

SPEAKERS

Biographies of speakers in order of appearance.



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.



NIGEL SHERRIFF

Nigel Sherriff Professor of Public Health and Health Promotion at the University of Brighton. Associate Dean for Research & Knowledge Exchange in the University's School of Sport and Health Sciences. Research interests are driven strongly by a social justice agenda, along with a collaborative and participatory approach to research with demonstrative social impact which ultimately tackles disadvantage and inequalities in health.



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 LGBTIQ+ and feminist movements in France, Greece and at the pan-European level.



ALEXANDRA SAWYER

Alexandra is a Principal Research Fellow in Public Health at the School of Sport and Health Sciences at the University of Brighton, and a member of the Centre for Transforming Sexuality and Gender which is a specialist research centre at the University focusing on LGBTI lives. Alexandra's background is in health psychology, and Alexandra's research interests and expertise are in sexual and reproductive health.



SUSANNE KNÖFEL

Susanne Knöfel (she/her) is Head of the Unit "Non-discrimination: LGBTQ, Age, Horizontal Matters" in the European Commission, Directorate-General Justice and Consumers. She previously had various functions, including in the European Commission, the European Parliament and the German Federal Ministry of Justice. She holds postgraduate degrees in law from Hamburg University and the London School of Economics.



TATIANA PUIU

Ms. Puiu is an Attorney at Law in Republic of Moldova and Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights. Her professional experience in human rights and rule of law straddles the legal, policy, and practitioner fields. Tatiana has acted as an expert advisor to a wide range of international and national organisations and bodies working on human rights issues, including the Council of Europe, NHRIs and NGOs.



TALENG MOFOKENG

Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng is a Global health expert with experience in legislative reform, policy, healthcare provision, and health communication. She advocates specifically for sexual and reproductive health rights (including adolescent health, transgender affirming health and abortions) .

She is the co-chair of the O'Neil Commission on racism, structural discrimination and global health. Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng is an adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown Law centre and is distinguished lecturer at O'Neil Institute for National & Global health law.

Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng is distinguished lecturer at O'Neil Institute for National & Global health law and Extraordinary lecturer at Stellenbosch University's Africa Centre for HIV/AIDS Management.



ALEXANDRE SANTOS DE OLIVEIRA

Specialist nurse. Coordinator of the Health Strategy for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People at Directorate-General of Health. Postgraduate training in mental health and psychiatric nursing, clinical sexology, sexology counselling and educational sexology.



MARI GREENFIELD

Dr Mari Greenfield (she/they) is a post-doctoral reproductive wellbeing researcher. She specialises in investigating the experiences of LGBTQI people as they make decisions about becoming parents, conceive, give birth, and raise their baby. Mari's work is underpinned by trans inclusive intersectional feminism. Prior to entering academia, Mari worked as a doula for a decade.



KATHRYN ALMACK

Kathryn Almack is Professor of Family Lives and Care in the School of Health and Social Work at the University of Hertfordshire. She is a sociologist whose research has had a substantial focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT) older people, ageing and end of life care. She is published widely in this area – including edited books and journal special issues. Findings from her research have also fed into a number of UK government consultations about inequalities in end-of-life care and been used to develop new resources for policy makers, health and social care professionals and carers.



LAURA BAAMS

Laura Baams works as an associate professor at the Pedagogy and Educational Sciences Department at the University of Groningen.

Overall, her research addresses health disparities among LGBTQ youth, and how these can be exacerbated or diminished by social environmental factors."bit of body text



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.



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 LGBTQ Consultative Council between 2015 and 2020. She was the Coordinator of the Malta LGBTQ 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 LGBTQ community since 2003. She served on the ILGA-Europe executive board between 2010 and 2014. She read for a Masters in Youth & Community Studies with the University of Malta.



