerning the prevalence of abuse and victimisation of LGBTI people are gathered and analysed;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	5.12.2013
Result of final vote	+: 11 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Marije Cornelissen, Edite Estrela, Mikael Gustafsson, Mary Honeyball, Lívía Járóka, Astrid Lulling, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Marc Tarabella, Britta Thomsen, Marina Yannakoudakis, Inês Cristina Zuber
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Minodora Cliveti