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# EURO-LETTER

ILGA-Europe's monthly  
electronic LGBT political  
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**Editor:**

Juris Lavrikovs

**Contact us:**

[euroletter@ilga-europe.org](mailto:euroletter@ilga-europe.org)

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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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## Job opportunity with ILGA-Europe: Executive Director

*Passionate about equality and human rights?*

*Have excellent management and interpersonal skills?*

*Looking for a challenging, creative and rewarding job?*

*Enjoy working in multi-cultural environment?*

We are working for the equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people all over Europe. Our office is in Brussels and as Executive Director you will be managing a staff of 12 and a budget of €1.9 million from the European Union, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Tides Foundation and the Open Society Institute among other funders. ILGA-Europe advocates for the equality of LGBTI people at the Council of Europe, OSCE and the European Union as well as at the UN.

**We are currently looking to employ**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Salary €80,652 per annum increasing to €85,427 in four annual increments*

The Executive Director is the key link between our professional staff and the ILGA-Europe Board and is responsible for supporting the Board's effectiveness through their key relationship with the Board's Co-Chairs. The staff team is organised into four service areas: Policy, Communications, Programmes and Finance & Administration.

We are looking for someone with an empowering and supportive management style to lead the staff through the next phase of organisational development, consolidate the current work programme and effectively respond to new opportunities and challenges.

You will have strong analytical skills and a track of commitment to equality and diversity. Your previous experience must include managing in a professional public or not for profit organisation and a familiarity with the EU and its institutions.

**Application deadline: 17:00 CET Monday, 9 November 2009**

For further details about the organisation and this vacancy, including application pack, please visit our website:  
[www.ilga-europe.org](http://www.ilga-europe.org)

*ILGA-Europe is equal opportunities employer  
and welcomes applications from all sections of society*

# ILGA-Europe's members gather for 13th Annual Conference in Malta

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

**On 29 October – 1 November 2009**, ILGA-Europe holds its 13th Annual Conference (31st ILGA European Annual Conference) in Malta. The title of this conference is **“Overcoming Religious and Cultural Barriers to LGBT Equality”**.

The purpose of ILGA-Europe's Annual Conference is two-fold:

Firstly, this a unique opportunity for LGBT activists across Europe to get together and discuss common problems and challenges, share experiences and best practices on tackling discrimination and advancing equality and human rights for LGBT people, as well as celebrating achievements and sketching future projects, strategies and tactics.

Secondly, this is also ILGA-Europe's Annual General Meeting when ILGA European members approve the activity and financial reports from ILGA-Europe's Executive Board for the past year, elect the new board members and discuss other organisational issues.

This year the participants will be addressed by two panels of speakers, which include:

- Ulrike Lunacek, Member of the European Parliament (Austria)
- Francis Agius, Member of Maltese Parliament, head of Maltese Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Belinda Pyke, European Commission, Director of Equality between Men / Women, Action against Discrimination, Civil Society Directorate of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.
- Vladimir Luxuria, former member of the Italian Parliament, journalist
- Juris Cālītis, pastor of the Anglican Church, Latvia
- Mr Frits Huffnagel, Alderman, City Council of The Hague

The conference theme will be explored in over 30 different workshops covering the themes from religion and culture to European policy, combating hate crimes, asylum and transgender rights. Officials from the European Union, the OSCE, Scottish and Dutch governments, academics from Spain and UK have confirmed their contribution to these workshops.

Our Annual Conference precedes by the Trans Rights Conference. This is the largest trans rights conference that is taking place at European level this year, bringing together around 150 activists and decision makers from across Europe. The conference looks towards policy and legislation development at both European and national level, and aims to identify good practices that will then be used by ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe in their lobby and advocacy work for full trans equality at European level. The evening programme of the conference will provoke the participants to rethink the politics of gender through a performance and a photographic exhibition on the theme.

**This year's Annual Conference is organised in partnership with Malta Gay Rights Movement.**

We will be posting regular updates from the Annual Conference on our website and facebook page:

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

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/ILGA-Europe/11494607341>

# Doors opening for LGBT issues and mental health on the EU agenda

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

On 29-30 September, ILGA-Europe took part in the Conference on Mental Health in Youth and Education organised by the European Commission and the Swedish Presidency of the European Union in Stockholm.

This event is the first of a series of five thematic conferences to be organised under the EU Pact on Mental Health and Well-Being with a view of developing action plans for the EU. The next conferences will focus on suicide and depression (Hungary, December 2009), mental health and older people (Spain, April 2010), stigma and mental health (Portugal, 2010) and mental health in the workplace (Germany, November 2010).

ILGA-Europe's participation to the Stockholm conference was a first – as we had not been invited to take part in events on mental health in the past – and thus a positive sign that LGBT issues are finally being taken in consideration in this policy area. We expect the next conferences to offer other opportunities to promote a better understanding of the mental health problems faced by LGBT people linked to the experience of discrimination and stigma.

