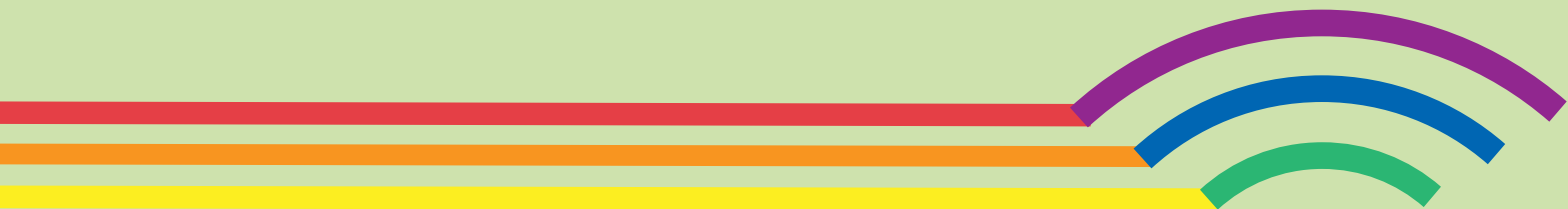


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and legal news bulletin



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This programme is managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities of the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitment. PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large

For more information see:

<http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

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Registration for ILGA-Europe's Annual Conference in The Hague

by ILGA-Europe

The registration for the 14th ILGA-Europe's Annual Conference which will take place in The Hague, The Netherlands between 28 and 31 October, is now available on-line:

http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/news/latest_news/register_for_the_annual_conference_2010_in_the_hague

Deadline for registration: 11 September 2010.

More about our Annual Conference:

http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/about_us/annual_conference/the_hague_2010

ILGA-Europe organises seminar on strategic litigation

by ILGA-Europe

ILGA-Europe is organising a seminar for member organisations on strategic planning from 24-26 September 2010 in London. **Deadline for registration: 7 July 2010**

Objectives of the seminar are:

- To raise awareness among member organisations of the value of strategic litigation as a tool for achieving long term objectives both at national and European level
- To equip participants with sufficient knowledge to make a start on using litigation in their organisation's advocacy plans, and to engage in dialogue with litigation partners.

The seminar will explain the concept of strategic litigation, explore the type of issues which can be addressed, illustrate the benefits from successful examples, and look at questions such as identifying good cases, the needs of the person taking the case, and finding/working with legal experts. Participants will enhance their learning by working together in small groups to develop litigation plans.

The seminar is part of a new programme of work by ILGA-Europe aimed at enhancing the capacity of member organisations to undertake strategic litigation on sexual orientation and gender identity issues at both national and European level. It is intended that it will be followed with workshops in which selected member organisations and their legal advisers work together on the development of a national litigation strategy. An important aim of the programme is to generate cases which close gaps in LGBT human rights case law at European and national level.

More information about the seminar and applications form:

http://ilga-europe.org/home/what_we_do/litigation/events/strategic_litigation_seminar_september_2010

Organisational and Community Leadership Development Training in Brussels

by Lilit Poghosyan, ILGA-Europe's Programmes & Policy Officer

From 21-23 of June 8 members of our partner organisations from the Western Balkans participated in the training organised by ILGA-Europe within the framework of the Step Up! project.

The goal of the training was to enhance the knowledge, self-understanding and skills of LGBT activists in organisational management and community development. During the training the participants have learned about different strategies for social change, the links between organisational development and community development as well as skills and attributes of management and leadership. They have also learned how teams work and how to manage people and have been guided to develop strategic plans for their organizations.

ILGA Europe's Step Up! Project was launched in January 2010 for 3 years with 5 partner organisations in the Western Balkans.

Read more about the project on our website: www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/step_up_stronger_lgbt_movements_for_equality_in_western_balkans

Find the pictures of the training here: www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/step_up/step_up_training_april_2010_belgrade_serbia

Study Visit to EU for LGBT activists from the Western Balkans and Turkey

by Lilit Poghosyan, ILGA-Europe's Programmes & Policy Officer

On 24 and 25 of June 10 LGBT activists from the Western Balkans and Turkey participated in the study visit organised by ILGA-Europe.

