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## List of publications from the EP Think Tank

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Sort Sort by date

Keyword "discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation"

38 Result(s)

Creation date : 20-04-2024

## [The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-05-2023

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | human rights | LAW | rights and freedoms

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people persists throughout the EU and takes various forms, including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as grounds of discrimination. However, the scope of the provisions dealing with this issue is limited and does not cover social protection, health care, education or access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship, or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies, and is the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally the preserve of Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is a further updated version of a briefing the previous edition of which was published in May 2022.

[Briefing EN](#)

## [Legal protection for rainbow families exercising free movement: The 'Baby Sara' case](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 22-11-2022

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Bulgaria | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | equal treatment | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | family | family law | family protection | free movement of persons | GEOGRAPHY | identity document | international law | judgment of the Court (EU) | LAW | nationality | political geography | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Spain

**Summary** During the November II plenary session, Parliament will debate the issue of legal protection for rainbow families exercising free movement in the light of a case concerning the refusal to issue civil status documents to a child born to a lesbian couple.

[At a Glance EN](#)

## [The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 16-05-2022

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | equal treatment | gender identity | human rights | LAW | rights and freedoms | rights of minorities

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people persists throughout the EU and takes various forms, including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as grounds of discrimination. However, the scope of the provisions dealing with this issue is limited and does not cover social protection, health care, education or access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship, or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies, and is the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally the preserve of Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is a further updated version of a briefing the previous edition of which was from May 2021.

[Briefing EN](#)

## [Russia's war on Ukraine: The situation of LGBTI people](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 06-05-2022

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA | DEL MONTE Micaela

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword aid to refugees | civil defence | cooperation policy | criminal law | cruel and degrading treatment | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | ethnic discrimination | Europe | gender identity | GEOGRAPHY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | military intervention | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Russia | sexual violence | Ukraine

Summary More than two months into the Russian aggression against Ukraine, there is no sign of it ending – on the contrary, the news show the conflict and the atrocities committed on Ukrainian soil intensifying. The war has pushed millions of people to flee the country, or they have been displaced within Ukraine's borders, resulting in one of the largest European humanitarian crises in recent times. With each passing day, the chaos engendered by the war increases the risk of violence and exploitation exponentially, in particular for the most vulnerable, including women, children, Roma people, and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexual (LGBTI) community.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#), [FR](#), [XL](#)

## [Ten issues to watch in 2022](#)

Publication type [In-Depth Analysis](#)

Date 10-01-2022

Author BASSOT Etienne

Policy area Agriculture and Rural Development | Budget | Economics and Monetary Issues | Environment | EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law | Financial and Banking Issues | Foreign Affairs | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Industry | Research Policy | Security and Defence

Keyword agricultural policy | AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES | carbon neutrality | communications | deterioration of the environment | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic conditions | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | electronic component | electronics and electrical engineering | ENVIRONMENT | environmental policy | FINANCE | greenhouse gas | INDUSTRY | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Internet of Things | LAW | monetary economics | nuclear non-proliferation | production | PRODUCTION, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH | rights and freedoms | single monetary policy | supply chain | sustainable agriculture

Summary This is the sixth edition of an annual EPRS publication aimed at identifying and framing some of the key issues and policy areas that have the potential to feature prominently in public debate and on the political agenda of the European Union over the coming year. The topics analysed encompass achieving zero greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining economic growth, securing supply chains of semiconductors, moving towards sustainable agriculture, ensuring nuclear non proliferation, shaping the economic recovery, striking the right balance in European monetary policy, promoting the uptake of connected devices in the EU, harnessing the momentum of the Conference on the Future of Europe, encouraging a continent where people in all their diversity are equal, and strengthening a European defence union.

