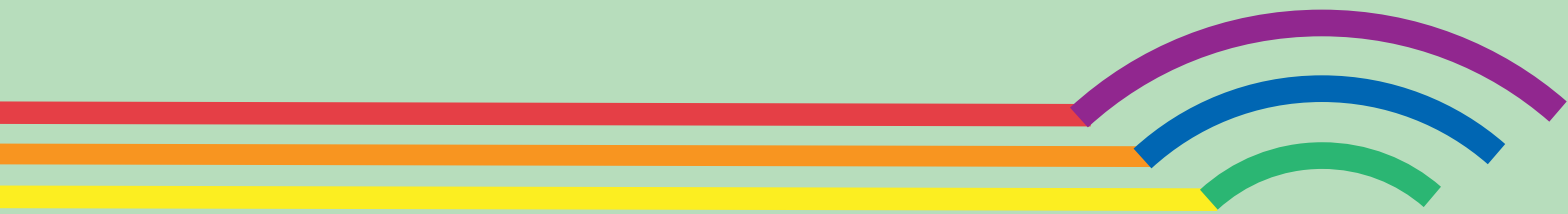


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# EURO-LETTER

ILGA-Europe's monthly electronic LGBT political  
and legal news bulletin



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**Previous issues:**

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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](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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## Invitation for European members to Strategic Planning Meeting 2011-2013

*by ILGA-Europe*

We would like to invite you to join us for ILGA-Europe's Strategic Planning Meeting with board, staff and European member organisations to be held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 12-13 June 2010.

The aim of the Strategic Planning Meeting is to discuss a first draft of the Strategic Plan 2011-2013. This first draft will be developed based on input provided by the Board, staff and member organisations during the first consultation phase

Representatives from all European member organisations can participate to the Tallinn meeting. We invite you to apply by Thursday, 29 April. Further details including the applications form on our website: [http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/latest\\_news/invitation\\_for\\_european\\_members\\_to\\_strategic\\_planning\\_meeting\\_2011\\_2013](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/news/latest_news/invitation_for_european_members_to_strategic_planning_meeting_2011_2013)

However, as ILGA-Europe can only cover the expenses of 30 representatives of European member organisations (one per organisation), a selection will be made based on the application form for those who request financial assistance to attend the meeting.

The selection will seek to ensure good geographical representation and to reflect the diversity of the membership. ILGA-Europe will cover the following expenses: travel expenses to/from Tallinn; accommodation for two nights and meals.

Should your organisation be able to cover the costs of participation to the Strategic Planning meeting, please let us know in the application form.

**We hope to see you in Tallinn!**



## 17 May – International Day against Homophobia & Transphobia

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

This year ILGA-Europe will mark the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia by organising a public event right in the heart of the EU quarter in Brussels, next to the buildings of the European Commission and the European Council. The aim of our 'Rainbow Buzz' action is to raise awareness on the rights of LGBT people and what we want to see the EU do in order to advance the rights of LGBT people. We are planning to distribute flyers summarising our key demands. The 'Rainbow Buzz' action will culminate by a release of 300 rainbow balloons.

The other product we are preparing for this year's IDAHO is the updated and amended edition of our Rainbow Europe maps. This time we are adding a new element to the maps – the European Rainbow County Index.

The Rainbow Index is based on the legislation and practices reflected in our Rainbow Europe map. The rating places a country on a scale between 10 (maximal positive score) and -4 (minimal negative score) and is an average of possible positive and negative points. Positive points are awarded to a country which has legislation protecting from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, recognising same-sex partnership, parenting rights of same-sex partners, recognising homophobia in hate speech/crime legislation. The negative points are awarded to the countries which have law banning same-sex sexual acts, have unequal age of consent, violated the rights of LGB people to peaceful assembly and freedom of association. **So Watch this space and find out soon how your country is doing!**

The other ways on getting the attention of the European institutions the rights of LGBT people is the article ILGA-Europe contributed to the European Parliament's Magazine. The Magazine will publish a feature on LGBT rights and in our article we highlight the priorities for LGBT people at EU level. ILGA-Europe's materials will also be displayed at a stand facilitated by the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT Rights in the Parliament's building in Strasbourg during its session.



