

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION



HELP
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals
Council of Europe

Co-funded
by the European Union



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

HELP ONLINE COURSE

Duration: 4.5 hours

Available for free on the CoE
HELP e-learning platform

Statement of
Accomplishment

START COURSE →

Council of Europe
Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) Programme | 2025

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Human Rights and Rule of Law Training
for Legal Professionals
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CoE HELP Catalogue of
online courses
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Background

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** and in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) as well as in other relevant **legal instruments**, including in the **EU law**. The aim of the course is to provide a detailed, yet easily accessible, educational resource to promote understanding among national judges, prosecutors and lawyers of the applicable standards.

In the four modules of the course, participants can explore the key concepts, the grounds of discrimination, as well as the impact on various groups and communities. The topics are addressed in a practical manner, using presentations, interactive screens, knowledge tests and reflective exercises.

About the course

The course was developed by the [Council of Europe HELP Programme](#) in line with the HELP Methodology, by a Working Group (WG) of international consultants. Modules related to the discrimination against Roma and the SOGIESC communities were developed in cooperation with the Council of Europe Roma and Travelers Division and the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Unit respectively.

The course was updated in **February 2025**.

Target audience

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

The course consists of a welcome module and 4 substantive modules:

0	Introductory module <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About the course For whom and by whom Learning objectives Resources Structure
1	Module 1: Introduction to the prohibition of discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key concepts related to discrimination International and European legal framework
2	Module 2: The prohibition of discrimination in the case-law of the ECtHR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The prohibition of discrimination under the ECHR Protected grounds
3	Module 3: Discrimination against Roma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction Legal framework Discrimination Violence against Roma
4	Module 4: Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOGIESC as protected ground Common misconceptions and rationales Definitions Discrimination on SOGIESC grounds Council of Europe and SOGIESC issues Protection of SOGIESC under the ECHR Case-law on SOGIESC issues

How to access the HELP online course

To access the online course, you will need to enter the HELP eLearning 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). Upon completion, you will obtain your electronic Statement of Accomplishment.