[In-Depth Analysis](#) [DE](#), [EN](#), [FR](#)

## [Fighting discrimination in sport](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 09-07-2021

Author KATSAROVA Ivana

Policy area Culture

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | ethnic discrimination | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | EU institutions and European civil service | EU programme | EU statistics | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | Eurostat | LAW | POLITICS | politics and public safety | public awareness campaign | racism | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | sport | Treaty on European Union | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

Summary Even though the European Union (EU) has built an extensive framework of legislation, instances of racism and homophobia in sport are still rife. Interestingly, Eurostat surveys reveal that the feeling of discrimination is more widespread than actual discrimination. Although there are some variations, discrimination in sport very frequently involves stigmatisation on the basis of external characteristics such as skin colour, body shape and gender. Data from 2017 show that some 3 % of respondents claimed to have experienced racist violence in the previous year, with another 24 % being exposed to racist harassment in that period. Worryingly, the results of a 2018 poll confirm that the vast majority of respondents (90 %) perceive homo/transphobia to be a problem in sport, with gay men feeling homophobia to be a bigger problem than lesbian/gay women and bisexual people. Action against discrimination at EU level is grounded in an established EU legal framework, based on a number of Treaty provisions – in particular Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union, and Articles 10, 19 and 67(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The general principles of non-discrimination and equality are also reaffirmed in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. This legal arsenal is completed by a number of directives and framework decisions – such as the Racial Equality Directive, the Victims' Rights Directive and the Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia, to name but a few – aimed at increasing individual protection. The objectives of the sports strand of the Erasmus+ programme include combatting violence, discrimination and intolerance in sport and providing funding for various projects such as the setting up of LGBTQI+ sports clubs in central and eastern Europe, increasing inclusion in sport, and by bringing together partners who traditionally face barriers to participation, such as women, the LGBTQI+ community and people with disabilities. In addition, since 2016, the European Commission has supported the Council of Europe in promoting safety and security at sports events. In recent years, the Gay Games and the European Gay and Lesbian Multi-Sports Championships have helped raise awareness, build self-esteem and change perceptions based on prejudice.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders, 24-25 June 2021

Publication type Briefing

Date 30-06-2021

Author ANGHEL Suzana Elena | DRACHENBERG Ralf

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Coronavirus | Democracy | Economics and Monetary Issues | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Foreign Affairs | Public Health

Keyword common foreign and security policy | coronavirus disease | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | documentation | economic conditions | economic geography | economic recovery | ECONOMICS | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | epidemic | EU institutions and European civil service | EU migration policy | euro area | Europe | European construction | European Council | EUROPEAN UNION | FINANCE | GEOGRAPHY | health | Hungary | LAW | migration | monetary relations | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | report | rights and freedoms | rule of law | Russia | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The regular European Council meeting of 24-25 June 2021 was noteworthy on several fronts. First, there was an extensive discussion on the rule of law and European values, a topic rarely discussed at the level of EU leaders. It took place in the context of a new Hungarian law on child protection, which includes provisions considered by many as discriminatory against LGBTIQ+ people. Second, following a Franco-German proposal, there was an intense debate about the EU approach to relations with Russia, with apparent disagreement on whether it is currently worthwhile engaging in high-level dialogue with the country. Among the other topics considered were coordination efforts in response to the coronavirus pandemic and economic recovery after the crisis. On migration, EU leaders quickly reviewed the situation on migration routes, mainly reiterating previous commitments. In the field of external policy, alongside Russia, EU leaders also discussed EU-Turkey relations, the situations in Belarus, Libya, Ethiopia and the Sahel, and cybersecurity. EU leaders were also presented with the 2021-22 Leaders' Agenda. In the framework of the Euro Summit, EU leaders addressed the future of the euro area, inviting the Eurogroup to continue its work towards the completion of Banking Union and to move quickly to implement the capital markets action plan.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union

Publication type Briefing

Date 11-05-2021

Author DE GROOT DAVID ARMAND JACQUES GERA

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword adoption of a child | artificial reproduction | criminal law | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | equal treatment | EU statistics | EU strategy | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | family | gender identity | human rights | LAW | marriage | rights and freedoms | sexual violence | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people persists throughout the EU and takes various forms, including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as grounds of discrimination. However, the scope of the provisions dealing with this issue is limited and does not cover social protection, health care, education or access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship, or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies, and is the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally the preserve of Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is a further updated version of a briefing originally drafted by Piotr Bakowski. The previous edition, from November 2020, was by Rosamund Shreeves.