The study visit aimed to increase the knowledge of the activists on EU institutions and on the advocacy opportunities offered by those institutions as well as to give them an opportunity to raise the concerns of LGBT people in their respective countries with different EU officials.

During the study visit the activists participated in the consultations on the European Commission's 2010 Progress Reports and have met with relevant desk officers at the European Commission. They have also been introduced to the work of the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT rights and met with MEPs. Meetings took place also with relevant officials at the Belgian Permanent Representation to EU and at the Human Rights Unit of DG External Relations of the European Commission.

ILGA-Europe organises annually study visits to EU for LGBT activists from accession and pre-accession countries. Read more about our work on EU enlargement at:

www.ilga-europe.org/home/what_we_do/working_with_the_european_institutions/eu_enlargement

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, discusses advance of LGBT rights with ILGA-Europe

Source: ILGA-Europe's media release, 16 June 2010

On 15 June, ILGA-Europe met with the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjørn Jagland to discuss follow up to the adoption of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation and resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly earlier this spring. In their first meeting with Mr. Jagland since his election as Secretary General in 2009, ILGA-Europe representatives stressed the importance of having mechanisms and resources within the Council of Europe to ensure effective implementation of the **Recommendation on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity**.

The Recommendation is the world's first intergovernmental agreement codifying the application of human rights standards to LGBT people.

The Recommendation establishes how international human rights standards should be applied to LGBT people and contains specific measures for Member States on how they should improve their legislation, policies and practices to address discrimination against LGBT people in such areas as

- **hate crime and hate speech;**
- **freedom of association, expression and peaceful assembly;**
- **right to respect for private and family life;**
- **employment;**
- **education;**
- **health;**
- **housing;**
- **sports;**
- **right to seek asylum.**

Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe, said:

"We thank the Secretary General for this unique opportunity to sit down with him and discuss how to build on the current momentum to lead to real advances for LGBT people in the different countries. We strongly encouraged the Secretary General to seize this opportunity for the Council of Europe to take leadership by taking clear measures to ensure concrete and effective follow-up to the Recommendation. To borrow words he used in his IDAHO statement, ILGA-Europe firmly believes that now is the time to do something and for visionary politicians to take action."

EUROPE:



The full text of the Recommendations is available on the Committee of Ministers' website:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1606669&Site=CM&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EBDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383>

Full the texts of the PACE Report, Resolution and Recommendations, as well as voting record, available at:

http://assembly.coe.int/ASP/NewsManager/EMB_NewsManagerView.asp?ID=5517&L=2

European Union adopts a toolkit on LGBT rights

by ILGA-Europe

On 8 June 2010 the Council of the European Union's Working Party on Human Rights adopted the **Toolkit to Promote and Protect the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People**.

ILGA-Europe was one of the driving forces behind the Toolkit, was consulted by the working group during the process of its development, and actively contributed towards its content.

The document aims to provide staff in the EU Headquarters, EU Member States' capitals, EU Delegations, Representations and Embassies with an operational set of tools to be used in contacts with third countries, as well as with international and civil society organisations, in order to promote and protect the human rights enjoyed by LGBT people within its external action. It seeks to enable the EU to proactively react to cases of human rights violations of LGBT people and to structural causes behind these violations. By doing so, the Toolkit will further contribute to reinforcing and supporting the EU's human rights policy in general.

The Toolkit is available at the Council's website:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/st11179.en10.pdf>



European Neighbourhood Policy progress reports

by **Beth Fernandez**, *ILGA-Europe's Programmes & Policy Officer*

On 12th May, the European Commission published progress reports on how states participating in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) have implemented the obligations contained in their action plans agreed with the EU.

In December each year the Commission invites civil society to submit information on how the action plan obligations are being implemented. ILGA-Europe and member partners from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine used the opportunity to give feedback in respect of LGBT issues.

