
**“Guaranteeing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people’s rights:
a responsibility for Europe’s towns and regions” –
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Recommendation 370 (2015)**

(Reply adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 13 June 2018
at the 1319th meeting of the Ministers’ Deputies)

1. The Committee of Ministers informs the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe that the following reply was adopted by a majority as provided by Article 20 (d) of the Statute.
2. The Committee of Ministers has carefully studied Congress Recommendation 370 (2015) “Guaranteeing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) peoples’ rights: a responsibility for Europe’s towns and regions”, which it transmitted to the Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) and to the European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS), for information and comments.
3. The Committee of Ministers notes that human rights are universal and must apply to all individuals without discrimination. It recalls its Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity in which it stated, *inter alia*, that “positive State measures for protection against discriminatory treatment, including by non-State actors, are fundamental components of the international system protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms”.
4. In 2013-2014, the Committee of Ministers conducted a first review of the implementation of its recommendation. In this context, member States were encouraged to continue their efforts to implement its various provisions and to translate and disseminate the recommendation as widely as possible. The Committee of Ministers also encouraged the organisation, upon request from member States, of assistance and capacity building activities to facilitate implementation of the recommendation. It agreed, in the light of the conclusions of a CDDH report on the implementation, to revert to this issue in four years’ time.
5. The Committee of Ministers encourages member States to co-operate with the relevant stakeholders at the local and regional level in their efforts to implement the recommendation and recalls the available co-operation activities. It notes that these activities, such as the event on local and regional LGBT policy organised by the Council of Europe in Athens in October 2015, can be tailored to target local and regional authorities and enhance co-operation with civil society actors and local authorities’ networks.
6. Finally, the Committee draws the Congress’ attention to the online database¹ on good practices to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity at national, regional and local level. The database provides a practical tool for local and regional authorities to exchange experiences and know-how about mainstreaming sexual orientation or gender identity issues in local and regional policies.

¹ www.coe.int/lgbt