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The seven-year Programme targets all stake holders 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' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, 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/employment_social/progress/index_en.html

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

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Message from Dirk



Dear Euroletter readers, ILGA-Europe members, friends and supporters,

It is my honour and pleasure to address you all in my first message as ILGA-Europe's Executive Director.

We all have an exciting and challenging year ahead and I look forward to work with all of you to continue strengthening the organisation and advancing equality for LGBT people in Europe. Here are just some areas we will be concentrating on this year:

One of the main campaigns for this year is definitely on the new EU anti-discrimination Directive. ILGA-Europe and its allies did tremendous work last year in getting the proposal to cover all grounds of discrimination. Now we jointly need to work hard to ensure all 27 EU member states are with us. We will continue strengthening alliances with European and national partners working in the area of equality.

In the beginning of this year, the European Parliament called for mutual recognition of same-sex partnerships among those EU member states which already provide for such registration. This is a great beginning of the year and further advocacy and lobbying towards full embracement and recognition of family model diversity is firmly on our agenda. ILGA-Europe will be particularly active in a process of reviewing the EU freedom of movement directive and how it applies to LGBT families.

ILGA-Europe will continue working on monitoring and documenting expressions of hatred and violence against LGBT people. We will continue working with our members and allies in building evidence for European framework addressing hate and violence motivated by homo and transphobia.

We will be working with Transgender Europe preparing for a review of the EU gender equality directives in 2010 to ensure gender identity and gender expression are explicitly referred to and protections against

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discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and gender identity are equally provided by EU legislation.

In June EU citizens will elect a new European Parliament and we will work to ensure a new Parliament remains as committed and supportive of equality and human rights ideals as the previous one.

This year ILGA-Europe starts the largest of its kind project in a single country – Russia. Together with our partners in that country we will be contributing towards building and strengthening the capacity of LGBT advocates and undeniably this is going to be exciting, but challenging undertaking.

We will continue developing advocacy and documentation capacity of our members through number of training sessions on the ground and publishing advocacy annual.

We will also continue working with our members and European institutions towards introduction of anti-discrimination and anti-hatred laws using EU's neighborhood Policy and EU accession process in the countries outside the European Union.

ILGA-Europe will continue its developmental work by taking further steps in its diversity project and evaluation process.

These are just a few examples of the tasks and challenges ahead. But I am confident that with such strong membership, board and staff teams we will continue to advance and I look forward to work with you all.

Dirk De Meirleir

Executive Director

Good byes and thanks

by ILGA-Europe



In January we said good bye to Patricia Prendiville who was ILGA-Europe's Executive Director from October 2004. Many tributes have been paid to Patricia since she announced her decision to leave the organisation in October 2008, many kind and warm words have been said by members, board, staff and numerous allies and partners about her invaluable contribution to the organisation and her charismatic personality.

Once again, on behalf of ILGA-Europe's family – its members, board and staff teams, we would like to express our gratitude to Patricia for her energy, commitment and humanity. We wish Patricia all the best in her future career and her private life!



In December we also said temporarily good bye to Christine Loudes, who was with ILGA-Europe since February 2004 initially as its Policy Officer and from 2007 as its Policy Director. Christine took three years of absence and now works with Amnesty International in Brussels. We wish Christine an exciting experience with Amnesty International!

Call for candidates for ILGA-Europe's Election Preparation Committee

by *Linda Freimane & Martin K.I. Christensen, Co-Chairs of ILGA-Europe's Executive Board*

Dear members of ILGA Europe,

As you know, the ILGA Europe conference in 2007 decided to establish an Election Preparation Committee (EPC) for a trial period, which was prolonged from 1 to 2 years by the Vienna conference in 2008. The four members of the EPC were appointed by the IE Board, after receiving proposals for candidates from our membership.

Recently one of the EPC members, Jasna Magic, informed us about her decision to leave the EPC for personal reasons.

This means that we need to find a replacement for Jasna as soon as possible, to give this person a reasonable chance to familiarise with the work of the EPC before the preparation work for this year's conference begins. Moreover, the EPC will also make an evaluation of their work these two years, in order to prepare grounds for a proposal to the 2009 conference in whether to make EPC a permanent body or abolish it.

According to the rules governing the trial EPC period it is the IE Board which appoints the members of EPC. Nevertheless, all member organisations were offered the possibility to propose suitable candidates when the EPC was established, and also this time we would like to ask you to submit names of candidates for Jasna's replacement.

