



BEING ROMA AND LGBTI *at the crossroads of discrimination*



International Conference

“Being Roma¹ and LGBTI²: at the crossroads of discrimination”

Organised by the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit, the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSBG) on Roma Issues and the Youth Directorate of the Council of Europe

In cooperation with ARA ART and the City of Strasbourg

8-10 June 2017, Strasbourg
European Youth Centre (8 June 2017)
Agora Building Room G02 (9 June 2017)
City of Strasbourg (10 June 2017)

¹ The term “Roma” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “*Gens du voyage*”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.

² LGBTI stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex.

9 June 2017 – Agora building, Room G02

8:15 – 9:00 **Registration of participants**

9:00 – 9:30 **Opening session**

- Marja Ruotanen, Director of Human Dignity and Equality
- Valeriu Ciolan Nicolae, Special Representative of the Secretary General on Roma Issues
- Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, Deputy to the Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of European and international affairs

SESSION 1 – PROTECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF LGBTI ROMA UNDER THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS: AN INTERSECTIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO TACKLE MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION

9:30 – 11:00 **Human Rights of Roma LGBTI**

Moderator: Ian NAYSMITH, Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime, as well as on Roma LGBTI issues, United Kingdom

Panelists:

- Wolfram Bechtel, European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)
- David Tišer (ARA ART)
- Dr. Patrycja Pogodzinska, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)
- Mariana Berbec, Open Society Foundations (OSF)

Tour-de-table, exchange and reflections from the floor

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

SESSION 2 – COMBATTING LGBTI-PHOBIC AND ANTI-GYPSY VIOLENCE, HATE CRIME AND HATE SPEECH AND ENSURING ACCESS TO EQUAL RIGHTS: EXPERIENCES IN BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN LGBTI AND ROMA MOVEMENTS

11:30-13:15 Introductory remarks / Panel discussion / Q&A

Moderators: Eleni Tsetsekou (SOGI Unit) and Isabela Mihalache (SRSG for Roma Issues)

- Demetrio Gomez: deconstruction of LGBTI and Roma discourses
- Experiences at national level in building bridges between LGBTI and Roma movements:
 - María del Carmen Cortés Amador, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (Spain)

- Dezso Mate, Junior Research Fellow/ Doctoral Candidate, Hungarian Academy of Sciences-Center of Social Sciences-Institute for Minority Studies (Hungary)
- Doğukan Karahan, Flying Broom Women's Communication and Research Association Representative (Spain)
- Evelyne Paradis, ILGA-Europe Director, Turn on the Lights³ campaign aimed at putting race and ethnicity within the LGBTI communities centre stage.

13:15-14:45 *Lunch*

SESSION 3 – LGBTI and ROMA YOUTH MOVEMENTS: AGENTS OF CHANGE AND EMPOWERMENT: GOOD PRACTICES FROM GRASS-ROOTS MOVEMENTS PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Introductory remarks:

Matthew Johnson, Director of Democratic citizenship and participation

Moderators:

Michael Guet (Head of the iCARE unit) and Alexandra Raykova (trainer)

14:45–15:45

Part 1: Inclusion of LGBTI Roma youth in society - fighting a double prejudice

- Workshop led by the young activists on challenges and good practices
- Recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States, LGBTI and Roma movements and other stakeholders

15:45 – 16:45

Part 2: Acceptance of LGBTI Roma youth by their families and in their communities - changing mentalities

- Workshop led by the young activists on challenges and good practices (including story-telling)
- Recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States, LGBTI and Roma movements, and other stakeholders

16:45-17:15 *Coffee Break*

17:15 - 18:00

What role for the Council of Europe, member States, LGBTI and Roma movements and other stakeholders in fostering inclusion of LGBTI Roma persons?

Chair:

Eleni Tsetsekou (Head of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit)

³ <http://www.turnonlights.org/about/>

- Presentation of the workshops outcome and proposed recommendations for the Council of Europe, member States and other stakeholders by one rapporteur for each workshop
- Closing remarks by Ian NAYSMITH
 - The general rapporteur of the Conference, Ian NAYSMITH, Rapporteur of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) on anti-Gypsyism and hate crime, as well as on Roma LGBTI issues, United Kingdom
 - Announcement by David Cupina (Festigays) regarding the programme for 10 June 2017

20:00 *Entrance open at the European Youth Centre*

21:00 *Party in the European Youth Centre with Gypsy Robot, Hungarian Roma LGBTI DJ⁴*

10 June 2017 – Strasbourg, Place de l’Université

Morning **Village associatif Festigays**

- Participation of the youth activists to a stand on Roma and LGBTI communities to raise awareness on multiple discrimination (distribution of promotional material, selling of T-shirts, etc.)

Afternoon **Marche des Visibilités des lesbiennes, Gays, Bis, Trans, Intersexes**

- Participation of youth activists and CoE representatives to the parade behind the CoE banner

⁴ <https://gypsyrobot.tv/author/gypsyrobottv/>