

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

EUROPEAN ROUNDTABLE

Advancing Healthcare Access for **LGBTI** People in Europe

15 November 2023

09:00-18:15 CET

Online / Strasbourg, France

Venue: Council of Europe,
Palais de l'Europe, Room 3



LIVE
STREAM





ABOUT

Aims and Topics

Health inequalities for LGBTI people are thought to occur because of the consequences of a range of factors including cultural and social norms that preference and prioritise heterosexuality, cisnormativity and binary gender/sex, and low understanding of variations of sex characteristics among healthcare professionals; minority stress associated with sexual orientation, or gender identity, gender expression and/or sex characteristics, alongside experiences of victimisation, discrimination, and stigma. This roundtable will delve into cross-cutting issues related to access to the highest attainable standard of health, shedding light on the inequalities, challenges and complexities faced by LGBTI people with the aim of fostering a better understanding and identify practical solutions.

Background

This event is part of the Council of Europe's annual thematic reviews on the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2010\)5](#) to member States on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This year's review will examine gaps between Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 and national legislation, policies, implementation, and impact on healthcare access for LGBTI individuals. It aims to collect promising practices, learn from successful initiatives that have improved healthcare access for LGBTI communities across Europe, and formulate actionable steps to address identified gaps and enhance healthcare inclusivity. The review is focusing on four topics that address the healthcare needs of LGBTI people, as well as areas where LGBTI people experience significant barriers to health: [trans-specific healthcare \(TSHC\)](#), [healthcare for older people](#), [mental health](#), and [sexual and reproductive health and rights \(SRHR\)](#). The findings will contribute to a European-wide report on the topic scheduled to be published in Summer 2024.

09:00-09:30 OPENING

- **Hallvard Gorseth**, Head of the Anti-Discrimination Department, Council of Europe
- **Nigel Sherriff**, Council of Europe consultant, Professor of Public Health and Health Promotion, School of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Brighton

09:30-10:00 HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS & INSTRUMENTS

We shall explore established international and European legal standards and instruments that inform what should be done to ensure equitable access to healthcare for LGBTI people and how these are being reflected in national legislative and policy frameworks.

Moderator: Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGI Unit, Council of Europe

Speakers:

- **Alexandra Sawyer**, Council of Europe Consultant, Principal Research Fellow, School of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Brighton: *Overview of international standards about access to healthcare for LGBTI people*
- **Susanne Knöfel**, Head of Unit, Non-Discrimination: LGBTIQ, Age, Horizontal Matters, DG JUST, European Commission: *Implementation of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025, including European Commission's efforts to implement a consistent approach on equality data collection*
- **Tatiana Puiu**, Vice President, European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe:
- **Video Message from Tlaleng Mofokeng**, UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health: *Presentation of the work of the United Nations standards and the rapporteur's responsibilities pertaining to the health of LGBTI people*

10:00-11:30

STRATEGIES & PROGRAMMES RELATING TO LGBTI PEOPLE'S ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

We shall discuss how member states are utilising national action plans to strategically address the healthcare needs of LGBTI persons through mainstreaming provisions or specialised service provision along with input from civil society on best practices for certain kinds of healthcare.

Moderator: Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGI Unit, Council of Europe

Speakers:

- **Alexandre Oliveira**, Coordinator of the Health Strategy for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Persons, Directorate-General of Health, Portugal: *Experience from Portugal*
- **Mari Greenfield**, Post-doctoral researcher, The Open University: *The challenges inherent in perinatal systems for LGBTI people who wish to become parents*
- **Kathryn Almack**, Professor of Family Lives and Care, Centre for Research In Public Health and Community Care, University of Hertfordshire: *Older LGBTI people, palliative care*
- **Laura Baams**, Associate Professor, Pedagogy and Educational Sciences Department, University of Groningen, the Netherlands: *Awareness and prevention programmes, including mental health and suicide prevention*
- **Dan Christian Ghattas**, Executive Director, OII-Europe: *Care for intersex people: OII checklist - bodily integrity and health*

11:30-11:45

COFFEE BREAK

11:45-13:15

EDUCATION & TRAINING CURRICULA FOR HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONERS

We shall discuss strategies for effectively educating and training healthcare professionals, both specialists and general practitioners, as well as allied health professionals and others working in the health sector, to provide quality care and equitable access to healthcare for LGBTI individuals.