Briefing [EN](#)

Multimedia [The road to LGBTI equality](#)

## The principles of equality and non discrimination, a comparative law perspective - United States of America

Publication type Study

Date 16-03-2021

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice

Keyword America | case study | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | documentation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | equal treatment | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | higher education | LAW | legal system | organisation of the legal system | political geography | political involvement | POLITICS | politics and public safety | racial discrimination | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | teaching | United States

**Summary** This study forms part of a larger comparative law project which seeks to study the way that the principles of equality and non-discrimination have developed and are demonstrated in a broad range of legal systems around the world. The subject of this study is the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the United States federal legal system. It provides a brief history of the evolution of the principles of equality and non-discrimination developed in United States federal law and major events that furthered the development of the principles. It provides a detailed review of relevant constitutional, statutory, and case law with respect to these principles. The current and likely future limits of the principles of equality and non-discrimination are discussed in the context of three examples: (1) affirmative action in higher education, (2) racial and partisan gerrymandering, and (3) discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations.

Study [EN](#)

## [Policy Departments' Monthly Highlights - March 2021](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 08-03-2021

Policy area [Budget](#) | [Budgetary Control](#) | [Coronavirus](#) | [Culture](#) | [Environment](#) | [Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity](#) | [Petitions to the European Parliament](#) | [Public Health](#) | [Security and Defence](#)

Keyword [air quality](#) | [artificial intelligence](#) | [big data](#) | [common security and defence policy](#) | [coronavirus disease](#) | [cultural policy](#) | [culture and religion](#) | [deterioration of the environment](#) | [discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation](#) | [EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [epidemic](#) | [EU policy](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [free movement of persons](#) | [health](#) | [information and information processing](#) | [information technology and data processing](#) | [international law](#) | [LAW](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary The Monthly Highlights publication provides an overview, at a glance, of the on-going work of the policy departments, including a selection of the latest and forthcoming publications, and a list of future events.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 16-05-2019

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area [Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](#) | [Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity](#)

Keyword [adoption of a child](#) | [discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation](#) | [economic geography](#) | [economic policy](#) | [ECONOMICS](#) | [EU aid](#) | [EU Member State](#) | [EU programme](#) | [European construction](#) | [European Convention on Human Rights](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [family](#) | [gender identity](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [human rights](#) | [international affairs](#) | [INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS](#) | [LAW](#) | [marital status](#) | [marriage](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [sexual freedom](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary The prohibition of discrimination, and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as grounds of discrimination. However, the scope of the provisions dealing with this issue is limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare, education and access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship, or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies, and the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally reserved to Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is a further updated version of a Briefing originally drafted by Piotr Bakowski. The previous edition was published in June 2018.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## [LGBTI in Africa: Widespread discrimination against people with non-conforming sexual orientations and gender identities](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 16-05-2019

Author PICHON Eric

Policy area [Area of Freedom, Security and Justice](#)

Keyword [ACP-EU relationship](#) | [Africa](#) | [Africa](#) | [Cotonou Agreement](#) | [crime](#) | [criminal law](#) | [criminal law](#) | [discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation](#) | [European construction](#) | [EUROPEAN UNION](#) | [family](#) | [gender identity](#) | [GEOGRAPHY](#) | [health](#) | [human rights](#) | [LAW](#) | [marriage](#) | [rights and freedoms](#) | [sexual freedom](#) | [sexually transmitted disease](#) | [social affairs](#) | [SOCIAL QUESTIONS](#)

Summary Three out of five African countries have laws criminalising homosexuality and the public expression of sexual or gender behaviour that does not conform with heterosexual norms. These same laws even sometimes punish LGBTI (lesbian, gay, trans, intersex) rights advocacy. Some African countries have partly decriminalised LGBTI persons or given them better protection. However, across the continent – with the notable exception of South Africa – such persons are still far from fully enjoying the same rights as other citizens. Furthermore, recent years have seen the emergence of a worrying trend: the adoption of tougher legislation coupled with clampdowns on homosexuals. An argument frequently used in support of discriminatory legislative and other measures targeting LGBTI persons is that non-conforming sexual orientations and gender identities were brought to Africa by Western colonisers and are contrary to the 'African values'. This claim has long been proven false by academic research, but tolerance for LGBTI is still very low in most African countries, and LGBTI people are all too often exposed to discrimination and violence. Against this backdrop, the EU institutions and Member States have a difficult task: on the one hand, they are committed under the Treaties to promote the EU core values in their external relations, and to monitor and tackle abuses in their partner countries. On the other hand, their actions and declarations in this area risk reinforcing the perception that the EU is trying to impose non-African values on Africa, all the more so since the notion of sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for discrimination is contested by African countries in the multilateral arena.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-06-2018

