



# SPEAKERS

*Biographies of speakers in order of appearance.*



## **THÓRDÍS KOLBRÚN REYKFJÖRD GYLFADÓTTIR**

Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörd Gylfadóttir became Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland in November 2021. Before that she was the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Innovation (2017-2021) and the Minister of Justice (2019). Thórdís Kolbrún has been a member of Althingi, the Parliament of Iceland, since 2016 and vice-chairman of the Independence Party since 2018. She has a Master's Degree in Law from Reykjavík University. As a Minister for Foreign Affairs, Thórdís Kolbrún has placed a particular emphasis on the Arctic, the response to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine, climate change, individual human rights and the rights of women. The Government of Iceland has recently signed a declaration on future cooperation between Greenland and Iceland, strengthening and expanding the bilateral relations between the two countries.



## **BJØRN BERGE**

Bjørn Berge serves as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021. Prior to that he was Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers for a period of four years. Between 2009-2017, he served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, helping to prepare, co-ordinate and implement a number of comprehensive reforms of the Organisation. Mr Berge has over thirty years of international professional experience. As a former Norwegian diplomat, he served as International Adviser to the Prime Minister and as Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister's Cabinet responsible for all matters related to Parliament. Mr Berge has published several books relating to speech writing and speeches, as well as articles on the Council of Europe's mandate and work. He was a Fulbright Scholar and holds a M.A. in International Relations from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., USA.



## **ÁLFUR BIRKIR BJARNASON**

With a background in computer science and biology, Álfur Birkir Bjarnason understands that it is just never that simple. During his presidency at Samtökin '78, the National Queer Organisation of Iceland, Álfur Birkir has focused his attention on positive coverage, cross-organisational cooperation, and extensive education for fighting hate against queer people in Iceland. He sees great opportunity in assembling activists and role models across the queer community because in the end, we're stronger together.



### **KATRIN HUGENDUBEL**

Katrin is in charge of the overall coordination of the policy, advocacy and strategic litigation work of ILGA-Europe. This includes leading the advocacy work of ILGA-Europe towards the EU institutions, EU Presidencies, the Council of Europe, OSCE and UN. In close cooperation with member organisations, Katrin also oversees our advocacy support at national level and ensures strong links between ILGA-Europe's advocacy and strategic litigation work. Katrin has over 15 years of experience in policy, research and advocacy in the fields of gender and feminist theory and politics, anti-discrimination and fundamental rights. She worked as political advisor to a member of the European Parliament, as well as with several NGO networks on EU level and in Uganda. Katrin has a master degree in political science and English language and literature.



### **RICHARD KÖHLER**

Richard oversees TGEUs policy and advocacy work at the European level and has been a trans activist for more than a decade. Starting with TGEU as a member of the steering committee he has continuously initiated change to develop the structure and policy of TGEU drawing from his wide experience in international project management and NGO consultancy. Richard holds a degree in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LL.M). He has a background in International Business Administration with specialisation on NGOs in Russian-speaking countries. Languages: German, English, Russian, some French.



### **DAN CHRISTIAN GHATTAS**

Dan Christian Ghattas, PhD, is the Executive Director of Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe). He started advocating for intersex human rights in Europe in 2009 and has since provided expertise to governments, EU and CoE and UN treaty bodies. In 2013 he co-authored the Malta Declaration. The same year he authored the first empirical (pre-)study on the life situations of intersex individuals worldwide, *Human Rights Between the Sexes*, in 2016, the ILGA-Europe/ OII Europe Intersex Toolkit *Standing up for intersex human rights - How can you help?* and, in 2019, the ILGA-Europe/ OII Europe legal toolkit *Protecting intersex people in Europe. A toolkit for law and policy makers*.



### **ILARIA TODDE**

Ilaria Todde is a lesbian activist, actively engaged in feminist and LGBTI struggles from Sardinia (Italy). A member of the Eurocentralasian Lesbian Community (EL\*C) team since its beginning, and with years of professional experiences in the European Commission, Ilaria is currently the EL\*C Advocacy and Research Director.



### **KATRÍN JAKOBSDÓTTIR**

Katrín governs in a coalition which expands over the whole political spectrum from left to right. She joined the Left-Green Movement in 2002 and has been a member of the Icelandic parliament, Alþingi since 2007. She has been the leader of the Left-Green Movement since 2013, having served as the deputy leader from 2003. Katrín was Minister of Education, Science and Culture, as well as Minister for Nordic Cooperation, in the left-wing government of 2009–2013. Katrín Jakobsdóttir holds an MA degree in literature from the University of Iceland and a BA in Icelandic and French from the same university. Katrín's coalition government has continued Iceland's groundbreaking approach to addressing systemic gender inequality and the economic exclusion of women, including implementation of the world's first Equal Pay Certification policy. Her government has taken significant steps to end sexual and gender-based violence and recently took progressive steps to extend shared parental leave for both parents. Furthermore, Katrín's government has put LGBTI rights on its agenda by adopting a progressive law on gender autonomy.