Ideally the new member should meet certain criteria, namely be someone who:

- identifies as a female;
- comes from a region, which is not represented in the current EPC, such as South or Southwest Europe (the current members come from Denmark, Sweden and Croatia);
- has participated in IE events/at least one conference;
- has international/European LGBT contacts and networks;
- would feel enthusiastic for the task.

We realise that this might not be a very easy task, but we would like to ask all of you to consider potential candidates within your networks. If possible, please approach these individuals your selves and ask whether they accept the nomination or just e-mail us the name and contact information with a brief description why you think this person would be suitable.

We kindly ask you to respond not later than February 15.

Hoping for your active help on this matter!

Job opportunity with ILGA-Europe - Policy & Programmes Officer

by *ILGA-Europe*

The post holder will be responsible for providing policy, lobbying and capacity building services to support ILGA-Europe's advocacy of LGBT rights at the European level. In particular the post holder will work with our member organisations to implement and influence European level policies in the areas of justice and civil liberties (homophobic and transphobic violence, working with the police, asylum policies).

Candidates should be strongly committed to working for this cause, and have competencies and experience in developing, presenting and implementing policy proposals, in developing advocacy campaigns, in developing capacity building strategies to support policy development, working with members and external partners.

Other requirements are:

- A good knowledge of human rights and equality issues, particularly as they relate to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people
- A high standard of written and spoken English

Useful additional experience/knowledge could include:

- An excellent knowledge of two European institutions (European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe)
- A solid knowledge of human rights international standards
- Experience of working in an NGO and/or another human rights institution
- A working knowledge of French or another major European language

Gross salary:

The salary scale for the post is €41,387 and €46,162 – over four points. This is inclusive of the holiday pay. The post is being offered at the first point of the scale. The contract will be for two and half years, with a possibility of being renewed.

In addition there is a pension scheme in operation, a hospitalisation insurance scheme and 25 days annual leave. Relocation support from within Europe to Brussels will be given.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 17.00 CET, Friday, 20th February, 2009.

An application pack which also contains more information about the job is available on our website:

<http://www.ilga-europe.org/Europe/About-us/Job-opportunity/Policy-Programmes-Officer>

ILGA-Europe is an equal opportunities employer.

European Parliament supports mutual recognition of same-sex partnerships

by *Juris Lavrikovs, ILGA-Europe's Communications Manager*

On 14 January 2009, the European Parliament adopted a Report on the Situation of Fundamental Rights in the EU. The report was drafted by Italian MEP Giusto Catania and approved by 401 votes in favour, 220 against and 67 abstentions.

This report contains recommendations on a wide range of issue from poverty and homelessness to xenophobia, the treatment of Roma people and the application of anti-discrimination laws throughout the EU.

The reports calls on those EU Members States which already have introduced legislation recognising same-sex partners to mutually recognise such partnerships and ensure that registered same-sex partners can fully enjoy their freedom of movement between those EU Member States.

The report's section on sexual orientation:

Sexual orientation

72. Takes the view that discriminatory comments against homosexuals by social and political leaders fuel hatred and violence, and calls on the relevant governing bodies to condemn them;

73. Welcomes the publication of the first thematic report by the Agency, drawn up at Parliament's request, on 'homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation in the EU Member States' and asks to Member States and EU institutions to urgently follow the Agency's recommendations or state their reasons for not doing so;

74. Reminds all Member States that, in line with European Court of Human Rights case-law, freedom of assembly may be exercised even if the opinions of those exercising that right go against the majority, and that, accordingly, a discriminatory ban on marches and any failure to meet the requirement to give appropriate protection to those taking part breach the principles guaranteed by the European Court of Human Rights, by Article 6 of the EU Treaty on common EU values and principles, and by the Charter;

LGBT FAMILIES:

75. Calls on those Member States who have adopted legislation on same-sex partnerships to recognise provisions with similar effects adopted by other Member States; calls on those Member States to propose guidelines for mutual recognition of existing legislation between Member States in order to guarantee that the right of free movement within the European Union for same-sex couples applies under conditions equal to those applicable to heterosexual couples;

76. Urges the Commission to submit proposals ensuring that Member States apply the principle of mutual recognition for homosexual couples, whether they are married or living in a registered civil partnership, in particular when they are exercising their right to free movement under EU law;

77. Calls on those Member States who have not yet done so, and in application of the principle of equality, to take legislative action to overcome the discrimination experienced by some couples on the grounds of their sexual orientation;