## Human Rights Violations Monitoring & Advocacy Training in Belgrade

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

On 8-10 April ILGA-Europe conducted a training on human rights monitoring and advocacy within the framework of our Step Up! project in the Western Balkans.

The training was conducted by an external trainer and two ILGA-Europe staff members and attended by 9 representatives of the project partner organisations from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia.

The goal of the training was to build the capacity of project partners to document human rights violations of LGBT people according to international standards and advocate effectively on LGBT issues on a national level.

During the training the participants have learned the main concepts, principles and methods of monitoring and documentation of human rights violations and different steps in advocacy planning. Furthermore, they were guided, through practical exercises, to develop monitoring and advocacy plans for their organisations.

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](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/step_up_stronger_lgbt_movements_for_equality_in_western_balkans)

Find the pictures of the training on our website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns\\_projects/step\\_up/step\\_up\\_training\\_april\\_2010\\_belgrade\\_serbia](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/step_up/step_up_training_april_2010_belgrade_serbia)



## **FYR Macedonia fails to provide protection from discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation**

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

On 8 April, the Parliament of the FYR Macedonia adopted a comprehensive anti-discrimination law leaving out sexual orientation from the extensive list of grounds.

The adoption of the law is part of the country's accession process to EU. To become an EU Member, the FYR Macedonia is expected to introduce a legislation that provides protection from discrimination based on all 6 grounds, including sexual orientation. The introduction of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law is also a precondition set in the roadmap on visa liberalisation with FYR Macedonia. Therefore, by leaving out sexual orientation ground from the law, the country failed to comply with the EU requirements.

ILGA-Europe expressed its disappointment and concern about this development through letters addressed to various European Institutions calling on them to react firmly to bring the FYR Macedonia legislation in line with the EU standards.

In response, the European Commission issued a statement spelling out that 'in order to meet these requirements the recently enacted antidiscrimination legislation will need to be amended in order to include explicit prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sexual discrimination'.

Read more:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country\\_by\\_country/fyr\\_macedonia](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country_by_country/fyr_macedonia)





## UK Parliament passes equality bill

*Source: Equality Network, 7 April 2010*

The bill makes a range of improvements to equality law. It mostly 'levels up' the law, so that there is the same protection from discrimination on grounds of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion and belief, and sexual orientation.

An important change affecting LGBT people is that the positive duty that requires the public sector to actively promote equality will be extended to cover LGBT equality. This new duty will come into effect in April 2011, and it applies to all the public sector, including the NHS, schools, local councils, the police, the Scottish Government, etc.

The bill also, for the first time, bans discrimination by schools on grounds of gender reassignment. It also bans discrimination against people because they are mistakenly thought to be transsexual, or because they are connected with a transsexual person (for example a family member or friend).

The bill slightly extends the definition of gender reassignment, so that transsexual people who do not have medical treatment will be protected from discrimination, so long as they intend to transition, or have transitioned gender.

Unfortunately though, transgender people who do not intend to transition are not protected by the bill (except if the discrimination happens because they were thought to be transsexual).

A further problem with the bill is that, while it bans harassment by providers of goods and services on grounds of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, and race, it does not ban such harassment on grounds of sexual orientation or religion and belief. And it does not ban gender reassignment harassment by schools. The UK Government say that all such harassment would be a form of discrimination, and so is unlawful anyway. But we remain concerned that the law gives less protection against sexual orientation and gender reassignment harassment. How much of a problem this will be in practice remains to be seen.

Finally, the bill will allow civil partnership ceremonies in England and Wales to be conducted on religious premises.