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | EU institutions and European civil service | European Convention on Human Rights | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | freedom of expression | gender equality | gender reassignment | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | violence

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as grounds of discrimination. However, the scope of these provisions is limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare, education and access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies, and the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally reserved to Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is a further updated version of a Briefing originally drafted by Piotr Bakowski. The previous edition was published in May 2017.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union

Publication type Briefing

Date 12-05-2017

Author SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword adoption law | adoption of a child | area of freedom, security and justice | civil union | directive (EU) | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | EU finance | EU financing | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | family | free movement of persons | international law | LAW | marital status | matrimonial law | right of asylum | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as a ground of discrimination. However, the scope of these provisions is limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare, education and access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies and the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally reserved to Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is a further updated version of a briefing originally drafted by Piotr Bakowski. The previous edition was published in May 2016, PE 582.031.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Discrimination(s) as emerging from petitions received

Publication type Study

Date 28-02-2017

Author HEEZEN JOHANNES

External author Chiara FAVILLI, Nicole LAZZERINI (University of Florence)

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Human Rights | Petitions to the European Parliament

Keyword age discrimination | discrimination based on disability | discrimination on the basis of nationality | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | ethnic discrimination | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | free movement of persons | international law | LAW | linguistic discrimination | national minority | parliament | petition | POLITICS | racial discrimination | religious discrimination | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | Treaty on the Functioning of the EU

**Summary** This study, commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the Committee on Petitions (PETI), focuses on several issues stemming from a sample of forty petitions received. Whilst all petitions are related to anti-discrimination law, they are quite heterogeneous in terms of the respondent entity, the grounds of discrimination and the legal sources invoked. Recommendations are made to assist the PETI Committee and the EP in replying to petitions received in this field.

Study [EN](#)



## [Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-09-2016

External author Katie McCracken, Sergio Márquez, Sarah Priest, Ana Fitzsimons and Kasturi Torchia (Opcit Research)

Policy area Evaluation of Law and Policy in Practice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword Denmark | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | educational system | EU Member State | Europe | gender equality | gender reassignment | GEOGRAPHY | health | humanities | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | organisation of teaching | political geography | public health | rights and freedoms | SCIENCE | sex education | sexual discrimination | sexuality | sexually transmitted disease | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | Spain | teaching | United Kingdom | United Nations | World Health Organisation

Summary Upon request by the FEMM Committee this study updates knowledge on the provision of sexual education and reproductive rights in the European Union. It involved a review of recent research and data on sexual and reproductive health, and case studies in Denmark, Spain and the United Kingdom. Good quality sexual and relationship education (SRE) reduces risk of sexually transmitted infection, unplanned pregnancy and sexual exploitation amongst young people. However, the implementation of sex and relationship education is inconsistent across Member States.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

## [Human rights in Russia](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-09-2016

Author RUSSELL Martin

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword bilateral relations | Caucasus countries | Chechen question | communications | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | ethnic discrimination | Europe | European Convention on Human Rights | freedom of expression | freedom of opinion | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | LAW | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | pluralism in the media | political framework | political geography | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rights of minorities | rule of law | Russia

Summary Russia is a signatory to several international human rights treaties and, as a member of the Council of Europe, the European Convention on Human Rights. Its constitution directly guarantees the human rights of Russian citizens, which are also protected by institutions such as a Human Rights Ombudsman and a Presidential Council. However, the human rights situation in Russia is increasingly difficult. Repressive legislation adopted over the last few years has severely curtailed human rights by targeting freedom of expression and human rights activism. Western criticisms are dismissed by the Kremlin as interference in Russian domestic affairs. Human rights observers have compiled an extensive catalogue of abuses in Russia. These range from extrajudicial killings and inhuman treatment including torture, to confiscation of private property. A dysfunctional justice system denies Russians the right to a fair trial; ethnic minorities, women and LGBT persons are heavily disadvantaged, in practice and in some cases also in law. Some of the worst abuses in all these areas have occurred in the North Caucasus and Crimea, for example due to repression of the Crimean Tatar minority.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## [Follow-Up to the European Parliament's Resolution of 8 September 2015 on 'The Situation of Fundamental Rights in the European Union \(2013-2014\)'](#)

