

What has the European Parliament done for LGBTI rights in 2014-2019?



Since 2014, the European Parliament has consistently expressed support for better standards for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals in Member States, in the EU, and in the world. It has made notable progress in the areas of external action, media, health, education, transgender rights, asylum, and free movement.

External Action: condemnation of anti-LGBTI persecutions in Chechnya

Resolution (2017): Implementation of the Council's LGBTI Guidelines, particularly in relation to the persecution of (perceived) homosexual men in Chechnya, Russia

This [resolution](#) strongly condemned the persecution of (perceived to be) LGBT people by Chechnyan authorities and called on Russia to conduct investigations. It highlighted the importance of implementing the [LGBTI Guidelines](#) to protect human rights - including LGBTI rights - in the world. In October 2018, MEPs raised the issue again in an [oral question](#) to the European Commission after no transparent and independent investigation had been carried out.

The EP has also spoken out against LGBTI rights violations in other third countries including [Honduras](#), [Egypt](#), [Iraq](#), [Nigeria](#), [Azerbaijan](#), [Malaysia](#), [Gambia](#), [Indonesia](#).

Media: challenging stereotypes against LGBTI people

Report (2018): Gender equality in the media sector in the EU

This [report](#) called for further measures to foster gender equality, including equality for LGBTI people, in media content and in the media sector. It encourages media literacy to combat gender and LGBTI inequality and discrimination. The report also highlights the positive effect advertising can have on children by “challenging stereotypes, such as gender stereotypes and stereotypes against LGBTI people”.

Health: first ever condemnation of LGBTI conversion therapy in the EU

Resolution (2018): Situation of fundamental rights in the EU in 2016

The European Parliament condemned LGBTI conversion therapy in the EU for the first time in a [resolution](#) on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU in 2016. The text also takes a stand against pathologisation of trans identities and the requirement of forced sterilisation and surgery to have

access to legal gender recognition in several Member States. It also condemned the medically unnecessary “genital ‘normalisation’ surger[ies]” performed on intersex children.

Education: the need for LGBTI-inclusive education

Resolution (2015): Empowering girls through education in the EU

This [resolution](#) encouraged Member States to work with the Commission to fight homophobia and transphobia in their education systems. It suggested that school curricula should include “objective information on LGBTI issues” and that education programs should address issues of gender inequality and discrimination, including transphobia and homophobia in the form of cyberbullying.

LGBTI refugees & asylum seekers: safe countries not always safe for LGBTI people

Report (2016): The situation of women refugees and asylum seekers in the EU

This [report](#) on women refugees and asylum seekers includes information on the situation of LGBTI asylum seekers. It highlights the need for LGBTI-sensitive reception facilities due to violence against LGBTI individuals. Additionally, it recognises that LGBTI asylum seekers may face discrimination and abuse in countries on the Commission’s list of ‘safe’ countries and therefore can claim asylum on that ground.

Rainbow Families: free movement not implemented for LGBTI people

Report (2018): Fighting discrimination of EU citizens belonging to minorities in the EU Member States

This [report](#) on upholding the rights of minorities in the EU includes a section on the rights of LGBTI persons. The report encourages the Commission to monitor the cross-border rights for LGBTI person and rainbow families and make the information available. In addition, it urges the Commission to ensure the implementation of the Free Movement Directive and to ensure the right of free movement for LGBTI people and their families.

Trans people: legal gender recognition must be based on self-determination

Report (2015): The EU Strategy for equality between women and men post 2015

This [report](#) called upon “the Commission to ensure that Member States enable the full legal recognition of a person’s preferred gender, including change of first name, social security number and other gender indicators on identity documents” and called for the end of the pathologisation of trans identities.

Intersex rights: EU institutions and Member States must address intersex human rights violations

Resolution (2019): The rights of intersex people

An initiative of the LGBTI Intergroup & the Children's Rights Intergroup, this [resolution](#) condemns the multiple instances of violence and discrimination that intersex people are subjected to in the EU. It condemns sex normalising treatments and surgeries, performed in at least 21 Member States and only prohibited in two (Malta and Portugal). Other key provisions include the demand on Member States to ensure access to counselling for intersex people and their families, to facilitate access to medical records, and on the Commission to ensure EU funds do not support research & medical projects that contribute to violations of intersex people's rights.

The LGBTI Intergroup is the European Parliament's largest intergroup with 150+ MEPs from 24 Member States and 6 political groups. We have consistently defended the rights of LGBT people in the work of the European Parliament over 5 years, and will continue to defend them in 2019-2024.