MARKUS P. BIDE LL

Dr. Bidell is an international scholar focusing on LGBTQIA+ healthcare. They earned a Doctorate in Applied Psychology from the University of California. At the City University of New York, they are a member of the faculty in the doctoral Clinical Neuropsychology Program and the Hunter Counseling Program. Their scholarship focuses on LGBTQIA+ health disparities emphasizing practitioners' clinical competence. Dr. Bidell has published 2 LGBTQI healthcare competency assessments that have been cited over 500 times, used internationally, and translated into approximately 30 languages. His international work also includes researching and teaching in the E.U as the 2014-2015 Regent's Fulbright Scholar, as well as working on a European based LGBTQI+ clinical competency scale as an invited Visiting Research Fellow at the Universities of Brighton and Verona.



MARINA PIERDOMINICI

Marina Pierdominici, MD, PhD, Senior Researcher at the Reference Centre for Gender Medicine-National Institute of Health in Italy. My area of expertise includes research, training and communication activities in the field of gender medicine and gender-related health inequalities. Scientific Coordinator of the Infotrans Project.



LAETITIA ZEEMAN

Dr Laetitia Zeeman works in the field of gender, sexualities and health with a specific focus on LGBTQ+ health equity. This work aims to co-produce participatory and socially just healthcare systems. She is a Principal Lecturer at the School of Sport and Health Sciences with her research based at the Centre for Transforming Sexuality and Gender (CTSG) University of Brighton, UK. Former roles include leading Healthcare Governance at Priory Healthcare, course leadership at the University of Southampton, and leadership for Mental Health at University of Pretoria, South Africa.



DEEKSHITHA GANESAN

Deekshitha (she/her) is originally from India and is a lawyer by training. Prior to joining TGEU, she worked as a research and litigation associate at the Centre for Law and Policy Research in India, focusing on transgender rights, disability rights, and equality and non-discrimination.

At TGEU, Deekshitha works primarily on the portfolios of health and responding to the anti-gender movement.



AISA BURGWAL

Aisa Burgwal is a clinical psychologist, researcher, and data scientist at the Center of Expertise on Gender Dysphoria (CEGD) of the Amsterdam University Medical Center, VUmc in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She received her Master in Clinical Psychology in 2018 and her Master in Statistical Data Analysis in 2020 and subsequently worked as a researcher at the Center for Sexology and Gender at Ghent University Hospital (UZ Ghent) in Ghent, Belgium. Meanwhile in 2021, she started to work at the European Professional Association for Transgender Health (EPATH), the only European organization for transgender care, policies, and practices. She is leading the organization of the bi-annual EPATH conferences (with over 500 attendees in 2023). In addition, she organizes the bi-annual EPATH training schools, where the state-of-the-art in regards of transgender health and care is presented. Using various research designs and complex statistical methods, in her research, Aisa mostly studied the experiences with violence of transgender people using an intersectional approach. This way, there is a direct link between her research and her work for EPATH. She currently will continue this intersectional approach in her research at the CEGD in Amsterdam while continuing her work at EPATH. At present, she has (co-)authored 5 peer-reviewed publications, 2 reports and 1 book chapter. She has been invited to present her research at 3 national and 7 international conferences.



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.



GRAEME REID

In late 2023, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed Mr. Graeme Reid as UN Independent Expert on Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity for a three-year period starting on 1 November 2023. In this capacity, he assesses the implementation of international human rights law, raises awareness, engages in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, and provides advisory services, technical assistance, capacity-building to help address violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Graeme Reid is a South African scholar, who has conducted research, taught and published extensively on gender, sexuality, LGBT issues, and HIV/AIDS. Reid attended the University of Witwatersrand where he received his bachelor's degree in literature and master's degree in anthropology. He also holds a PhD from the University of Amsterdam. He is currently a research scholar and lecturer at the Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs.