Publication type Study

Date 07-06-2016

External author Olivier DE SCHUTTER

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Human Rights | Social Policy

Keyword corruption | criminal law | democracy | discrimination based on disability | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | domestic violence | drafting of EU law | economic analysis | ECONOMICS | EU Charter of Fundamental Rights | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | FINANCE | fundamental rights | impact study | judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the EU | justice | LAW | legal aid | political framework | political refugee | POLITICS | politics and public safety | prison system | protection of minorities | rights and freedoms | rule of law | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | tax avoidance | taxation

Summary This study was commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee. With a view to support the preparation of the report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2015), it examines the follow-up given to the European Parliament resolution of 8 September 2015 on 'The situation of fundamental rights in the European Union (2013-2014)'. It considers the conditions that should be established for the establishment of an EU fundamental rights strategy, as well as the recent developments related to the issues of concern and proposals made in the resolution of 8 September 2015.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

## [The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union](#)

Publication type [Briefing](#)

Date 17-05-2016

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr | LILIENKAMP Marc | SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword adoption law | adoption of a child | area of freedom, security and justice | civil union | directive (EU) | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EU finance | EU financing | EU Member State | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | family | free movement of persons | GEOGRAPHY | international law | LAW | marital status | matrimonial law | right of asylum | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as a ground of discrimination. However, the scope of these provisions is limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare, education and access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies and the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally reserved to Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is an updated version of a briefing published in May 2015.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## [Human rights in Nigeria](#)

Publication type [At a Glance](#)

Date 09-03-2016

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword Africa | culture and religion | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | gender equality | GEOGRAPHY | government violence | human rights | independence of the judiciary | international affairs | international instrument | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | Nigeria | organisation of the legal system | political rights | POLITICS | politics and public safety | religious conflict | religious fundamentalism | repression | right to justice | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | terrorism

**Summary** Despite its democratic progress, Nigeria's human rights situation remains problematic. The most egregious violations occur in the context of the internal fight against the Boko Haram insurgency. Other widespread patterns of human rights violations relate mainly to weak rule of law and an intricate legal system, impunity of security forces, and discriminatory social practices.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [The Employment Equality Directive: European Implementation Assessment](#)

Publication type [Study](#)

Date 05-02-2016

Author TYMOWSKI Jan Mikolaj

Policy area Employment | Transposition and Implementation of Law

Keyword access to the courts | age discrimination | application of EU law | discrimination based on disability | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | EC Directive | EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS | equal treatment | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | job access | justice | labour law | labour law and labour relations | labour market | LAW | religious discrimination | rights and freedoms

**Summary** The adoption of the Employment Equality Directive in 2000 extended the protection against discrimination provided under EU law. By explicitly obliging the Member States to prohibit discrimination in employment on the grounds of religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation, the general principles set out in the Treaties became more effective, and some minimum standards are now common throughout Europe. At the same time, specific exceptions with regard to all or only some of those grounds permit the continuation of certain measures that were already in place in most countries, which has led to different national practices, especially with regard to age. Additional provisions on horizontal issues such as access to justice and sanctions, dissemination of information and necessary dialogue, left the details to be established by Member States according to their laws and customs. This analysis builds on the available documents and expertise in order to facilitate the debate on the implementation of the Employment Equality Directive to date and on how best to follow it up.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

Multimedia [The Employment Equality Directive – European Implementation Assessment](#)



## Kyrgyzstan: Closer to democracy - and Russia

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-10-2015

Author KOCAK Konur Alp

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword allocation of seats | Asia and Oceania | democratisation | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | electoral law | electoral procedure and voting | EU relations | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | executive power and public service | foreign policy | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | international security | Kyrgyzstan | LAW | parliamentary election | political coalition | political geography | political parties | political party | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Russia

Summary Praised by both Russian and European observers, the elections of 4 October 2015 are considered a milestone in Kyrgyzstan's democratic transition of the country, consolidating the new political system launched by the new constitution adopted after the 2010 revolution. With seats split between six pro-Moscow parties, the results entail the formation of a coalition government in the fractured parliament, and herald further rapprochement to Russia.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## Burundi: Human rights situation