Moderator: Gabriella Calleja, Senior Policy Adviser, SOGI Unit, Council of Europe

Speakers:

- **Markus P. Bidell**, Hunter College Grievance Counselor, Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York, Associate Professor of Counseling & Psychology, Hunter College & City University of New York Graduate Center: *Overview of contributing factors related to healthcare practitioners and students, including gaps in cultural competencies concerning LGBTI health, the lack of awareness and knowledge regarding the unique health and healthcare needs of LGBTI patients, and non-inclusive attitudes*
- **Marina Pierdominici**, MD-Phd, senior researcher, Reference Center for Gender Medicine, National Institute of Health in Italy: *Training of General Practitioners and transgender healthcare: the Infotrans experience.*
- **Laetitia Zeeman**, Council of Europe Consultant, Principal Lecturer, School of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Brighton: *Undergraduate training for auxiliary and healthcare practitioners*
- **Deekshitha Ganesan**, Policy officer, TGEU: *TGEU guidelines for human rights and promising practice*
- **Aisa Burgwal**, Data Scientist and PhD Candidate, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry & Psychosocial Care, Amsterdam UMC: *Continuous training: EPATH training on trans healthcare*

13:15-14:45

LUNCH BREAK

14:45-16:15 STRUCTURAL AND ORGANISATIONAL FACTORS THAT CAN FACILITATE OR CREATE ADDITIONAL BARRIERS TO ACCESSING HEALTHCARE

This topic will cover measures that can be taken to optimise healthcare systems, including aspects such as investment in human and infrastructural resources, IT systems, capacity building, access to medication and treatment, waiting lists, community based versus centralised systems, development of guidelines and protocols, cost coverage and monitoring and evaluation.

Moderator: Cianán Russell, Senior Policy Officer, ILGA-Europe

Speakers:

- **Graeme Reide**, UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity: Findings of the report on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health of persons affected by discrimination and violence based on SOGI
- **Tim van de Grift**, Assistant Professor, Amsterdam University Medical Center: *Intersex minority stress experiences related to structural barriers in healthcare*
- **Kai O'Doherty**, Head of Policy & Advocacy, Mermaids NGO, UK: *Children autonomy: Challenges faced by trans children and youth seeking to access healthcare services*
- **Timo Nieder**, Associate Professor and head of the Outpatient Unit for Sexual Health and Transgender Care, Institute for Sex Research, Sexual Medicine and Forensic Psychiatry, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE): *How to improve access to care and quality of care for trans and non-binary people through e-health (i2TransHealth)*
- **Charlie Cosnier**, FLIRT, France: *Community-led healthcare practices: Focus on harm reduction and community peer support programmes*

16:15-16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30-18:00 RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION - GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES & KNOWLEDGE GAPS

We will engage in a discussion about the research that is available and the knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to implement evidence-based policy and practice in relation to LGBTI access to healthcare. We will address what data is needed and the concerns that the collection of such data may pose, such as confidentiality, data protection, and adequate representation across the LGBTI spectrum.

Moderator: Rú Ávila Rodríguez, Policy & Research Manager, IGLYO

Speakers:

- **Catherine Meads**, Professor of Health, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Social Care, Anglia Ruskin University: *Overview of the topic, with a focus on the limitations of data collection*
- **Hanna Stangebye Arnesen**, Equality Coordinator, Statistics Norway: *The Quality of life Survey and guidelines for collecting data on gender and sexual diversity*
- **Ilaria Todde**, Advocacy and Research Director, EL*C: *Meta-analysis of existing research; responsibility for data gaps between institutions and governments*
- **Kai J. Jonas**, Professor of Applied Social Psychology, Maastricht University: *European MSM Internet Survey (EMIS), an example of a European surveys on sexual health*

18:00-18:10 CLOSING

Summary of key points

Alexandra Sawyer, Council of Europe Consultant, Principal Research Fellow, School of Sport and Health Sciences, University of Brighton

Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGI Unit, Council of Europe