All action plans contain a general commitment to strengthen of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. However only two (Moldova and Ukraine) contain specific obligations on issues of direct relevance to LGBT groups (freedom of assembly and comprehensive anti discrimination legislation).

In **Moldova**, the Commission noted that:

- the **draft law on preventing and combating discrimination**, which underwent public consultations in June-July 2009, had not yet been submitted to Parliament.
- Discriminatory treatment and social stigmatisation of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and sexual minorities continued to be reported by international organisations and civil society.
- There were reports of cases of arbitrary restriction of the **right to peaceful assembly** during the first half of 2009, For the second year in a row, the organisers of the annual 'gay pride' event decided to cancel it, citing security concerns.

The Commission's report on **Ukraine** stated that:

- no progress had been made towards the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, as recommended by UN and Council of Europe monitoring bodies.
- In June 2009 the *Verkhovna Rada* adopted at first reading a draft law touching on **freedom of assembly** ("Order of organising and conducting peaceful events"). This draft had been was criticised by the Venice Commission which noted "several substantial shortcomings" in the draft law, including the lack of clear standards to guide official decisionmaking.
- In May 2009, the city authorities in Mykolayiv banned the holding of a Rainbow Spring Festival to mark the International Day against Homophobia.

All progress reports can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/documents_en.htm#3

FRA reports on fundamental rights in 2009

Source: FRA

FRA Director Morten Kjaerum presented the Fundamental Rights Agency's Annual Report 2010 to the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs today.

The Annual Report gives an overview of developments in the area of fundamental rights for the year 2009. It presents the challenges in this area, as well as examples of good practices where Member States are successfully protecting fundamental rights.

The Annual Report 2010 reveals that many equality bodies, national human rights institutions and data protection authorities lack resources, are not independent enough, and often have very weak mandates.

Many separated asylum-seeking children disappear whilst their case is being processed. LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual) persons suffer discrimination in areas of everyday life, such as at work or in bars. Racism continues to be a part of everyday life for many immigrants and minorities living in the EU, and the majority of EU Member States do not keep official records of racist crime.

To read the full report visit http://fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/attachments/AR_2010-conf-edition_en.pdf

KPH's success at the European Parliament Petitions Committee!

by KPH, 1 June 2010

The Committee on Petitions (PETI) has agreed to further look into the discriminatory practices of Polish Registry Offices which refuse to issue certificates of marital status to Polish citizens who wish to enter a same-sex union in another EU country.

KPH (Campaign Against Homophobia) has been monitoring this situation for years as it has received numerous complaints from Polish gays and lesbians who want to either enter a domestic partnership or get married in another EU country to a person of the same sex. To enter into such a union they are required to prove they are not married in Poland. The Registry Office refuses them this certificate when it becomes clear that they are lesbian or gay.

KPH had sent a petition to the PETI to take up this case and received the support of the international law firm Arnold & Porter LLP in the form of an amicus curiae who argued that this is a violation of the freedom of movement as well as the right to respect of privacy and family life.

On May 31, Krzysztof Smiszek, head of the KPH Legal Group, presented our petition to the PETI's Members. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of further examination of the issue and will request a report on the matter from the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament.

The representative of the European Commission (EC) present at the session claimed that the Commission is "sympathetic" to the fate of gays and lesbians, but does not see any competencies of the EC in this matter and mistook the petition as dealing with the recognition by Poland of same-sex unions.

PETI member Ermiona Mazzoni however stood by the decision of PETI to continue the case. "We respect the autonomy of Poland's family law, but why do they impede gays and lesbians from enjoying the rights of other countries?", she wondered.

The one Polish member of PETI from present, Lena Kolarska-Bobiska (PO – Civil Platform, center-right party, EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament) agreed that the practices of the Registry Offices should change.



European Court of Human Rights: “a cohabiting same-sex couple living in a stable de facto partnership, falls within the notion of “family life”, just as the relationship of a different-sex couple in the same situation would.”