### **HELENA DALLI**

Helena Dalli is the first EU Commissioner for Equality since December 2019. Her role is to deliver on the Union of Equality chapter within the Political Guidelines of President von der Leyen, by strengthening Europe's commitment to equality and inclusion in all of its senses. Prior to taking her role as Commissioner, Dalli held various political roles in Malta including Member of Parliament (1996 to 2019), Minister for European Affairs and Equality (2017 to 2019), and Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (2013–2017). She was also opposition Shadow Minister for public administration, equality, public broadcasting and national investments (1998–2013) and Junior Minister for Women's Rights in the Office of Prime Minister (1996–1998). Dalli holds a PhD in Political Sociology from the University of Nottingham, and lectured in Economic and Political Sociology, Public Policy, and Sociology of Law at the University of Malta.



### **JEROEN SCHOKKENBROEK**

Jeroen Schokkenbroek has been Director of Anti-Discrimination in the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe, since 2018. He studied law at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, where he lectured in Constitutional and Administrative Law until 1993. Previously, he was President of the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists, representative of the ICJ with the Council of Europe and editor-in-chief of the Netherlands Human Rights Law Journal (NJCM-Bulletin). Since 1993, he has held various functions in the Council of Europe Secretariat, mostly in the field of Human Rights, including that of Head of the Human Rights Development Department and Head of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.



### **EVGENIA GIAKOUMOPOULOU**

Evgenia Giakoumopoulou is the Head of the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit of the Council of Europe. She has been working with European Institutions and INGOs for over 10 years, focusing on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, as well as on anti-trafficking, migration and asylum, and torture prevention. Convinced of the need to bridge the gap between grassroots movements and international organisations, Evgenia has actively engaged with the LGBTQ+ and feminist movements in France, Greece and at the pan-European level.



### **FRANCESCA SANDERS**

Francesca Sanders (she/they) is a senior policy officer at TGEU where their work includes policy to combat anti-trans violence, promoting trans-inclusive labour practices, and strengthening legal frameworks to tackle discrimination. Originally from Australia, Francesca's background is in macroeconomics. Prior to joining TGEU, Francesca previously worked with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and at the Australian Treasury focusing on international development policy, gender equality in the labour market, and Australia's engagement with international financial institutions. She studied at the Berlin School of Economics and Law, the Australian National University, and Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan.



### **BÉATRICE FRESKO-ROLFO**

Béatrice Fresko-Rolfo is the chairperson of the delegation of Monaco to the Parliamentary Assembly and 1st Vice-Chairperson of its Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination. She has served as the Assembly's General Rapporteur on violence against women and as rapporteur on numerous reports on related issues. She is currently rapporteur for two reports, on preventing and combating violence and discrimination against LBO women and against women with disabilities. In the National Council of Monaco, she is entrusted with questions on social progress, combating violence and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. She also chairs an NGO that provides support to older persons.



### **ROBERTA CLARKE**

Roberta Clarke (she-her-hers) is a Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Elected by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States to serve from a period of 4 years starting Jan, 1st 2022. She was also elected to be part of the IACHR's board as second-Vice president for the 2023 period. She is also the Rapporteur for the rights of LGBTI persons. An activist for social justice and gender equality, Roberta Clarke has led UN Women Regional Offices in East and Southern Africa, Asia Pacific, the Caribbean and Libya. Prior to her career at the United Nations, she practiced as a lawyer in Trinidad and Tobago. She has been engaged in civil society and the national and international levels including as the Chair, Executive Committee, International Commission of Jurists and President of the Coalition against Domestic Violence, Trinidad and Tobago.



### **NANCY KELLEY**

Nancy Kelley is Chief Executive of Stonewall, the LGBTQ+ human rights charity, which is part of a global movement for change where LGBTQ+ people everywhere are free to be themselves and can live their lives to the full. Previously, Nancy worked to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, for people experiencing mental distress, for refugees and migrants, and for people living in poverty. More recently she worked in roles focused on research and insight. It has been a privilege to have a career where she gets to come to work every day and try to make society fairer and more inclusive.