Before his appointment as Independent Expert, Reid acted as director for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Program at Human Rights Watch, an organization he joined in 2011. He has taught as a lecturer in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Anthropology at Yale University and at the School of International Public Affairs at Columbia University. Reid is the founding director of the Gay and Lesbian Archives of South Africa, and previously worked as a researcher at the Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research.

Reid's published monographs are: *How to be a 'Real Gay. Gay Identities in Small-Town South Africa'* (2013) and *'Above the Skyline. Reverend Tsietsi Thandekiso and the founding of an African gay church'* (2010). He also co-directed the video documentary *'Dark and Lovely, Soft and Free'* (2000).



TIM VAN DE GRIFT

Tim van de Grift works as a psychiatrist-sexologist specialized in LGBTI+ mental health. He founded the largest LGBTI+ mental health institutes in the Netherlands. He is part-time appointed as assistant professor at Amsterdam University Medical Centers researching mental health outcomes after transgender medical gender-affirming care. Also, he runs research projects on intersex minority stress experiences. In the past he served as research supervisor to policy studies on transgender healthcare (Netherlands) and intersex wellbeing (European Commission).



KAI O'DOHERTY

Kai O'Doherty (they/them) is the Head of Policy & Advocacy at Mermaids, a UK-based charity which supports and advocates for trans children and young people, and their families. They are a trans advocate originally from Bermuda, who believes in the power of youth advocates to build a liberatory future for all trans people.



TIMO NIEDER

Timo Nieder is head of the outpatient unit for sexual health and transgender care and coordinator teaching at the Institute of Sex Research, Sexual Medicine and Forensic Psychiatry, University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE). Timo qualified as Associate Professor at the Medical Faculty of the University of Hamburg. In 2013, Timo co-founded the Interdisciplinary Transgender Health Care Centre (ITHCCH) at the UKE and co-chaired the German guideline development for transgender health. He (co-)authored 58 PubMed-listed research papers and more than 130 publications in total. Timo is Secretary-Treasurer of the European Professional Association for Transgender Health (EPATH), local host of the upcoming EPATH conference 2025 in Hamburg and principal investigator of the eHealth project <https://www.i2transhealth.de/english-landing-page/>.



CHARLIE COSNIER

After completing her doctoral thesis in 2018, she cofounded the Paris-based FLIRT collective where she works as a community organiser, instructor and health expert active in the field of trans healthcare. Since 2020, she has been working on answers to the growing use of unmonitored self-administered injectable estrogens in France, including patient therapeutic education, health professional training, and research. She is a staunch advocate for the transgender community and consults with various public and private entities.



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.



CATHERINE MEADS

Catherine Meads is a Professor of Health at Anglia Ruskin University and senior systematic reviewer. She has been conducting research into lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) health since 1992 and recently completed a best-evidence review for Public Health England on health and healthcare experiences of UK sexual minority women. She has also delivered numerous public lectures, spoken at a Select Committee and All Party Parliamentary Groups and taught undergraduate medical and nursing students. She has been on several LGBT conference steering committees and study advisory committees, and was a member of the UK Government Equalities Office LGBT Advisory Panel.



HANNA STANGEBYE ARNESEN

Hanna Stangebye Arnesen, Coordinator for equality-related statistics at Statistics Norway, works primarily on topics related to gender equality, LGBTQ+, and quality of life. She is also responsible for the publication of Indicators for gender equality in municipalities and contributes to Gender Equality for Development (GEfD) programme in Uganda. Her work includes participation in various seminars and conferences, addressing the importance of good data in equality-related issues, and representing Statistics Norway on both national and international platforms.



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.



KAI J. JONAS

Prof. Dr. Kai Jonas holds the chair of applied social psychology at Maastricht University, The Netherlands. He has been involved in a number of large-scale (survey) research projects on LGBTQI+ health in Europe, Asia and South America, involving a broad range of community partners. Currently he is the PI for PROTECT (protect-study.eu) and co-PI for EMIS-23/24 (<https://www.emis-project.eu/>)