Source: ILGA-Europe's media release, 24 June 2010

Today the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgement in the case of *Schalk and Kopf v. Austria* and ruled that Austria did not breach Article 12 (right to marry) by not allowing a same-sex couple to marry.

Nevertheless, three out of the seven judges were of the opinion that there was a violation of Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination) taken in conjunction with Article 8 (right for respect for private and family life) and that Austria had an obligation to introduce a registered partnership law before 1 January 2010.

On a positive note, the Court acknowledged “a rapid evolution of social attitudes towards same-sex couples had taken place in many member states and a considerable number of states had afforded them legal recognition”.

ILGA-Europe welcomes a conclusion by the Court that “a cohabiting same-sex couple living in a stable partnership, fell within the notion of ‘family life’, just as the relationship of a different-sex couple in the same situation would” in line with the intervention of Prof. Robert Wintemute on behalf of ILGA-Europe. This represents a shift in the reasoning of the Court, as it is the first time that the European Court of Human Rights referred to same-sex unions as families for the purpose of Article 8 (right for respect for private and family life) of the European Convention of Human Rights.

The Court also made an important reference to the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and stressed that its Article 9 on the right to marry does not refer to men and women. The Court then said that it “would no longer consider that the right to marry enshrined in Article 12 [of the Convention] must in all circumstances be limited to marriage between two persons of the opposite sex”.

Martin K.I. Christensen, Co-Chair of ILGA-Europe's Executive Board, said:

“Today's judgement reflects an emerging European consensus. As more and more countries provide legal recognition for same-sex partners, Europe as a whole is gradually moving towards full equality for same-sex families. We are disappointed that on this occasion the Court employed a less proactive approach and limited

LGBT FAMILIES:



itself to stating that the issue is within the legal competence of individual countries.

Having said that, we believe the Court made various important statements which will eventually serve to advance legal rights for same-sex families. We hope that in a near future the Court will move forward in recognising equal enjoyment of the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights by same-sex couples”.

Press release of the European Court of Human Rights:

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?action=html&documentId=870475&portal=hbkm&source=externalbydocnumber&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649>

Full judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in *Schalk and Kopf v. Austria*:

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/view.asp?action=html&documentId=870475&portal=hbkm&source=externalbydocnumber&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649>

ILGA-Europe, the FIDH (Federation Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme), the International Commission of Jurists, and the AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe) contributed joint written comments and an oral submission by Prof. Robert Wintemute (25 February 2010).



Portuguese Prime Ministers meets with representatives of ILGA-Europe, ILGA-Portugal and other Portuguese LGBT activists to celebrate an official publication of a law opening marriage to same-sex couples

Source: ILGA-Europe's media release, 31 May 2010

Upon the Prime-Minister's invitation, representatives of ILGA-Europe, ILGA-Portugal and other organisations are participating today in a lunch to commemorate the publication of the Portuguese law that ensures equal access to marriage. The law was approved in Parliament on 8 January 8 2010 and signed by the President on 17 May 17 2010.

This law is a national and international landmark in the fight for equality of LGBT people – a fight that will continue to require the mobilization of every person and every institution.

Paulo Côte-Rea, president of the board of ILGA-Portugal, said:

"This moment reinforces the national and international recognition of the work done by civil society in order to push forward this milestone against discrimination. It also marks the recognition by the Portuguese Government of these organisations as important stakeholders."

Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe, added:

"The adoption of the law in Portugal is another important step towards full equality for LGBT people in Europe as it increases the number of countries which guarantee access to marriage to same-sex couples. It also signals that more governments in Europe are recognizing that this is an issue of human rights and equality, which countries with different cultural, social and political backgrounds are ready to embrace."



Iceland passes same-sex marriage law in unanimous vote

Source: Reuters, 11 June 2010, www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE65A3V020100611

Iceland, the only country in the world to have an openly gay head of state, passed a law on Friday allowing same-sex partners to get married in a vote which met with no political resistance.

Althingi parliament voted 49 to zero to change the wording of marriage legislation to include matrimony between "man and man, woman and woman," in addition to unions between men and women.

