

## **International Conference**

# **“Being Roma<sup>1</sup> and LGBTI<sup>2</sup>: at the crossroads of discrimination”**

**Organised by the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit, the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SMSG) on Roma Issues and the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe**

**In cooperation with ARA ART**

**8-10 June 2017, Strasbourg**

**European Youth Centre (8 June 2017)**

**Agora Building Room G02 (9 June 2017)**

**City of Strasbourg (10 June 2017)**

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<sup>1</sup> The term “Roma” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “*Gens du voyage*”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.

<sup>2</sup> LGBTI stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex.

## DRAFT AGENDA

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### 8 June 2017 – European Youth Centre Strasbourg

*[primarily for LGBTI Roma young activists – agenda to be defined with the Youth Department]*

- 9:30 – 12:30** Training on the CoE standards by Demetrio Gomez and Alexandra Raykova
- Presentations by the participants of their organisations and projects within their communities
- 12:30-14:00** *Lunch*
- 14:00-17:30** Preparation of the workshops for the next day (9 June), as well as drafting of possible recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States, as well as LGBTI and Roma movements
- Preparation of material for the Village associatif and the parade on June 10.

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### 9 June 2017 – Agora building, Room G02

- 8:15 – 9:00** **Registration of participants**
- 9:00 – 9:30** **Opening session**
- Marja Ruotanen, Director of Human Dignity and Equality, Council of Europe
  - Matthew Johnson, Director of Democratic citizenship and participation
  - Valeriu Ciolan Nicolae, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Roma Issues
  - Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, Deputy to the Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of European and international affairs

### **SESSION 1 – PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI ROMA UNDER THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS: AN INTERSECTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO TACKLE MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION**

**9:30 – 11:00** **Human Rights of LGBTI Roma,**

Moderator: Ian NAYSMITH, Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime, as well as on Roma LGBTI issues, United Kingdom (tbc)

Panelists:

- Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (tbc)
- PACE rapporteur on the rights of LGBT people (tbc)
- European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (tbc)
- ARA ART
- European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) (tbc)
- European Commission/DG Justice (tbc)
- Mirjam Karoly, Senior Adviser, OSCE/ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (tbc)
- Đorđe Jovanović, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) (tbc)
- Mariana Berbec, Open Society Foundations (OSF)

***Tour-de-table, exchange and reflections from the floor***

**11:00 – 11:30**      ***Coffee Break***

**SESSION 2 – COMBATTING LGBTI-PHOBIC AND ANTI-GYPSY VIOLENCE, HATE CRIME AND HATE SPEECH AND ENSURING ACCESS TO EQUAL RIGHTS: EXPERIENCES IN BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN LGBTI AND ROMA MOVEMENTS**

**11:30-13:15**      Introductory remarks / Panel discussion / Q&A

Moderators:      Eleni Tsetsekou (SOGI Unit) and Robert Rustem (SRSO for Roma Issues)

- Demetrio Gomez: deconstruction of LGBTI and Roma discourses
- Czech and Turkish speakers (names tbc): experiences at national level in building bridges between LGBTI and Roma movements
- (tbc) Miranda Vuolasranta, President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) and president of IRWN-Phenjalipe international Roma Women's Network: previous attempts of Roma women's movements to raise awareness on Roma LGBTI and possible future role of ERTF and IRWN-Phenjalipe.
- ILGA-Europe representative (name tbc): Turn on the Lights<sup>3</sup> campaign aimed at putting race and ethnicity within the LGBTI communities centre stage.

**13:15-14:45**      ***Buffet lunch***

**SESSION 3 – LGBTI and ROMA YOUTH MOVEMENTS: AGENTS OF CHANGE AND EMPOWERMENT: GOOD PRACTICES FROM GRASS-ROOTS MOVEMENTS PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY**

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.turnonlights.org/about/>

Moderators: Rui Gomes (Youth Department) and Alexandra Raykova (trainer)

**14:45–15:45** Part 1: Inclusion of LGBTI Roma youth in society - fighting a double prejudice

- Workshop led by the young activists on challenges and good practices
- Recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States, LGBTI and Roma movements and other stakeholders

**15:45 – 16:45** Part 2: Acceptance of LGBTI Roma youth by their families and in their communities - changing mentalities

- Workshop led by the young activists on challenges and good practices (including story-telling)
- Recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States, LGBTI and Roma movements, and other stakeholders

**16:45-17:15 *Coffee Break***

**17:15 - 18:00** **What role for the Council of Europe, member States, LGBTI and Roma movements and other stakeholders in fostering inclusion of LGBTI Roma persons?**

Chair: Ian NAYSMITH, Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime, as well as on Roma LGBTI issues, United Kingdom (tbc)

- Presentation of the workshops outcome and proposed recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States and other stakeholders by one rapporteur for each workshop
- Closing remarks by
  - Barbara Bello, general rapporteur (tbc)
  - Halvard Gorseth (Head of Anti-Discrimination Department)
  - Michael Guet, Head of the I-CARE Unit, SRSG Roma Support Team
  - Announcement regarding the programme for 10 June 2017 by a representative of Festigays

Updated 11 April 2017

**19:00**

***Reception***

***Party with Gypsy Robot, Hungarian Gypsy and gay DJ<sup>4</sup>***

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**10 June 2017 – Strasbourg, Place de l'Université**

**Morning**

**Village associatif Festigays**

- Participation of the youth activists to a stand on Roma and LGBTI communities to raise awareness on multiple discrimination (distribution of promotional material, selling of T-shirts, etc.)

**Afternoon**

**Marche des Visibilités des lesbiennes, Gays, Bis, Trans, Intersexes**

- Participation of youth activists and CoE representatives to the parade behind the CoE banner

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<sup>4</sup> <https://gypsyrobot.tv/author/gypsyrobottv/> . Venue of the party to be confirmed.