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-07-2015

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | Burundi | civil war | cooperation policy | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EDF | freedom of the press | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political rights | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | ratification of an agreement | right to justice | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | terrorism | violence

Summary Since the end of the civil war in 2005, Burundi has made major efforts towards inter-ethnic reconciliation and establishing a legal and institutional framework for the protection of human rights, albeit with limited effect in practice. The run-up to the general elections scheduled initially for May-June 2015 has sparked political violence and seen space for dissent shrinking rapidly.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC): Human rights situation

Publication type At a Glance

Date 30-06-2015

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword Africa | cooperation policy | Democratic Republic of the Congo | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EDF | freedom of the press | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | political rights | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | ratification of an agreement | right to justice | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual mutilation | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | terrorism | violence

Summary Since 2013, action against armed groups by the national security forces and the UN MONUSCO Mission in the eastern regions has significantly diminished both violence against civilians and related human rights violations. However, in the rest of the country, human rights violations such as violence against women, police impunity, a dysfunctional justice system and shrinking space for political dissent, remain major concerns.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## Kenya: Human rights situation

Publication type At a Glance

Date 28-05-2015

Author ZAMFIR Ionel

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword Africa | constitution | cooperation policy | criminal law | death penalty | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | EDF | ethnic discrimination | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | international affairs | international convention | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Kenya | LAW | political rights | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | ratification of an agreement | repression | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual mutilation | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social rights | sources and branches of the law | terrorism

Summary Kenya's new Constitution, adopted in 2010, has enabled it to make progress on a number of fronts, especially in enhancing democratic governance and the role of the judiciary. Massive human rights violations, however, continue to be perpetrated by the Somalia-based terrorist organisation Al-Shabaab and to some extent also by the security forces operating against it.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [The rights of LGBTI people in the European Union](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 19-05-2015

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr | LILIENKAMP Marc | SHREEVES Rosamund

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights

Keyword adoption law | adoption of a child | area of freedom, security and justice | civil union | directive (EU) | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | EU finance | EU financing | EU programme | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | family | free movement of persons | international law | LAW | marital status | matrimonial law | right of asylum | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised in EU law as a ground of discrimination. However, the scope of these provisions is limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare, education and access to goods and services, leaving LGBTI people particularly vulnerable in these areas. Moreover, EU competence does not extend to recognition of marital or family status. In this area, national regulations vary, with some Member States offering same-sex couples the right to marry, others allowing alternative forms of registration, and yet others not providing any legal status for same-sex couples. Same-sex couples may or may not have the right to adopt children and to access assisted reproduction. These divergent legal statuses have implications, for instance, for partners from two Member States with different standards who want to formalise/legalise their relationship or for same-sex couples and their families wishing to move to another Member State. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies and the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. However, action in this area remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally reserved to Member States, such as marital status and family law. This is an updated version of a briefing published in November 2013.

[Briefing](#) [EN](#)

## [Montenegro's EU accession: losing momentum?](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 02-03-2015

Author LILYANOVA Velina

Policy area Foreign Affairs

Keyword accession to the European Union | corruption | criminal law | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | electoral procedure and voting | electoral system | Europe | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of communication | freedom of expression | GEOGRAPHY | independence of the judiciary | judicial reform | LAW | Montenegro | organisation of the legal system | party financing | political framework | political geography | political party | POLITICS | rights and freedoms | rule of law

**Summary** Montenegro started its accession negotiations with the EU in 2012. The 2014 progress report is the third for the country. It assesses positively its lasting commitment to the objective of EU membership and the progress achieved on various points. The language of the report, however, is considered the sharpest so far, hinting at a possible slowdown of the accession talks.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [Kyrgyzstan: human rights situation](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 18-02-2015

Author LECARTE Jacques

Policy area Democracy | Foreign Affairs | Human Rights

Keyword Asia and Oceania | children's rights | criminal law | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | ethnic conflict | ethnic discrimination | EU relations | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of expression | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | independence of the judiciary | international affairs | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | Kyrgyzstan | LAW | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | organisation of the legal system | political geography | political situation | POLITICS | politics and public safety | prison system | rights and freedoms | torture | UN convention | women's rights