Iceland, a socially tolerant island nation of about 320,000 people, became the first country to elect an openly gay head of state in 2009 when Social Democrat Johanna Sigurdardottir became prime minister after being nominated by her party.

"The attitude in Iceland is fairly pragmatic," said Gunnar Helgi Kristinsson, a political scientist at the University of Iceland. "It (gay marriage) has not been a big issue in national politics - it's not been controversial."

The prime minister's sexual orientation garnered far more interest among foreign media than in Iceland, where the attitude toward homosexuality has grown increasingly relaxed in the past two or three decades, Kristinsson added.

Iceland's protestant church has yet to decide whether to allow same-sex marriages in church, although the law says "ministers will always be free to perform (gay) marriage ceremonies, but never obliged to."



Enforcement and recasting process of the EU asylum legislation: ILGA-Europe needs to build on members' expertise

by Joël Le Deroff, ILGA-Europe's Policy & Programmes Officer

ILGA-Europe is currently trying to gather information on asylum claims lodged in European Union Member States in the last years.

The EU law on asylum is made of a set of directives and regulations adopted by the European Council from 2003 to 2005. These instruments provide minimal binding standards that should be implemented by all EU Member States, which remain free to adopt more generous provisions.

Sexual orientation is included in EU directives as a reason for persecution, enabling asylum seekers to lodge a claim in the EU. "Gender related aspects" are also mentioned in European law. However, LGBT activists know from their day-to-day experience that many countries refuse to grant asylum even when there is an obvious and documented risk of persecution.

To strengthen our arguments and to give flesh to our dialogue with the European Commission and the Parliament, ILGA-Europe needs to collect information on individual cases. We are looking for information on cases where a decision has already been taken by national asylum authorities, may it be a positive or a negative decision.

ILGA-Europe is not in a position to provide direct support to individual asylum seekers during the procedures, but the information collected will be particularly helpful for two purposes:

1. LGBT rights defenders and NGOs specialized in asylum issues are aware of the need to improve the legislation, at national and at European level. The EU legislation is currently undergoing a recasting process, which is an opportunity for us to lobby for amendments to the current directives and regulations. Our advocacy strategy will be stronger if illustrated by concrete situations;
2. The European Commission can launch infringements procedures against Member States when the EU legislation is not correctly implemented. When it comes to EU asylum law, the Commission will consider doing so only on the basis of evidence of bad implementation.

ILGA-Europe would particularly appreciate information on cases of transgender asylum seekers, as the existing legislation is not explicit enough when it comes to persecution on the ground of gender identity.

Please contact Joël Le Déroff, Policy & Programmes Officer: joel@ilga-europe.org



European Parliament sends strong signal that the next EU gender equality strategy needs to include transgender people

Source: ILGA-Europe's media release, 17 June 2010

Today the European Parliament adopted the Figueiredo Report calling for a strengthened follow up strategy to the Roadmap for equality between men and women 2006-2010. The report clearly indicates that the strategy needs to take into account LGBT aspects, particularly equality for transgender people.

The European Parliament calls for:

- the tackling of multiple discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organisations in future work on gender equality;
- gender reassignment procedures to be made accessible, including through public health insurance schemes; and
- future EU actions in the field of gender equality to explicitly cover issues linked to gender identity and gender reassignment.

ILGA-Europe is pleased with the outcome of the debate as the Figueiredo Report contains all of the key proposals that ILGA-Europe submitted to the European Commission during the 2009 consultation.

Evelyne Paradis, Executive Director of ILGA-Europe, said:

"We hope that the European Commission will follow-up on the European Parliament's leadership and actively takes on board the promotion of gender equality for all, tackling multiple discrimination experienced by women and transgender people.

We also hope that the European Commission will follow the example of the Council of Europe's Conference of Ministers responsible for Equality between Women and Men which identified that 'women and girls discriminated on grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity, [and] transgender persons' were particularly vulnerable group needing specific attention."

