



**Intercultural Cities Programme of the Council of Europe  
Study visit to Geneva (Switzerland) – 18 and 19 October 2018**

## **“Human rights at local level: preventing discrimination through an intersectional approach”**

**Draft agenda**  
*updated on 09/10/2018*

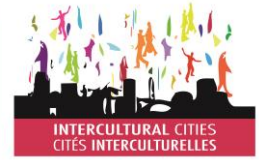
### **Description**

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, next year, the City of Geneva and the Council of Europe's Intercultural Cities Programme will organise a study visit to address the issue of human rights from an intersectional angle. The aim of the visit will be to present good practices applied in Geneva or at the international level which combat discrimination in a decompartmentalised and comprehensive manner, by taking into account the links between sexism, racism and homophobia.

Today, both the City of Geneva at local level and the Council of Europe at an international level follow this decompartmentalised, intersectional approach. This is because migratory processes taken as a whole (reasons, routes and migration conditions) vary greatly according to the migrants' gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. Moreover, combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation has been an objective of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 1981. In 2010 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopted Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity. The recommendation was the first legal and political instrument worldwide to deal specifically with this type of discrimination and to set out the specific measures that states can take to combat this phenomenon. Since the adoption of the recommendation, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights has evolved, in particular through judgments on freedom of assembly, hate speech and hate crimes, and the recognition of same-sex couples. At local level, the public authorities also face these issues and very often deal with them in a pragmatic and innovative manner.

The study visit is aimed at representatives of cities which are members of the Intercultural Cities Programme and/or participants mandated by them. Taking as a basis projects implemented by institutions or associations, the seminar will broach three themes relevant to the human rights challenges at local level:

**1° LGBTI refugees:** An increasing number of persons who are the victims of persecution on the ground of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity are seeking protection outside their home country, and in particular in Europe. This constitutes a challenge in terms of



respect for the rights of LGBT people, and also the living conditions of refugees and their integration in the host societies. The Council of Europe, in co-operation with UNHCR, has just published a handbook on the reception of LGBTI people at local level with the aim of helping public authorities implement reception policies which take into account the rights of LGBTI people.

**2° Migration, equal opportunities and professional integration:** belonging to an ethnic or racial minority, wearing religious symbols or being white has a significant impact on women's chances of entering the job market due to the convergence of several types of discrimination. How do associations and institutions assist persons who are left out of the job market? How does public policy simultaneously promote equal opportunities and professional integration?

**3° Intersectionality: a solution to competition between sexism, racism and anti-LGBTI attitudes?** Gender identities are sometimes exploited for racist reasons and constitute a major challenge for anti-discrimination policies. How can an intersectional approach prevent such exploitation?

## Thursday 18 October

- 9.00 am**                    **Welcome at the Palais Eynard – Geneva City Town Hall**  
**Address:** 4 Rue de la Croix-Rouge, 1204 Genève
- 9.30 am-10.00 am**    **Official speeches**  
Ms Sandrine Salerno, member of the Administrative Council of the City of Geneva, in charge of diversity  
Ms Ivana d'Alessandro, Head of the Intercultural Cities Unit, Council of Europe
- 10.00 am-10.30 am**   **Keynote speech: “Intersectionality: ideas and lives”**  
Dr. Salima Amari, University of Lausanne and member of the Centre for Sociological and Political Research of Paris
- 10.30 am-10.45 am**   **Presentation of the Council of Europe & UNHCR Handbook on Asylum Claims Based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity**  
Mr João Pereira, Policy Adviser, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity unit, Council of Europe
- 10.45 am-11.00 am**   **Coffee break**
- 11.00 am-12.30 am**   **Icebreaker game: “Get out of the box”, in partnership with Amnesty International**
- 12.30 pm-2.00 pm**    **Lunch**
- 2.00 pm-5.00 pm**      **THEME No. 1: LGBTI REFUGEES**  
**Address:** Association Lestime, 5 rue de l'Industrie, 1201 Genève
- Presentation of the “LGBT Asylum Geneva” and “Law Clinic” projects (Rights of migrant LGBTI people)
  - Exchanges of views and discussions with representatives of cities and associations
- 5.00 pm-6.30 pm**    **Free time**

- 6.30 pm-8.30 pm** **Everybody's Perfect film festival (Geneva international queer film festival)**  
Evening "Migration, asylum, and multiple discrimination" organised in partnership with the Festival  
**Address:** Cinémas du Grütli, 16 Rue Général-Dufour, 1204 Genève
- Screenings of the films "Half a Life", "Being Okey - When love is a treated crime" and "Refugees under the Rainbow"
  - Round table on the rights of LGBTI refugees in the presence of the coordinator of the "LGBT Asylum Geneva" project and the co-directors of the film "Being Okey".
- 8.30 pm** **Buffet dinner at Café-Restaurant du Grütli, 16 Rue Général-Dufour, 1204 Genève**

## Friday 19 October

- 9.00 am-12.00 pm** **THEME No. 2: MIGRATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION**  
**Address:** Centre œcuménique des églises, 1 Rte des Morillons, 1218 Gd-Saconnex
- Presentation of the projects of the NGO « *Découvrir* » and of an association for the promotion of human rights.
  - Exchanges of views and discussions with representatives of cities and associations
- 12.00 pm-1.00 pm** **Lunch and then return to the Palais Eynard – Geneva Town Hall**
- 2.00 pm-4.00 pm** **THEME No. 3: INTERSECTIONALITY: A SOLUTION TO THE COMPETITION BETWEEN SEXISM, RACISM AND ANTI-LGBTI ATTITUDES?**  
**Address:** Palais Eynard – Hôtel municipal de la Ville de Genève, 4 Rue de la Croix-Rouge, 1204 Genève
- Presentation of the projects of the *Faites des Vague* collective by the Afro-Swiss Collective
  - Exchanges of views and discussions with representatives of cities and associations
- 4.00 pm** **Conclusions of the study visit**