## Week Against Homophobia in Russia

*by Richard Köhler, ILGA-Europe's Programmes & Policy Officer*

The Week Against Homophobia 2010 (<http://rwaho2010.wordpress.com>) was organized by the Russian LGBT Network in 13 cities all over Russia as part of the joint cooperation project with ILGA-Europe. As in previous years, no public event was given permission by Russian authorities. For the first time, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsk at the east-most outskirts of Russia took part. In Tyumen, on April 6 the police protected a tree from human rights activists, who had planned to tie colorful ribbons on the tree in the city centre to express their attitude to the problem of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The local LGBT organization "Rainbow House" appealed to the prosecutor's office to declare the police action as a violation of law. In Ekaterinenburg 3 masked men attacked participants at the public discussion "dialogue about homophobia" on April 7.

On April 18, 2010 in St. Petersburg the flashmob "Dream Flash 2010", a non-LGBT youth gathering was attacked by right-wing extremists. Obviously, the motive of the attack was homophobia.

The **Commissioner for Children's Rights** under the President of Russia, Pavel Astakhov linked in an interview at [fontanka.ru](http://fontanka.ru) pedophilia with homosexuality (April 19th).

The Russia's Constitutional Court ruled on March 31 that the **Ryazan** region law on the protection of the morality of minors is not in contradiction to the constitution. Accordingly, displaying information about homosexuality to minors is banned and fines for the offenders are imposed.

ILGA-Europe and the Russian LGBT Network briefed the EU for the **Human Rights Consultations** with Russia on the human rights situation of LGBT people in the country. It was the first time that Russian LGBT human rights activists were directly invited to the briefing in Moscow.

The **LGBT Film Festival Side-by-Side in Kemerovo** on April 17 -19 had to underground after it was banned. In **Novosibirsk**, though, the festival went on as planned and attracted some 7000 visitors. At the opening of the exhibition "Coming out of the Closet" a representative of the Department of Culture attended.



## Italian Constitutional Court rejected recognition of same-sex marriage

*Source: [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com), 14 April 2010*

Italy's Constitutional Court rejected legal recognition of gay marriage, saying arguments in its favour were either "unfounded" or "inadmissible."

Courts in Venice and Trento in the northeast sought the court's opinion after gay rights groups questioned whether the bar to same-sex marriage was a violation of human rights enshrined in the constitution. They also argued that the bar may flout European and international obligations, and that the constitution does not explicitly prohibit same-sex marriage.

The Italian Forum of Family Associations hailed the ruling, saying the court had "chosen in favour of the good of society."

But a group advocating gay marriage vowed to continue the struggle, "carrying it forward, both in the courts and in society, until the full equality of homosexuals is recognised in civil marriage law."



## UK: landmark legal change for gay parents

*Source: Stonewall media release, 4 April 2010*

From 6 April the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations 2010 enable unmarried and same sex couples to apply for parental orders, a streamlined route to securing legal parenthood.

Stonewall welcomed this landmark new legal changes for gay parents who have children through surrogacy arrangements. The new legal changes extend equal legal treatment for both unmarried couples and same-sex parents, providing greater certainty for their children.

Until now only married couples have been able to apply for a fast-track court process to grant them legal parenthood. The new Human Fertilisation and Embryology (Parental Orders) Regulations extend the group of people who can apply for a parental order following surrogacy to include both unmarried couples and same-sex partners.

Parental orders are designed to remedy parenthood issues following surrogacy. A parental order reassigns parenthood and parental responsibility to both intended parents. One or both intended parent must be a biological parent of the child.



## **Dissemination of good practices to tackle hate violence: Seminar on engagement between police forces and LGBT organisations**

*by Joël Le Déroff, Policy & Programmes Officer*

“Working with the police and challenging hate crime in Europe”, a project developed by ILGA-Europe, has reached a decisive step. Following a research conducted in 2009 on the existing forms of cooperation between police forces and LGBT organisations, a compilation of best practices has been put together, and will be published soon in the form of a handbook.