ILGA-Europe's contribution to the consultation on the roadmap for equality between women and men 2006-2010 and follow up strategy:

TRANSGENDER:



http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/publications/policy_papers/contribution_to_the_consultation_on_the_roadmap_for_equality_between_women_and_men_2006_2010_and_follow_up_strategy

The outcome of the Council of Europe Conference of Gender Equality Ministers:

www.ilga-europe.org/home/publications/policy_papers/contribution_to_the_consultation_on_the_roadmap_for_equality_between_women_and_men_2006_2010_and_follow_up_strategy



UK: Woman who had sex change wins legal right to pension at 60

Source: *The Guardian*, 22 June 2010, www.guardian.co.uk/law/2010/jun/22/woman-sex-change-right-pension

A woman who had a sex-change operation 10 years ago has won her battle to receive a pension from the age of 60. Christine Timbrell was born Christopher Timbrell in 1941, but had surgery to change her gender in 2000. But Revenue & Customs decreed that Timbrell could not claim her pension, because she had not divorced her wife, Joy, and her new gender status was not recognised in law.

Timbrell's sex-change operation was carried out with the knowledge and consent of her wife and they continue to live together as a married couple. The couple, who met when Timbrell was a man in his 20s, have been married for 42 years and have two children.

Timbrell applied to the Revenue & Customs national insurance contributions office for her state pension in 2002, which she asked to be backdated to her 60th birthday, a year earlier.

But she was refused because under the 2004 Gender Recognition Act, which entitles transsexuals to enjoy the full status of their gender, the new sex of married transsexuals is only recognised if their marriages are annulled or dissolved.

Timbrell, an accountant from Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, took her case to the court of appeal after the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) said she was entitled to a state pension from the age of 65, the usual age for a man.

Marie-Eleni Demetriou, representing her at a hearing in March, said the rule under the act that she must end her marriage for her gender to be recognised was a "disproportionate" violation of her human rights to respect for her home and family life.

Jeremy Johnson, for the DWP, recognised the "difficult situation" Timbrell found herself in and the "harsh choice" she faced in whether to end her happy marriage, but insisted that she was a male in law, and as such was only entitled to a pension at 65.

Lord Justice Aikens, giving the ruling of the three appeal judges, said that before the Gender Recognition Act, English law had no way of dealing with a person who had changed gender, meaning "once a man, always a man". But he said that a lack of legal framework to allow the law to recognise gender change and obtain a pension was discrimination.

The judge said that this meant that the DWP could not deny Timbrell the right to a pension as a woman from her 60th birthday.

Full judgement is available at: <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2010/701.html>



Ireland: Government withdraws transgender appeal

Source: RTÉ News, 21 June 2010, www.rte.ie/news/2010/0621/foyl.html

The Government has dropped its challenge to a High Court declaration that Irish law on transgender rights is in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Government must now introduce legislation recognising the new gender of transgender persons and allowing them to obtain new birth certificates or it will face condemnation from the European Court of Human Rights.

Dr Lydia Foy, a transgender woman registered at birth as a male who had challenged Irish law on this matter, today welcomed the Government's decision saying it finally marked an end to her 13-year battle for recognition as a woman.

The Government has withdrawn its appeal to the Supreme Court and has set up an inter-departmental group to advise the Minister for Social Protection on the legislation required.

The Free Legal Advice Centre welcomed the Government's decision, which it described as significant and groundbreaking.

A spokesperson for the Department of Social Protection has said that a Gender Recognition Advisory Group has been established.

Prides across Europe: Stonewall battle goes on in Europe!

Source: ILGA-Europe' statement, 25 June 2010

During this weekend and the following weeks, many LGBT Pride events will continue to take place in Europe. The end of June is a time when we commemorate the 1969 Stonewall riots in New York which are considered the beginning of a global Pride movement.

Forty years after the Stonewall riots, LGBT people in some corners of Europe are still denied the very basic political right to use public space to express themselves and call for respect and equality. This year, LGBT activists in St Petersburg (Russia) have been refused permission to organise their public event by the city authorities, as all suggestions for different Pride March routes were dismissed by the city.