**Summary** PDF Version In a region surrounded by authoritarian regimes, Kyrgyzstan is the only Central Asian country which appears relatively democratic. However, the United Nations (UN) and the EU are calling for further improvements to address human rights concerns such as the need for inter-ethnic reconciliation, and the significant role played by civil society and human rights defenders as key factors for the country's long-term development.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [Proceedings of the Workshop on "Discrimination in Healthcare"](#)

Publication type Study

Date 09-04-2014

External author Graham THORNICROFT (Institute of Psychiatry and King's College of London, the UK) , Anthony BABAJEE (LGBT activist, the UK) , Marian MANDACHE (NGO Romani Criss, Romania) , Ioannis N. DIMITRAKOPOULOS (EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, France) and Gianfranco COSTANZO (National Institute for Health, Migration and Poverty, Italy)

Policy area Human Rights | Public Health

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | ethnic discrimination | health | health care | LAW | mental illness | migrant | migration | racial discrimination | right to health | rights and freedoms | Roma | social framework | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Summary This report summarises the presentations and discussions at the Workshop on 'Discrimination in Healthcare' held at the European Parliament in Brussels on Wednesday, 22 January 2014. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the challenges faced by discriminated groups in the sector of healthcare, and the solutions taken by the EU and its Member States. The workshop was hosted by MEP Glenis WILLMOTT (S&D, UK) and MEP Alojz PETERLE (EPP, SL), Co-chairs of the Health Working Group within the European Parliament's Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

Study [EN](#)

## [Implementing the Principle of Equal Treatment between Persons: Complementary Impact Assessment of the Proposed Horizontal Directive](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-01-2014

External author Milieu Ltd.

Policy area Ex-ante Impact Assessment | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword access to education | accounting | age discrimination | BUSINESS AND COMPETITION | business classification | cost-benefit analysis | Czechia | discrimination based on disability | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic analysis | economic geography | ECONOMICS | education | EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS | equal treatment | Europe | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | facilities for the disabled | GEOGRAPHY | Germany | health | health care system | impact study | LAW | political geography | proposal (EU) | rights and freedoms | Romania | small and medium-sized enterprises | social affairs | social protection | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | social services | Spain | Sweden

Summary In 2008, the European Commission presented a proposal for a Directive to address discrimination outside the workplace based on the grounds of age, disability, sexual orientation, and on religion or belief. While the European Parliament and Member States generally supported the proposal, some Member States have expressed concerns, among others, in relation to the potential costs of the proposed Directive, its lack of legal certainty and the lack of assessment of the costs and benefits that its implementation would place on service providers. This study has therefore been commissioned by the European Parliament to facilitate agreement on the proposal by providing insight into possible costs for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and public service providers. While most of the costs related to equal treatment measures will be very low, the assessment shows also that a range of costs for these actors have a potential to be significant.

Study [EN](#)

## [The European Union and rights of LGBT people](#)

Publication type Briefing

Date 27-11-2013

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword application of EU law | church-State relations | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | executive power and public service | family | family law | family migration | free movement of persons | international law | LAW | marital status | migration | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | trends of opinion

Summary The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised by EU law as grounds of discrimination; the scope of protection is however limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare education and access to goods and services – areas where LGBT people are often discriminated against.

Briefing [EN](#)

## [Shrinking legal space for civil society in Russia](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 03-10-2013

Author GRIEGER Gisela

Policy area Human Rights

Keyword civil society | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | economic geography | Europe | freedom of assembly | freedom of association | freedom of expression | GEOGRAPHY | human rights | INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS | LAW | national law | non-governmental organisation | non-governmental organisations | political geography | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | Russia | sources and branches of the law

Summary Since Vladimir Putin's return to the presidency in May 2012, several federal laws have been amended, restricting core fundamental rights in Russia. These changes have been widely criticised as an unprecedented crackdown on civil society and an attempt to create a general climate of intimidation and censorship mainly based on the protection of 'traditional values'.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [Towards an EU Roadmap for Equality on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)

Publication type Study

Date 15-10-2012

External author Vanessa Leigh (MILIEU Ltd.), Levent Altan (MILIEU Ltd.), Jordan Long, with the participation of Evelyne Paradis (ILGA)

Policy area Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity | Human Rights

