



# The Council of Europe HELP course on

## INTRODUCTION TO ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ISSUES

### Background

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Discrimination is still very much present in Europe and the Council of Europe remains at the forefront of the fight against it. The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) enshrines the notion of anti-discrimination in its Article 14. Protocol 12 to the ECHR provides individuals with a free-standing freedom from discrimination in the enjoyment of any right or benefit under national law.

In order to offer effective protection from discrimination at national level, legal professionals must know the applicable European legal standards in this field.

This Council of Europe HELP online course provides an introduction to anti-discrimination issues as identified in the ECHR, the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and other relevant legal documents. The aim of the course is to provide a detailed, yet easily accessible, educational resource to promote understanding among national judges, prosecutors and lawyers in respect of the significant amount of relevant ECtHR case law.

In the five modules of the course, participants can explore issues of discrimination experienced by a range of communities as well as key terms and definitions associated with these groups. The topics are addressed in a practical manner, using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises.

### Target audience

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This HELP course is primarily addressed to legal professionals (judges, prosecutors, lawyers), but it can be used for staff of national human rights institutions and equality bodies, civil society organisations as well as university students.

## Course outline (5 modules)

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**Module 1: Prohibition of discrimination (introduction)**

**Module 2: Discrimination based on race, colour, language, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property or birth**

**Module 3: Discrimination against Roma**

**Module 4: Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity**

**Module 5: Discrimination on the basis of disability**

## Course development

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The course was developed by the Council of Europe HELP Programme ([coe.int/help](http://coe.int/help)) in line with the HELP Methodology, by a Working Group (WG) of international consultants. Modules related to the discrimination against Roma and the SOGI communities were developed in cooperation with the Council of Europe Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit and the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma issues.

The course was updated in **August 2019**.

## Access the course

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To access the course once it is ready, you will need to enter the HELP online platform at <http://help.elearning.ext.coe.int/>. First you need to open yourself an account at HELP if you have not yet done so (2 minutes).

The model course was developed in English, but has been translated not several other languages, the national versions of which are also available in the HELP online platform.