78. Calls on the Commission to make sure that Member States grant asylum to persons fleeing from persecution on the grounds of their sexual orientation in their country of origin, to take initiatives at the bilateral and multilateral level to stop the persecutions of persons on the basis of their sexual orientation, and to launch a study on the situation of trans-sexual people in the Member States and candidate countries, with regard inter alia to the risk of harassment and violence;

Full text of the report is available on the European parliament's website:

www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&mode=XML&reference=A6-2008-0479&language=EN

ILGA-Europe publishes an updated version of the Guidelines on Freedom of Movement Directive and LGBT families

by *Juris Lavrikovs*, ILGA-Europe's Communications Manager

In 2004, the European Union adopted a Directive on the right to free movement.¹ This Directive sets out the rules applying to EU citizens and their family members who wish to move to another Member State. This can be for various purposes: to take up a new job, to undertake studies or even for retirement. It is particularly important for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) families who want to exercise their right to free movement.

The Directive entered into force on 30 April 2006. All 25 Member States, plus Bulgaria and Romania which joined the Union in 2007, should have taken steps to ensure that domestic immigration laws comply with the Directive. These guidelines provide an introduction to the Directive, an explanation of those provisions relevant to LGBT families, an overview of the transposition process, and an analysis of the impact of the Directive when applied to LGBT families. They are designed to assist organisations in monitoring national law in order to ensure that LGBT families enjoy the fullest protection in accordance with the Directive.

The Guidelines were originally written for ILGA-Europe by Mark Bell and published by in October 2005, this edition of the Guidelines was edited and updated by Matteo Bonini Baraldi. The PDF version of the Guidelines is available on our website: www.ilga-europe.org/Europe/Publications/Non-periodical

The printed version of the Guidelines will be available in mid-February, if you want to receive a printed version, please send your postal address details to: juris@ilga-europe.org.

¹ Directive 2004/38/EC on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States, [2004] OJ L229/35. N.B. The full text is available at:

http://extranjeros.mtas.es/es/NormativaJurisprudencia/UnionEuropea/Directivas/documentos/Directiva_2004-38_libre_circulacion_ingles.pdf

Sweden to allow gay marriage in May

Source: <http://www.thelocal.se/17050/20090121/>, 21 January 2009

Three of the parties in the four-party governing coalition have tabled a motion that is expected to pave the way for gay marriage in Sweden from May 1st this year.

The Alliance government has been split on the issue, with the junior partner Christian Democrats opposed to the use of the word "marriage" for homosexual unions.

However the three other parties, the conservative Moderates, the Liberals and the Centre Party, are in favour of a gender neutral law that eliminates the current reference to marriage as something between a man and a woman.

"Regardless of sexual orientation, people in stable couple relationships have a need to manifest their feelings and their desire to live together," the motion reads.

While heterosexuals in Sweden can choose to marry in either a civil ceremony or a church ceremony, homosexuals are only allowed to register their partnerships in a civil ceremony. But this could all change, with parliament likely to pass new legislation on the matter.

The opposition Social Democrats, the country's biggest party, also support such a law, and together the parties would garner enough support to adopt the legislation in parliament.

Civil unions granting gays and lesbians the same legal status as married couples have been allowed in Sweden since 1995.

If the new legislation is adopted, Sweden, already a pioneer in giving same-sex couples the right to adopt children, would become the first country in the world to allow gays to marry within a major church.

The Lutheran Church, which was separated from the state in 2000, has since January 2007 offered gays a religious blessing of their union. It has previously said it wants the word "marriage" reserved for heterosexual unions.

Pastors who do not want to perform a gay wedding ceremony may however have the right to refuse, something gay rights' activists have criticized.

Denmark: Report on rainbow families

by Søren Laursen, Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians

The 2008 study of Danish rainbow families is now available in English. The study is based on a comprehensive questionnaire on all aspects of planning and realising a rainbow family. The respondents represent 32 families including 44 children aged 0-18 years.

The Danish legislation is explained, and the implications of the shortcomings of the legislation is illustrated by the family cases. Many problems arise because the rainbow children of same-sex couples are dealt with in the adoption act rather than in the children's act. Furthermore the lack of recognition of more than two parents and different types of parents causes many problems.

In general the Danish society is embracing of the rainbow families. There are hardly any problems with institutions, authorities, and other families. Many of the respondents, however, experience problems with their own families. Also internalised hierarchies within the rainbow families are identified and need attention.

The discussion in the report identifies problems and suggest possible solutions in terms of legislation, procedures etc.