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | equal treatment | EU action | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | freedom of expression | gender equality | human rights | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual discrimination | sexual freedom | xenophobia

Summary This study presents an overview of problems faced by LGBTI persons as identified in EU studies, along with EU actions taken in this area to date. It focuses in particular on the areas of Equality (including in the fields of employment, health, education, access to goods and services and housing); specific trans and intersex issues; diverse families and freedom of movement; freedom of assembly and expression; hate speech, hate crime and violence; and fleeing homophobia and transphobia. Based on these findings, it proposes recommendations with a timeline which could be included in a roadmap for equality on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

[Study](#) [EN](#)

## [First UN resolution on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 23-09-2011

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | international affairs | international human rights law | INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual minority | UN resolution

Summary In June 2011, for the first time ever, a United Nations (UN) body adopted a resolution on using international human rights laws to combat violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## [The LGBT toolkit](#)

Publication type At a Glance

Date 06-05-2011

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Human Rights

Keyword common foreign and security policy | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | human rights | human rights movement | LAW | POLITICS | politics and public safety | rights and freedoms | sexual minority

Summary In June 2010, the Council's Working Party on Human Rights adopted the 'Toolkit to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people'. The aim is to assist representatives of EU institutions working on external policy to deal proactively with violations of human rights of LGBT people.

[At a Glance](#) [EN](#)

## Transgender people in the EU

Publication type Briefing

Date 15-11-2010

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice | Social Policy

Keyword aesthetic surgery | civil law | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | health | LAW | legal status | right to health | right to work | rights and freedoms | SOCIAL QUESTIONS

**Summary** Transgender people constitute a varied, yet distinct group facing specific social and legal problems. It has been reported that in most EU MS, transgender people do not enjoy adequate access to healthcare. The unemployment rate of transgender people is high when compared to general society. When employed, they are often discriminated against at the workplace. Changing gender is subject to many conditions and the acquired gender is not automatically recognised. Questions arise as to whether relevant procedures do not entail breaches of fundamental rights.

Briefing [EN](#)

## The European Union and rights of LGBT people

Publication type Briefing

Date 14-05-2010

Author BAKOWSKI Piotr

Policy area Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Keyword competence of the Member States | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | EU action | EU institutions and European civil service | European construction | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights | European Union law | family | family law | gender equality | human rights | LAW | rights and freedoms | sexual freedom | social affairs | SOCIAL QUESTIONS | violence

**Summary** The prohibition of discrimination and the protection of human rights are important elements of the EU legal order. Nevertheless, discrimination against lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons persists throughout the EU, taking various forms including verbal abuse and physical violence. Sexual orientation is now recognised by EU law as grounds of discrimination; the scope of protection is however limited and does not cover social protection, healthcare education and access to goods and services – areas where LGBT people are often discriminated against. Combating discrimination has become part of EU internal and external policies and the subject of numerous resolutions of the European Parliament. But it remains problematic when it touches on issues pertaining to areas traditionally reserved to Member States, such as marital status and family law.

Briefing [EN](#)

## Proposal for a Council Directive on Implementing the Principle of Equal Treatment Between Persons Irrespective of Religion or Belief, Disability, Age or Sexual Orientation

Publication type In-Depth Analysis

Date 15-01-2009

External author Gay Moon (Discrimination Consultant, Harpenden, Herts, UK)

Policy area EU Law: Legal System and Acts | Gender Issues, Equality and Diversity

Keyword age discrimination | case law (EU) | Community acquis | discrimination based on disability | discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation | equal treatment | EUROPEAN UNION | European Union law | LAW | religious discrimination | rights and freedoms

**Summary** This proposed directive will increase the protection from discrimination for age, disability, religion or belief or sexual orientation to the same level as that currently applicable in relation to discrimination on grounds of sex and race. This proposal should lead to a more consistent standard of protection from discrimination across the European Union for all the prohibited grounds of discrimination. In order to achieve the maximum common understanding of the standards for non-discrimination the same terms, definitions and principles as in the existing directives should be used. Where the proposed directive suggests a lesser standard than the existing standards for sex and race this is noted. Provisions on multiple discrimination are needed and consideration should be given to the need to increase legal certainty in greater definition of the material scope of the proposed directive.

In-Depth Analysis [EN](#), [FR](#)