### **DUNJA MIJATOVIĆ**

Dunja Mijatović serves as Commissioner for Human Rights since 2018. National of Bosnia and Herzegovina, she has been working to promote and protect human rights for the past two decades, acquiring extensive knowledge in the field of international monitoring, in particular as regards freedom of expression. She has served as OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media (2010–2017), Director of Broadcast of the Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001–2010), Chair of the European Platform of Regulatory Agencies (2007–2010) and of the Council of Europe's Group of Specialists on Freedom of Expression and Information in Times of Crisis (2005–2007). She has regularly given lectures in national and international fora and has been awarded several human rights prizes. She has also been active in supporting NGO activities in the field of human rights education and asylum.



### **GUÐMUNDUR INGI GUÐBRANDSSON**

Guðmundur Ingi Guðbrandsson took office as Minister of Social Affairs and the Labour Market in 2021 for the Left-Green Party. He was Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources in 2017–2021. He holds a BSc degree in Biology from the University of Iceland and a master's degree in Environmental Management from Yale University. He was the CEO of Landvernd, Icelandic Environment Association in 2011–2017. He worked for the University of Iceland carrying out research in ecology and environmental sciences, and for the Soil Conservation Service of Iceland in global studies and research. Since 2006, Guðmundur Ingi has been a guest lecturer at the University of Iceland, the Agricultural University of Iceland and the University Centre of the Westfjords. He was one of the founders of the Icelandic Society for Environmental Scientists, and its first president, in 2007–2010. Guðmundur Ingi served as the Chair of the Fulbright Alumni Association in Iceland in 2017–2018.



### **KITTY ANDERSON**

Kitty Anderson is an intersex activist based in Iceland. She is the president of Intersex Iceland. In the past she served on the Icelandic Ministry of Welfares Queer committee from 2014–2016, on the board of Samtökin 78 - The national queer organisation of Iceland from 2015–2018, president of the Icelandic Human Rights Centre from 2016–2018 and on the board and Co-chair of Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe) from 2015 to 2022. Since 2015 she has been involved in a working group, drafting SOGIESC legislation that was put forward in early 2019. Following this, she was part of the Prime Ministers working group for intersex legislation, which passed in December 2020.



### **HUBERT SMOLIŃSKI**

Hubert is Policy Assistant at the European Commission. Graduate of the University of Warsaw (law) and the Warsaw School of Economics (digital business). Throughout his career, he has worked with the European Law Students' Association ELSA Poland, the Campaign Against Homophobia (Poland), the Frank Bold Foundation and the Polish Institute of Human Rights and Business. Recently, he has completed the International Parliamentary Scholarship of the German Bundestag (2022). In October 2022, he joined the non-discrimination unit (LGBTIQ, age, horizontal matters) of the European Commission, where he works on the implementation of the LGBTIQ equality strategy 2020–2025.



### **SELMA STEARNS**

Selma Stearns is a Senior Consultant at ICF, an independent consultancy which leads a variety of research for the European Commission and other clients. Selma manages and contributes to a number of equalities and health-related projects at ICF, including the recent study on the socio-economic position of Intersex people in the EU (commissioned by DG JUST). Selma coordinated and managed this project, working alongside DG JUST colleagues, FRA, and NGOs.



### **CIANAN RUSSELL**

Senior Policy Officer at ILGA-Europe (they/them), Cianán works on intersex rights, education, health, trans rights and the anti-gender backlash in Europe and Central Asia. They also monitor and engage with the Council of Europe and United Nations institutions. Cianán joined ILGA-Europe in 2019. They began LGBTI activism in the US in 1996 and previously worked with the Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance (USA), the Asia Pacific Transgender Network and Transgender Europe. They have a Ph.D. in chemistry from Purdue University and served on the teaching faculty at Georgia Institute of Technology from 2008-2013. Personally, they run a support space for transmasculine and nonbinary survivors of sexual assault and rape and serve on a Chapter Working Group with the WPATH Standards of Care version 8.



### **NIKOLETTA PIKRAMENOU**

Nikoletta Pikramenou is a Legal Expert at Intersex Greece and a Researcher (senior) at the University of Warsaw. Prior to that, she worked for various institutions including the EU Delegation to the UN in New York. Her doctoral thesis introduced the first legal global comparative study on intersex rights. In 2019, it was published as a book by Springer under the title 'Intersex rights. Living between sexes'. Last year, she worked with the Greek Ministry of Health for the preparation of the bill on the IGM ban. In July 2022, Greece became the 5th country in the world to ban IGM.



