Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit’s work since 2014
LGBTI persons in Europe are often the target of discrimination on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Our work addresses several issues, ranging from Legal Gender Recognition to homophobic and transphobic hate crime, homophobic and transphobic bullying, and multiple discrimination (e.g. LBT women, LGBTI ethnic minorities, LGBTI asylum seekers, LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty). The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Unit in the Council of Europe region works on several human rights challenges based on the mandate given to it by the Committee of Ministers CM/Rec (2010)5. In particular, it provides technical support and expertise to member states, upon request, through cooperation activities aiming at improving the legal and institutional frameworks, builds capacity of administration staff and law enforcement, but also promotes the sharing of good practices and raises awareness.

### Legal Gender Recognition

- **49%**
  - 23 out of 47 Member States force trans persons to divorce¹

### Violence

- **30%**
  - 14 out of 47 Member States force sterilisation of trans persons²
  - 6 in 10 LGBTs in the EU were victims of violence due to being perceived as LGBT⁴
  - 1 in 3 hate-motivated attacks in the EU are against LGBTs⁴

### Discrimination

- 1 in 2 LGBT persons felt discriminated against or harassed in 2012 in the EU⁴
- 50% less chances for trans women getting callbacks compared to cis women⁵

### Children / Youth

- 91% of children under 18 in the EU witnessed negative conduct due to a classmate being perceived as LGBT⁴
- 1 in 3 LGBT children hide their LGBT identity while at school⁴

### Equal Rights

- **30%**
  - 14 out of 47 Member States have legal recognition of same-sex couples¹

### Trans Lives

- **34%**
  - 16 out of 47 Member States allow same-sex adoption¹
  - 30% of transgender persons attempted suicide¹
  - 80% of transgender persons reported having considered ending their lives at least once¹

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¹ Council of Europe, IDAHOT Website, 2016
² Transgender Rights Europe Index, 2017
³ Trans Respect - Transgender Europe, 2017
⁴ EU Fundamental Rights Agency, EU LGBT Survey, 2012
⁵ LGBTI in OECD Countries, 2017
Support the implementation of National Action Plans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal, Ukraine)

Capacity-building (trainings of judges, police officers, prosecutors and lawyers)

Implementation of standards
- Recommendation on LGBT persons
- PACE Resolution on trans persons
- PACE Resolution on intersex persons
- European Court of Human Rights Judgements
- Recommendations of the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance
- European Committee for the Prevention of Torture
- European Committee on Social Rights
- Congress of Local and Regional Authorities Resolutions

Peer-to-peer trainings (judges, legislators, prosecutors, police officers and local authorities)

Legislative and policy reform (legal gender recognition, discrimination, hate speech and hate crime)

SOGI MAINSTREAMING
- Monitoring of racism and intolerance by: ECR
- LGBTI Roma
- LGBTI Asylum-seekers
- Bioethics division
- Intersex persons
- Education for Anti-bullying
- HELP course on SOGI
  - 210 legal professionals certified
  - 300+ self-learning guests
  - 5 countries (AT, ES, FR, HR, IT)

Partners

AWARENESS-RAISING
- Network of LGBTI National Focal Points
- Participation in public events
- IDAHOT International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia

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6 Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2010) to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity
7 Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2048 (2015) on Discrimination against transgender people in Europe
8 Parliamentary Assembly Resolution 2191 (2017) on Promoting the human rights of and preventing discrimination against intersex people
9 Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP) is a free online self-learning platform with courses on several themes (www.help.elearning.ext.coe.int).
LOOKING AHEAD - 2018/2019

On the basis of the Council of Europe strategic triangle, the SOGI Unit will continue to promote the effect implementation of the CoE standards (ECHR, CM/Rec(2010)5, PACE Resolutions on SOGI, Congress Resolution on SOGI), the European Court of Human Rights judgments on SOGI and the recommendations of the monitoring bodies (ECRI, CPT, European Committee of Social Rights, Human Rights Commissioner), and assist member states through cooperation activities. In particular, the SOGI Unit has been tasked by the CDDH to review the implementation of the 2010 Committee of Ministers Recommendation by member states on SOGI and identify priority areas for improvement through tailored technical assistance.

Ongoing cooperation activities include:

- **Protection of families**
  - Recognition of same sex couples
  - Protection of children

- **Multiple discrimination**
  - Roma
  - LBT women
  - LGBT Asylum-seekers
  - Persons deprived of their liberty

- **Social rights**
  - Employment
  - Health
  - Education (focus on bullying)

- **Homophobic & Transphobic Hate crime**
  - Georgia
  - Romania
  - France
  - UK

- **Legal Gender Recognition**
  - Lithuania
  - Portugal
  - Andorra
  - Cyprus
  - Georgia

- **Same sex partnership legislation**
  - Montenegro

- **Asylum claims based on SOGI in cooperation with UNHCR and SRSG on Migration and Refugees**: guidelines for reception officers and adjudicators followed by capacity-building activities

- **Homophobic and transphobic bullying**

- **LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty**

Thematic work is being developed on:

- Asylum claims based on SOGI in cooperation with UNHCR and SRSG on Migration and Refugees: guidelines for reception officers and adjudicators followed by capacity-building activities
- Homophobic and transphobic bullying
- LGBTI persons deprived of their liberty