

# TGEU Welcomes First EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy

[statement & call to action](#), [non-discrimination](#)

Today, the European Commission presents its first comprehensive strategy for advancing the rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer people in the European Union. TGEU warmly welcomes the [EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020 – 2025](#).

The strategy signals a new level of awareness and commitment of the European Union for the equality of LGBTIQ people. TGEU, alongside other stakeholders, has been for years demanding a comprehensive response addressing the challenges of trans people.

Trans persons remain marginalised and excluded throughout Europe. Research consistently indicate that trans people suffer from disproportionately high levels of violence, harassment and discrimination in all fields of life. The 2020 LGBTIQ survey from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency indicates that over a half of trans people have been discriminated against over the last year. A higher proportion of trans people felt discriminated at work in 2019 compared to 2012. TGEU has been documenting a drastic impact of the COVID-crisis, worsening the health, socioeconomic and political situation of the trans community. And some governments are using the pandemic as an excuse to limit the rights of trans persons.

In times of a global pandemic and European values being openly challenged trans people need the European Union at their side more than ever. This strategy takes the activities of the European Commission to a whole new level. For the first time, the European Commission as a whole commits to promoting the rights of transgender people. According to a press briefing the strategy sets out a series of targeted actions around four main pillars, focused on: tackling discrimination; ensuring safety; building inclusive societies; and leading the call for LGBTIQ equality around the world.

TGEU Executive Director, Masen Davis, comments:

*“Trans people are an integral part of Europe. Today, the European Commission has made this very clear. This strategy is a milestone, which TGEU and others have worked hard for. It has the potential to touch upon the lives of millions of trans people. TGEU is committed to making it a success for all trans people, and to monitoring its implementation critically.”*



## Union of Equality: LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025

Building a Union where you are free to be yourself

Factsheet – November 2020

#EU4LGBTIQ

*"I will not rest when it comes to building a Union of Equality. A Union where you can be who you are and love who you want – without fear of recrimination or discrimination. Because being yourself is not your ideology. It's your identity. And no-one can ever take it away."*

**Ursula von der Leyen**  
President of the European Commission  
State of the Union 2020



The EU has made step-by-step progress towards LGBTIQ equality over the past years, but discrimination against LGBTIQ people continues to persist.



In 2019, **76%** of EU citizens believe that lesbian, gay, and bisexual people should have equal rights to heterosexual people, compared to 71% in 2015.



However **43%** of LGBT people felt discriminated against in 2019, as compared with 37% in 2012.

### Promoting diversity in the European Union

The European Commission has a vision for a European Union where diversity is celebrated as part of our collective richness. A Union where you can be who you are and love who you want.

In the EU, every LGBTIQ person should:



Be safe



Have equal opportunities



Fully participate in society

Justice  
and Consumers



## First-ever EU LGBTIQ Strategy

The European Commission steps up action to promote a Union of Equality for all by adopting the first-ever EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. It sets out a number of key objectives across four pillars to be achieved by 2025:



### 1. Tackling discrimination against LGBTIQ people

- ▶ Enforcing and improving legal protection against discrimination
- ▶ Promoting inclusion and diversity in the workplace
- ▶ Combating inequality in education, health, culture and sport
- ▶ Upholding the rights of LGBTIQ applicants for international protection



### 2. Ensuring LGBTIQ people's safety

- ▶ Reinforcing legal protection for LGBTIQ people against hate crime, hate speech and violence
- ▶ Strengthening measures to combat anti-LGBTIQ online hate speech, disinformation
- ▶ Reporting of anti-LGBTIQ hate crime and exchanges of good practices
- ▶ Protecting and promoting LGBTIQ people's bodily and mental health



### 3. Building LGBTIQ inclusive societies

- ▶ Ensuring rights for LGBTIQ people in cross-border situations
- ▶ Improving the legal protection for rainbow families in cross-border situations
- ▶ Improving the recognition of trans and non-binary, and intersex people
- ▶ Fostering an enabling environment for civil society



### 4. Leading the call for LGBTIQ equality around the world

- ▶ Strengthening the EU's engagement on LGBTIQ issues in all its external relations



### LGBTIQ equality in EU policies: Mainstreaming

The Commission will integrate the fight against discrimination affecting LGBTIQ people in all EU policies.

*I am proud to be intersex. It is a matter of time until everyone has heard of it and until everyone understands that biological sex is not binary. It will take longer for people to accept that everyone is free to choose how they identify.*

**Intersex person, aged 35, living in Sweden**

*I have been attacked in the corner of my street by a group of men, only because I was holding hands with my partner at the time.*

**Gay man, aged 28, living in Germany**

*My wife and I are lucky to enjoy life with our two kids as a recognised family in Belgium. But as soon as we cross the border to our home countries, we are no longer a family. This makes us worry all the time. If something were to happen to me, my wife would have a very difficult time claiming her rights to our kids.*

**Slovak-Romanian lesbian couple, two children, living in Belgium**

Testimonies from the [FRA survey 2019 survey](#), and collected by the European Commission

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## Background

The EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 follows upon the list of actions to advance LGBTIQ equality (2015-2019), which was a first set of actions by DG Justice. It contained legislative measures, monitoring of existing rights of LGBTIQ people and awareness raising. The European Parliament has been calling for a comprehensive commitment for LGBTIQ rights since 2014.

**Transgender Europe – TGEU** is a NGO working for the human rights and equality of trans people. TGEU has 165 member organisations in 47 countries in Europe and Central Asia.

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