In Sofia (Bulgaria) and Brno (Czech Republic) LGBT Pride events will go ahead, but their organisers and participants have been subjected to intimidations, threats and hatred campaign lead by neo-Nazi groups in the weeks and days before the event.

ILGA-Europe once again wants to express its support to and solidarity with all LGBT pride events taking place in Europe. We condemn St Petersburg city authorities for such blatant disregard of the European Convention of Human Rights and the Russian Constitution. We hope that the police forces in Sofia and Brno will ensure the safety of all participants of Pride event. We encourage the participants of Pride events in Vienna, Dublin, Barcelona, Cologne, London, Lyon, Antwerp, and many other places across Europe as they celebrate and express themselves freely in the coming days to remember that many LGBT people in Europe are still denied their basic human rights and subjected to hate and intimidation campaign. Express your solidarity, remember that the Stonewall battle is not yet won in Europe!



Repeated homophobic violence before the Pride Parade in Ljubljana

by Tatjana Greif, Sekcija SKUC-LL, 28 June 2010

One year after the violent attack on lesbian and gay bar "Cafe Open" in Ljubljana, last week the cafe was attacked again, in two subsequent attacks with Molotov-cocktail at the entrance, followed with the homophobic graffiti all over the front wall saying "Death to faggots" and similar hate speech. The same graffiti were written on the private house, which belongs to the judge, who was in charge at the trial against the three young men, who attacked Cafe Open in 2009 and who were convicted to 1.5 year imprisonment.

All three attacks happened during the night when the bar was closed. The nearest neighbors called the police. Also, all three attacks happened at the start of the "Pride Parade Week", like it was the case a year ago, when "Cafe Open" was attacked by a group of masked men with burning torches and stones and when a gay activist was beaten. Recent hostile events, which were recognized as homophobic intimidation in the eye of coming Pride Parade in Ljubljana (which is going to take place next Saturday, 3rd July 2010) and as intention to intimidate the judge and juridical officials, have been condemned by the highest Slovenian politicians and the president of Republic of Slovenia Dr Danilo Turk.

European Man-for-Man Internet Survey 2010

by ILGA-Europe

This is the first ever survey like this to happen across Europe and it will be the biggest survey of gay and bisexual men ever undertaken anywhere in the world. It is anonymous, safe, and relatively short (it takes about 15-25 minutes to complete).

The survey is being carried out by an international group of researchers and health workers in public health institutes, universities and non-governmental organisations across Europe, in collaboration with LGBT organisations in 31 countries. It is funded by the European Commission.

Taking part might mean you find out something new and the information you provide will help programmes better meet of gay and bisexual men. A high response rate will also help sending a signal to governments that HIV and sexual health are still very important. It could also mean that services for gay men and bisexual men get funded.

ILGA-Europe shared its expertise during the development of this survey and we encourage you to take part. We believe it will help gay and bisexual men across Europe to improve gay and bisexual men's sex lives and reduce the harm that can come from them, including reducing new HIV infections.

This survey is available at:

<https://www.demographix.com/surveys/3Y9Q-VHRX/37XLDP3J/?LVgaylv>

NOTICE BOARD:



Scholl of Diversity

by **BLUS**

This is an international conference with 60 participants from eight different countries, taking place on 18-25 July in Frederiksberg, Denmark. The theme of the conference is 'School of Diversity'. Today many institutions of higher education are realising the benefits of having a diverse staff and student body. Therefore it is important for us as members of LGBTQ student organisations to be able to influence the process of working towards an inclusion of diversity. What does diversity mean for us and how do we, who represent LGBTQ issues, get the best out of this development? We will have discussions, lectures, workshops and loads of social activity. An ANSO conference is a great way to meet LGBTQ people from other countries.

Participation in the conference is free. All participants will be living at the venue for the week and food will be supplied. BLUS will pay 70% of travel costs. If you have any questions or if you want to help with the planning of the conference please contact diversity@blus.dk. More information: <http://diversity.blus.dk/>