

# IDAHOT+ Forum

Oslo,  
Norway  
2019



## **IDAHOT+ 2019, Oslo Declaration**

The International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, **IDAHOT+ Day**, is celebrated worldwide on 17 May every year.

In Europe, the national celebrations of the IDAHOT+ Day is supplemented by the annual event **IDAHOT+ Forum**. The IDAHOT+ Forum is an arena where European governments, civil society representatives, and regional and international institutions can discuss the human rights situation of the European LGBTI population, and policies related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. The IDAHOT+ Forum has since 2013 been hosted by an increasing number of national governments across Europe. An informal ministerial meeting organised as a part of the IDAHOT+ Forum programme provides a unique opportunity for ministers and high-level representatives from the EU, the Council of Europe (CoE), the OECD, and the UN to exchange views and discuss matters related to sexual and gender diversity.

**The Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network of the European Region (FPN)**, was launched in 2004 and meets biannually. By 2019, 34 European states are members of the network. FPN is the only arena in Europe where government representatives can meet and share updated knowledge, discuss common challenges and possible measures to combat discrimination related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics. Through the observer role of the Council of Europe, EU, OECD, World bank and the UN, the network also provides opportunities for sharing knowledge and important developments, also between the national, the European and the international level.

**European LGBTI civil society stakeholders** such as ILGA Europe, IGLYO, Transgender Europe, OII- Europe are well established and play a key role in identifying challenges met by the LGBTI population in Europe, and suggesting relevant policy- and legal measures to both European institutions and national governments. Civil society stakeholders play an active role both as observers to the FPN and as contributors to the annual IDAHOT Forum.

**The Council of Europe and the EU** are key players in the field of human rights in Europe. We greatly appreciate the many important steps taken by these institutions and by international actors such as the UN, including the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual

orientation and gender identity, the OECD and the World Bank, aiming to safeguard and improve the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. The Council of Europe LGBT-recommendation of 2010 (CM Rec 2010/5), to CoE member states, on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, is a key reference document to promote Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) equality and rights, over almost a decade. A key initiative taken by the EU Commission in 2015 is *the List of Actions to advance LGBTI Equality*. The Council adopted conclusions on LGBTI equality in 2016 requiring the Commission to report annually on the implementation of the list of actions. Relevant jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights and the EU Court of Justice, data and research-based knowledge from the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union (FRA), and policy steps taken by the EU Commission, have also had significant implications on both European and national level.

Taking into account all positive developments, including the efforts of the European states and institutions, we must also acknowledge that LGBTI persons, still face levels of discrimination and violence and that LGBTI persons with multiple minority backgrounds are the most vulnerable among the LGBTI population.

Taking into account gender diversity in health and the updated International Classification of Diagnoses (ICD-11) by the World Health Organization (WHO). Considering the decision taken by the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH), in 2018, to launch the second review process of the implementation of the CoE LGBTI-recommendation, in coordination with the Governmental LGBTI Focal Points Network of the European Region, and in consultation with civil society;

*We, European Ministers, on the occasion of the IDAHOT+ Forum 2019, call for a renewed commitment from the Council of Europe and its Committee of Ministers, from the EU institutions and from European states, by:*

- a) Adopting all necessary measures to ensure and promote sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics equality at the international, regional and national levels, including the support and adoption of legislation and strategies.*
- b) Making available the appropriate human and financial resources to the work on sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics equality;*
- c) Ensuring that intergovernmental bodies have a mandate to mainstream sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics equality into relevant policies, law- and research-initiatives.*

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