### **KRISTIAN RANDJELOVIC**

Kristian Randjelović is a trans and intersex activist, working and living in Belgrade, Serbia. He is executive director of organization XY Spectrum which is working on promotion and advancement of human rights and quality of life for intersex and trans persons. Main areas of my work are on visibility and empowerment for intersex and trans children and their parents, psycho-social support for intersex, trans and non-binary individuals, capacity building for organizations in ex-Yugoslavia region on intersex issues. He is a board member of organizations TransMentors International and Co-chair of organization Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe).



### **DANIJEL KALEZIĆ**

Danijel Kalezic is Executive Co-Director of ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey. He is one of the pioneer LGBTIQ activists in Montenegro and the Western Balkan region. He is one of the founders of the Montenegro Pride Rally and was leading the preparation and adoption process of the Registered Partnership Law in Montenegro. He is a scholar of the "Victory Institute" from Washington DC, USA, as well as the IVLP program of the US State Department. He has won several national and international awards for activism and human rights.



### **HALLVARD GORSETH**

A Norwegian national, Hallvard has been with Council of Europe for 16 years and, since 2017, is Head of Anti-Discrimination Department and Roma and Travellers Team. He was previously adviser to the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe and has working experience on social rights, free movement of persons and combating trafficking in human beings.



### **JEAN-MARC BERTHON**

Jean-Marc Berthon was appointed on October 2022 as ambassador for the Rights of LGBT+ persons. The Ambassador is the voice of France in favour of the universal decriminalisation of homosexuality and the respect of all fundamental rights of LGBT+ persons. He conducts advocacy with States and international institutions. He is particularly involved with civil society organisations working on this issue. He studied philosophy and political science. He has 25 years of experience in French Diplomacy, which led him to work in Croatia, the Czech Republic and Morocco. He was President Macron's adviser at the start of his first term, and in charge of human rights, development aid, climate issues, diplomacy of influence, and Francophonie, within the Elysée diplomatic team. He was chief of staff of the French Minister of Citizenship, with whom he notably coordinated the reception in France of displaced people from Ukraine. He was a collaborator of Bernard Kouchner when this historic figure of humanitarian action and human rights was minister of Foreign Affairs.



### **FABRIZIO PETRI**

Fabrizio Petri is an Italian senior diplomat, Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTIQ+ persons of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, since Nov. 2021. Since 2016, he is the President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights. He is also co-founder of the Association of LGBTIQ+ employees of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Globe-MAE).



### **LUCA DUDITS**

Luca Dudits is an executive board member at Háttér Society, the largest Hungarian LGBTQI organisation. She coordinates the communications and outreach activities of the organisation. Luca was co-leading the civic coalition of 14 NGOs and over 400 activists that beat the Hungarian Government's anti-LGBTQ referendum campaign that was shortlisted for the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize 2022.



### **MIRKA MAKUCHOWSKA**

A researcher, trainer, and advocate for LGBT+ rights, with over 15 years of professional experience. Currently, CEO of the biggest LGBT+ organization in Poland, Kampania Przeciw Homofobii. Certified antidiscrimination trainer, and The European Commission's official expert in non-discrimination measures on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Author of many publications, including the biggest social study examining the daily lives of LGBT+ in Poland. Scholar of an Open World Program and graduate of the Central European University, at EMBA program.



### **ÓLÖF BJARKI ANTONS**

Ólöf Bjarki Antons is a 24 year old Icelandic non-binary activist. They are the current chairperson of Trans Iceland, Iceland's only trans organisation. This is their second year on the board, previously holding the co-chair position. They have also been a board member of Q - Iceland's queer student association and the president of the Feminist Association of the University of Iceland.



### **THOMAS ANDERSSON**

Thomas Andersson is 51 years old and living near Östersund in northern Sweden. He has been engaged in civil society since he was teenager and was also elected chair of the local gay association in his region between 1996-1999. He has been a local and regional elected politician since 1995. From 2018 to 2022 he was the president of the region of Jämtland Härjedalen, Sweden. He currently holds the function of chair of the Current Affairs Committee of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Within the Congress, the Committee is following topical matters related to human rights and social cohesion, including youth, gender and LGBTI+ issues, among other topics. Andersson has a long experience of working in European affairs, human rights and democracy and personal experience of growing up as gay in rural community.





