2018 Council of Europe Conference on Interfaith Dialogue and LGBTI

Homosexuality and Contemporary Christianity: Interdisciplinary and Multiconfessional Approaches

Programme
Strasbourg, 5th July 2018
European Youth Center (CoE)

Thursday, 5th July 2018

9.00 – 9.15  
**Opening remarks**

Ms. Eleni Tsetsekou, SOGI, Council of Europe  
Rev. Prof. Christos Filiotis, PhD, University of Thessaloniki  
Mr. Lucian Cirlan, PhD Candidate, EPHE PSL (Paris-Sorbonne) and GSRL

9.15 – 10.30  
**CONFERENCE – HOMOSEXUALITY AND GENDER IDENTITY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY OVERVIEW**

Rev. Vasileios Thermos, MD. PhD, Higher Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens  
Chair: Prof. Rémi Gounelle, Dean of the Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Strasbourg

10.30 – 10.45  
**Coffee break**

10.45 - 11.00  
**Being Christian and Gay: testimony by Mr. Misha Cherniak**  
European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups

11.00 – 12.30  
**SESSION I – ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL APPROACHES TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY**

Chair: Mr. Sören Lenz, Executive Secretary of the Conference of European Churches (CEC-KEK)

Prof. Aikaterini Tsalampouni, PhD, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, Aristotle University of Thessalonik, *Same-Sex Relations and the Bible: The Hermeneutical Challenge*

Rev. Prof. Archim. Grigoris D. Paphthomas, PhD, Faculty of Theology University of Athens: *Homosexuality, One Nature Against Nature? A Centrifugal Existential State Between Intra-Hypostatic Narcissism [Rm 1:23] and Intra-Creationated Orientation [Rm 1:25]*

Rev. Prof. Gheorghe Popa, PhD, Faculty of Orthodoy Theology, University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iasi – *Being, Existence and Spiritual Orientation: Relevant Considerations for Understanding the Orthodox Christianity Perspective on Homosexuality*

12.30 – 13.30  
**Lunch, Restaurant Bleu, Palais de l’Europe**
13.30 - 15.00  **SOUS-THEME II - REGARDS OF CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES ON HOMOSEXUALITY. CASE STUDIES (GREECE, ROMANIA, FRANCE)**

Chair: Rev. Prof. Christos Filiotis, PhD, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Thessaloniki

Ms. Aikaterini Karkala-Zorba, M.FLE, MTheol, PhD Candidate (LMU, Institute for Orthodox Theology), Orthodox Academy of Crete: *The Greek Contemporary Society and the Question of the Sexual Identity*

Mr. Lucian Cirlan, PhD Candidate, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes PSL (Paris-Sorbonne) and Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (CNRS-GSRL): *Revising the Constitution: Referendum for Family and “Traditional” Marriage in Romania*

Mr. Josselin Tricou, PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, University Paris 8 Vincennes - St-Denis, *Emergence of the “Anti-Gender” and Anti-*Gay Marriage* Cause in French Society

15.00 – 15.15  **Coffee break**

15.15 – 17.00  **SESSION III – CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

Chair: Prof. Dénis Fricker, Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Strasbourg

Prof. Anne Bamberg, PhD, Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Strasbourg: *Marriage and Homosexuality from the Catholic Church Perspective*

Rev. Prof. Athanasios Gikas, PhD, and Rev. Prof. Christos Filiotis, PhD, Faculty of Orthodox Theology, University of Thessaloniki: *Same-sex Marriage from the Orthodox Christianity Perspective*

Prof. Isabel Grellier, PhD, Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Strasbourg: *The Debate for Same-Sex Marriage Blessing within French Protestantism*

Prof. Rémy Bethmont, PhD, Department of Anglophone Studies, University Paris 8 Vincennes - St-Denis and Groupe Sociétés, Religions, Laïcités (CNRS-GSRL): *Blessing Same-Sex Unions in the Church of England: The Liturgical Challenge of Same-Sex Couples’ Demand for Inclusive Marriage Rites*

17.00 – 17.15  **Coffee break**

17.15 – 18.30  **ROUND TABLE - CHURCHES’ ROLE IN PROMOTING TOLERANCE AND NON-DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS LGBTI**

Chair: Ms. Eleni Tsetsekou, SOGI, Council of Europe

Rev. Prof. Vasileios Thermos, MD. PhD, Higher Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens
Rev. Philippe Herbillon, Strasbourg University Hospitals Chaplain
Rev. Wielie Elhorst, European Forum of LGBT Christian Groups

18.30  **Conclusions**

Ms. Eleni Tsetsekou, SOGI, Council of Europe