The report can be downloaded here:

http://www.lbl.dk/fileadmin/site/politik/familier/Rainbow_Families_2008.pdf

Progress on the new anti-discrimination directive: Report on the proposed directive presented in the European Parliament.....

by **Evelyne Paradis**, *ILGA-Europe's Policy Director*

Dutch MEP Kathalijne Buitenweg (Greens), the European Parliament Rapporteur on the directive, presented her report to the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee on 21 January. In her report, Ms Buitenweg proposes a number of amendments to the text proposed by the European Commission last July, including a very welcomed amendment to delete the reference to marital and family status and on reproductive rights. There will be a first vote on the report in the LIBE committee on 17 February and then a vote in plenary at the end of March. We will keep you informed about the developments, and call on you to take action in the coming weeks!

Kathalijne Buitenweg's report is available at :

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2004_2009/documents/pr/762/762680/762680en.pdf

Report on the European Council work so far....

The French Presidency of the EU was very active in trying to progress negotiations on the text of the directive. Seven meetings took place from July to December 2008. While a large majority of member states have expressed support for the objective of the proposal, several issues have surfaced during negotiations. Member States have raised concerns about the balance between national and European competence and have requested legal opinions from EU institutions to clarify parts of the proposal. On the basis of these first discussions, the French Presidency already proposed new wording for a number of articles of the proposal (articles 1 to 4) in order to start identifying possible compromises. This work is now being picked up by the Czech Presidency of the EU which will lead the discussions until June.

More information on ILGA-Europe's position is available at http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/campaign_for_new_european_anti_discrimination_legislation

For questions on ILGA-Europe's campaign on the proposed directive, please contact Evelyne Paradis at evelyne@ilga-europe.org.

European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) launches a coordination initiative with ILGA-Europe

by **Nadja Salson**, EPSU's Officer for national and European administration and gender equality

(30 January 2009, Brussels)

EPSU has agreed to coordinate on shared policy issues with ILGA-Europe. The initiative follows on from discussions with EPSU affiliates and work done in the EPSU equality workshop in 2007. It is particularly well-timed as the European Parliament is due to discuss the Anti-discrimination Directive Com 2008 426, which is due to be adopted (1st reading) in March 2009. ILGA-Europe will link their work on anti-discrimination to the EPSU Public Service Pledge² for the European Parliament elections, set for June 2009.

This work ties in with the ETUC conference, January 2008 *Extending equality, trade union actions to organise and promote equal rights, respect and dignity for workers regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity*, which was run with the support of ILGA-Europe. A conference report³ and list of participants, including 7 EPSU affiliates, is available. Following on from the conference, the *ETUC Executive Committee last December adopted a resolution with recommendations, entitled ETUC actions and activities on promoting equal rights, respect and dignity for workers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity*. Public Service International has a website dedicated towards LGBT equality at <http://lgbt.world-psi.org/>

¹ <http://www.epsu.org/r/409>

² <http://www.etuc.org/a/5244>

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) publish their LGBT equality action plan

by *Silvan Agius, ILGA-Europe's Policy and Programmes Officer*

The ETUC Executive Committee has on 3-4 December 2008 approved the *ETUC actions and activities on promoting equal rights, respect and dignity for workers regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.*

The actions and activities proposed by ETUC are far reaching and show the organisation's commitment to mainstream LGBT equality into its work programme. This important document is now available online at:

http://www.etuc.org/IMG/pdf_LGBT_Recommendations_at_Dec_Executive_finalx.pdf

ODIHR Collects Information for Annual Hate Crimes Report

by *Maxim Anmeghichean, ILGA-Europe, Programmes Director*

ILGA-Europe invites contributions from members

Deadline: 19 February 2009

The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe is now preparing the 2008 annual report on hate crimes which provides an overview of data collected on hate crimes as well as of legislative responses to combat hate crimes, including those on committed on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.. The report also identifies patterns pertaining to hate crimes and presents information on measures implemented by governments to respond to this phenomenon. The report is unique for an international organisation, and an opportunity to put pressure on governments, which do not take legislative or other measures to combat hate crimes. ILGA-Europe is inviting its members and other LGBT organisations from Europe and Central Asia to submit information to us on hate crimes on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Please note that following items are most relevant :

1. Information on hate crimes (please refer to the ODIHR working definition of hate crime) and responses of governments, civil society and specialized bodies;
2. Information on the presence of hate-motivated discourse, including pattern related to incitement of hatred on the internet, hate speech in political discourse and responses of public authorities to such occurrences;
3. Information on the application of relevant hate crime legislation, adoption or amendment of the hate crime legislation or the initiative to endorse such legislation;
4. Statistical information on any of the points listed above and information on existing trends in relation to hate crimes in 2008.