### **GABI CALLEJA**

Gabi Calleja recently joined the CoE's SOGI Unit as a Senior Policy Advisor. She served as the Head of the SOGIGESC Unit within the Human Rights Directorate in Malta between June 2018 and February 2023. She served as the Chair of Malta's LGBTIQ Consultative Council between 2015 and 2020. She was the Coordinator of the Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement between 2007 and June 2018 and has been involved in advocacy work, legislation and policy development, strategic planning, training and capacity building, awareness raising and support to the LGBTIQ community since 2003. She served on the ILG-Europe executive board between 2010 and 2014. She read for a Masters in Youth & Community Studies with the University of Malta.



### **RÚ ÁVILA RODRÍGUEZ**

Rú Ávila Rodríguez (they/them) coordinates the advocacy, policy and research work of the International LGBTQI Youth & Student Organisation (IGLYO). Over the last seven years, Rú has worked with international and national organisations, education experts, policy makers and youth activists to benchmark legal and policy standards on inclusive education and facilitate best practice exchange on how to tackle school-bullying against LGBTQI youth. Rú holds a PhD on Critical Social Psychology and has been coordinating advocacy, policy and research programmes on LGBTQI equality for over 15 years, both in grass-roots organisations and academia.



### **MARIE-ANNE VALFORT**

Marie-Anne Valfort (she/her) leads the OECD work on LGBTI+ inclusion which addresses three main topics: (i) the life situation of LGBTI+ individuals (and the economic returns of improving it); (ii) whether laws and policies critical to foster LGBTI+ inclusion are in place; and (iii) the monitoring and impact evaluation of member countries' strategies to achieve LGBTI+ equality, to ensure they engage in actions that are fully effective. Prior to joining the OECD, she was a Professor at the Paris School of Economics. She holds a PhD in Economics from Ecole Polytechnique and a Master of Science in Management from HEC.



### **SYLVAIN SÉGUY**

Sylvain Séguy is an international development professional, dedicated to driving progress in the fields of education, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights. With over 5 years of experience at UNESCO, Mr. Séguy serves as an Associate Programme Specialist at UNESCO headquarters, where he focuses on promoting the health and well-being of young people through education. He holds two master's degrees from the College of Europe (EU International Relations & Diplomacy Studies) and Paris 1 Sorbonne (Political Science & International Affairs).



### **AARON GIARDINA**

Aaron Giardina (he/they) is a Policy and Research Manager at the Human Rights Directorate, with their work primarily related to LGBTQIA+ policy and mainstreaming. They are a graduate with a Bachelors in European Studies with Communication Studies and hold a Masters in Gender, Society and Culture, with their research focusing on the perspectives and opinions of voluntarily engaged sex workers. Aaron is an activist and the current Vice-President of Young Progressive Beings, a youth pro-choice organisation in Malta. They participated as a speaker in a number of research symposiums and international conferences, while also acted as Malta's representative to several European LGBTQIA+ fora. Aaron's research interests include LGBTQIA+ equality, sex workers' rights, body autonomy and consent, the representation of minorities and wider human rights issues.



### **ELIAS FJELLANDER**

Elias' background is in human rights activism, with a focus on children, LGBTI persons, and youth participation in decision making processes. He has been active locally, nationally and internationally. He currently serves as president of RFSL Ungdom, Sweden's LGBTI children's and youth organisation consisting of 2600 activists. Elias' role at RFSL Ungdom entails strategic and operative responsibility for the organisation's PA and PR work.



### **HREFNA ÞÓRARINSDÓTTIR**

Hrefna Þórarinsdóttir is the manager of the Queer Youth centre, collaboration project between Samtökin 78 and City of Reykjavík. Queer Youth centre welcomes around 150 queer youth members each week and has grown immensely since it opened in 2016.



### **KAREN ELLEMANN**

Karen Ellemann has been a member of the Danish parliament, the Folketing, since 2007 and has held a number of ministerial posts in the Danish government. She will take up the role of Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers on 1 January 2023.

Karen Ellemann has extensive political expertise in several key areas for Our Vision 2030. She has been Denmark's minister for gender equality, for the environment, and for social affairs and the interior. On several occasions, she has also been Denmark's minister for Nordic co-operation.

## PRESENTERS



### **HANNA KATRÍN FRÍÐRIKSSON**

Hanna Katrín Friðriksson is member of Althingi for the Reykjavík South Constituency since 2016 (Liberal Reform Party) and has been the Chair of the Liberal Reform Party's parliamentary group since 2021, 2017-2021 and 2016-2017.



### **ORRI PÁLL JÓHANSSON**

Orri Páll Jóhannsson is a member of Althingi for the Reykjavík South Constituency since 2021 (Left-Green Movement) and has been the Chair of the Left-Green Movement's parliamentary group since 2021.