On 23 April 2010, ILGA-Europe invited 30 representatives of LGBT associations, organisations of police officers and networks of police training academies. This seminar was an opportunity to present the outcomes of our research and to exchange on the best way to facilitate their dissemination.

The event was kindly hosted by the London Metropolitan Police Service (MET). Representatives of other human rights and non-discrimination NGOs participated to the discussion, as well as speakers from European institutions such as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union (FRA).

The presentations included a reflection on the concepts of hate crime and bias violence, the prevalence of such incidents in the case of homophobia and transphobia, and a description of fruitful cooperation strategies between LGBT groups and police authorities in different European contexts.

The participants also had a discussion on the needs in term of capacity building, and on the necessity to promote mutual learning and cooperation between the civil society, the police and other law enforcement officers.

In the next steps of this project, ILGA-Europe, building on its expertise, will propose pilot training modules focused on specific skills and actions required to combat hate violence. Partnership between the above mentioned stakeholders is considered as a condition for success in our dissemination strategy.

To consult the programme of the seminar and the presentations of the speakers, please visit your website:

[www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns\\_projects/challenging\\_hate\\_crime/ilga\\_europe\\_hate\\_crime\\_project/seminar\\_london\\_april\\_2010](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/campaigns_projects/challenging_hate_crime/ilga_europe_hate_crime_project/seminar_london_april_2010)



## Ireland: Deputy Prime Minister launches LGBT Workplace Guide

**Source: GLEN**

The Tánaiste Mary Coughlan T.D., launched the guide *Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Workplace Diversity*, on Wednesday 24th March. At the launch the Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) called on "employers and trades unions in effect need to "come out" to their LGBT employees as being positive and inclusive places to work".

The guide, developed by GLEN and supported by employers body IBEC, trade unions organisation ICTU, multinational IBM, Business in the Community and the Equality Authority, is a practical toolkit for employers to assist in implementing workplace policies and practices that support their LGBT employees.

Recognising the importance of the issues within the current economic policy context, the Tánaiste noted that "*openness to diversity including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, will be a critical part of our success as an advanced, competitive and 'smart' global economy.*" Diversity" she said, "brings with it an openness to new ideas, more creative workforces and innovation which is at the heart of where Ireland wants to be as a participant in the wider global economy".

The guide forms a key part of the work of GLEN, both in engaging with large and small employers and trade unions to create more supportive workplace environments for LGBT people, and in contributing to the current economic policy debates to ensure that supporting LGBT people, and diversity and equality more generally, are key components to developing economic strategies.

Download the GLEN Workplace Diversity Guide":

[http://www.ilga-](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country_by_country/ireland/lesbian_gay_bisexual_diversity_in_the_workplace)

[europe.org/europe/guide/country\\_by\\_country/ireland/lesbian\\_gay\\_bisexual\\_diversity\\_in\\_the\\_workplace](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/guide/country_by_country/ireland/lesbian_gay_bisexual_diversity_in_the_workplace)



## **ISHR call for applications for the Advanced Geneva Training Course on International Human Rights Law and Advocacy**

*by International Service for Human Rights*

From 13 to 24 September 2010, the International Service for Human Rights will organise its Advanced Geneva Training Course on International Human Rights Law and Advocacy. The course will be conducted in parallel to the 15th session of the Human Rights Council.

The course is designed for experienced human rights defenders and organisations that have the capacity to use the international human rights system in their work.

The course will consist of 20 to 25 participants from around the world. It is based on an experiential education approach focusing on theoretical and practical aspects of international human rights law, the procedures and practices of the UN human rights mechanisms and the role of NGOs to improve the implementation of human rights treaties and standards.

For more information and the application:

[www.ishr.ch](http://www.ishr.ch)



## **Job opportunity with the EU Fundamental Rights Agency – Media Assistant**

*Source: FRA*

The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) is looking for a "Media Assistant" - for details please see [http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/recruitment/recruitment\\_en.htm](http://www.fra.europa.eu/fraWebsite/recruitment/recruitment_en.htm)