Information submitted on individual hate crimes and the presence of hate-motivated discourse should be, to the greatest possible extent, brief and concise and should include the data on:

- The type of incident (brief description);
- The victim(s)

HATE & VIOLENCE:

- Information on the perpetrator;
- Response of the government, law enforcement or any other public body;
- Any other relevant information.

You can send the information to Maxim Anmeghichean at maxim@ilga-europe.org. The deadline is 19 February 2009.

You can see ODIHR hate crimes report for 2007 here: http://www.osce.org/odihr/item_11_33850.html

Turkey: Press Declaration on the Reasoned Decision of Lambda's Court Case

by LGBT Rights Platform, Turkey

We are here with you today to share the reasoned court of appeal decision on Lambdaistanbul's ban case and our views on it.

The court case decision taken on 29th May 2008 by the Civil Court of First Instance Nr. 3 to ban Lambdaistanbul Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, and Transvestite Solidarity Association has been overturned by the Court of Appeal Nr.7.

First of all, we emphasise that being brought into court or to be threatened with it, is as much of a crucial barrier as a punishment decision while defending human rights and liberties. Over the last three years through the legal case demanding banning of Lambdaistanbul LGBTTT Solidarity Association all LGBTTT individuals and associations protecting LGBTTT rights has been held subject to legal pressure and been punished indirectly.

We consider the reasoned decision we received as a positive step towards the continuation of the legal personality of Lambdaistanbul, proving the vital role of our movement today. However, as we take a closer look on the fifth page of the reasoning, it is noted that the court of appeal indeed agrees to a great extent with the court of first instance with regards to its persuasions on "general morals". Without a doubt, the following sentence on the fifth page is an open threat to all LGBTTT organisations in Turkey:

"Certainly, the execution of the above mentioned articles 30 and 31 and the dissolution of the defendant association could still be demanded, if it would act counter to its constitution, in the ways of encouraging or provoking gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and transvestite behavior or acting with the aim of spreading such sexual orientations."

Sexual orientation or sexual identity cannot be changed through imposition. It is the fact both for LGBTTT and for heterosexual people, admittedly the majority of the population.

For the last 20 years, it is not the number of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals and transvestites increasing,

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, EXPRESSION & ASSOCIATION:

rather it is their individual and organised visibility that has been pressured and silenced until today. It is thus, unfortunate, that the court of appeal considers the organised visibility and rights struggle of the ignored LGBTT's, who are subjected to pressure and othering because of their sexual identity and sexual orientation, as a risk to society.

Through the reasoned decisions of both courts it has been recovered, that the long standing campaign of LGBTT organisations in Turkey for adding "sexual orientation and gender identity" phrases to the discrimination clause 10 of the Turkish Constitution was indeed a real need. We argue as a result, that above mentioned constitutional safeguard is a must to hinder any homophobic interpretations of those vague concepts in law such as "general morals" or "social values" by the barristers, who suffer from the very same social prejudices as many others in society.

We lastly hope that the court of first instance Nr. 3, to whom our case file has been resent would overturn its decision taken on 29th May 2008, which forfeited us our right to organise. We are ending with the sentence, we repeat over and over again. "While acknowledging the arduous efforts behind every rights struggle to build its own legitimate basis, we will work further to build the legitimate basis of our own movement through legal means."

Thomas Hammarberg's publishes viewpoint on transgender people's rights

Source: Council of Europe

On 5 January 2009, Thomas Hammarberg, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe published a viewpoint on the rights of transgender people in Europe.

Thomas Hammarberg said:

“During missions to member states of the Council of Europe, I have been reminded of the on-going discrimination many face on account of their gender identity (1). Transgender persons encounter severe problems in their daily lives as their identity is met with insensitivity, prejudice or outright rejection.

There have been some extremely brutal hate crimes against transgender persons. One case which received media attention was the murder in Portugal of a homeless, HIV-positive, Brazilian transgender woman, called Gisberta Salce Junior. She was tortured and raped by a group of young men, thrown into a well and left to die.

My discussions with non-governmental organisations defending the rights of transgender persons indicate that a number of such hate crimes go unreported – even in serious cases. One of the reasons appears to be a lack of trust in the police.

Some people seem to have a problem with the mere existence of human beings whose outer expression of their inner gender identity is not the same as their gender determined at birth. Aggression against transgender persons cannot however be excused as resulting from ignorance or lack of education. These attitudes cause serious harm to innocent and vulnerable people and must therefore be countered.”

Full viewpoint of the Commissioner is available on his website:

www.coe.int/t/commissioner/Viewpoints/090105_en.asp

Two reports on the situation of transsexual women in Germany

by *Christina Schieferdecker*

The German NGO Aktion Transsexualität und Menschenrecht (Campaign Human Rights and Transsexuality) wrote two alternative reports about the situation of transsexual women in Germany.

The first report refers to the Convention for elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), and the second report refers to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Main claims in these reports are the full and legal acceptance of 'gender identity' in German laws. Until today there are high requirements that transsexual women get legally accepted as women in official papers. So transsexual women have to declare themselves as 'psychic ill men', get their penis removed or are forced to act in a gender stereotypical manner and to pay a large amount of money for getting their names and their gender marker changed. These and other problems were discussed on Monday, 26th, in Geneva by the CEDAW committee.

From the press release of the OHCHR:

Christina Schieferdecker, Human Rights and Transsexuality, said the human brain was the most important sexual organ. Many studies showed that the brains of transsexual women were female brains, and thus transsexual women were women, born in the wrong body. In Germany, they were treated as men with a psychiatric disorder. Transsexual women had to pay more than \$ 2000 to get their names change, and gender identity was not included in laws. Gender identity was part of human dignity, and should be respected as such. There should be legal options so that transsexual people could change their names without any legal requirement.

It was the first time in the history of CEDAW, that transsexual women assert their human rights on the legal basis of the CEDAW-Convention – and that the CEDAW-committee was engaged in the rights of transsexuals.

The alternative report referring to CEDAW can be found on the website of the OHCHR.

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/MT_Germany43_en.pdf . For more information, visit our website <http://atme-ev.de> or send us an email to atme.ev@email.de.

Erratum

Following a publication of an article “Austrian Constitutional Court upholds mandatory surgery” in our December Euroletter, we received a comment from our reader:

“Sweden does require surgery for a legal change of paperwork. Spain requires medical treatment, though that does not need to be surgery.”

NOTICE BOARD:

Job vacancy with ENAR - Policy Officer

by ENAR

The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is currently looking for a full-time policy officer. The Policy Officer will implement and follow-up in close cooperation with the other Policy Officer and the Campaigning and Networking Officer the policy elements of the ENAR work programme as mandated by the Board. The Policy Officer reports to the Director.

The closing date for applications is **11 February 2009 at noon Belgian time.**

Further details including applications form:

www.enar-eu.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=15284&langue=EN

Homosexuality and Art 1800-2000 is offered to you organisation!

by *Ladislav Zikmund-Lender*

The exhibition Homosexuality and art 1800-2000 is focused on selection of chapters from art history seen through the perspective of gay/lesbian studies. It is necessary to cover such time extension in order to achieve foreshadowing of historical approaches and not to judge only an incomplete image of today. The nineteenth century created today's gender constructions and it coded them to visual symbols. We can illustrate the change of perception of homosexuality by (fine) art and popular culture on nineteenth and twentieth century.

The exhibition deals with the impact of the phenomenon of homosexuality on three media: picture, film and photographs. Each part was elaborated by different curator, Ladislav Zikmund, the leader of the executive team dealt with pictures, film will be introduced by Kristýna Ciprová and Jana Teichmanová dived in connection between homosexuality and photography. The aim of the exhibition is to show the phenomenon of homosexuality and queer phenomenon in the light of culture and art, as an omnipresent and original inspiration or a source in visual media. It was reflected differently in each surveyed media. Curators incept their field thematically, visitors can look forward to topics like Sappho, Ganymede and the others, Queer chaos, Art and pornography, Erotic photography and subculture, Contextual photography, Popular alternative and others.

The exhibition is planned to be itinerant, later it will be introduced in Prague again where it will be accompanied by the cycle of lectures by foreign guests, then it should travel through the Czech Republic and we plan to go abroad.

Everything about the exhibition can be found on the web pages of the project www.homosexualita.obrazar.com.

In 2009, the exhibition is under the auspice of MUDr. Džamila Stehlíková, the minister for human rights of Czech Republic government.

We offer this exhibition to present it in your country, it will be translated in English or German at the beginning of the year 2010.