Further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/index_en.htm)

# Activists bring EU face to face with LGBT issues across Eastern neighbours of the Union

by **Beth Fernandez & Richard Köhler**, *ILGA-Europe's Programmes and Policy Officers*

From 28th to 30th September, ILGA-Europe hosted a study visit to EU institutions for 14 activists from partner organisations participating in the PRECIS and Russia projects representing Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Georgia, Russia and Ukraine. The visit involved a practical training (1 day) and lobbying-meetings with officials from EU Institutions (2 days).

The event had three overall objectives:

- To gain good understanding of how the different institutions of the European Union work to protect human rights
- To understand how to access European Union institutions
- To raise awareness of and gain support for current concerns

On the first day, Viorel Ursu (Open Society Institute) introduced participants to how the European Parliament, European Commission and European Council interact. Dr. Cailin C E Mackenzie (MIMAT) then gave a practical communication skills training on how to deliver a message in 2 minutes targeted at a generalist audience with little time. These preparations proved extremely useful for the type of meetings held on the second and third days.

Meetings took place with members of the European Parliament (Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, LGBT-Intergroup), the European Commission (DG RELEX Country Desk Officers, DG EMPL Anti-Discrimination Unit, DG AIDCO European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights) and the Council of the EU (Working Group on Eastern Europe and Central Asia, the Personal Representative of the SG/HR for Human Rights - Riina Kionka, the LGBT focal point in the Council.)

Of particular relevance to the activists were human rights dialogues for each country and mechanisms to keep the local Commission delegation in each respective country informed of pertinent issues. Riina Kionka specifically consulted activists on argumentation, which can effectively respond to objections aiming at limiting the human rights of LGBT persons, based on traditional values.

Activists found a sincere willingness in their interlocutors to take up LGBT issues in their work confirming Riina Kionka's assertion that the situation of LGBT people are at the core of EU policy when engaging with third countries on human rights.



# OSCE: LGBT rights not to be forgotten in tolerance and non-discrimination monitoring

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

On 5 and 6 October 2009, ILGA-Europe participated to the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination sessions of the Human Rights Implementation Meeting (HDIM), organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). This conference is organised every year in Warsaw by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

The participation of NGOs is one of most relevant feature of this conference, since it creates the opportunity to engage in a debate with OSCE participating States on their duties and on combating human rights violations. ILGA-Europe has come to consider participation to the HDIM as an important opportunity for LGBT rights advocacy.

Every year, the ODIHR publishes a "Hate Crime Report", which includes data collection on recorded incidents, and relevant information on the actions undertaken by the States to guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms to everyone. This document is crucial: the information it provides is endorsed by the OSCE and can thus be relevant in NGOs' advocacy strategies.

The mandate of the ODIHR includes the support to "efforts to respond to, and combat, hate crimes and incidents of racism, anti-Semitism, and other forms of intolerance, including against Muslims." This definition is broadly inclusive. However, LGBT NGOs consider that the OSCE's commitment to a non hierarchical approach to combating discrimination requires an explicit mention of sexual orientation and gender identity.

NGOs hope that their advocacy at the OSCE will be given new opportunities after new developments in participating States: the new Obama administration and the statement of the Holy See at the UN General Assembly in December 2008, condemning "*all forms of violence against homosexual persons*".

Read ILGA-Europe's statement delivered during the Work Session on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination of 5 October 2009: [http://www.osce.org/documents/odihhr/2009/10/40226\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/odihhr/2009/10/40226_en.pdf)

# LGBT people's rights need to be respected – the European Commission tells the potential EU member states

*Source: ILGA-Europe's media release, 15 October 2009*

On 14 October 2009, the European Commission published its 2009 Progress Reports on the countries which applied for the EU membership – Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo<sup>1</sup>. The Reports highlight the progress these countries made towards the EU integration, as well as challenges they face. ILGA-Europe is pleased to see prominent references to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people's rights in the Reports.

LGBT issues are covered in all reports and stronger language is used by the Commission when referring to the human rights violations of LGBT people and to the non-compliance of the states to their human rights obligations under European/Accession partnerships. It is also positive to notice that the reports give specific recommendations to the states to introduce anti-discrimination laws and policies that are in line with the EU requirements. The Reports also emphasise the need to level up 'the protection against discrimination in practice' in the countries where the laws were adopted (Croatia, Serbia). In particular, the Commission has criticised the governments for failing to provide adequate protection to Belgrade Pride participants which led to cancellation of the event, and for the violation of freedom of expression and association in the infamous case of Lambda Istanbul in Turkey.

ILGA-Europe provided written contributions to the progress reports to the Commission in May 2009. In June 2009 we also facilitated the participation of 5 activists from Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia in consultations with the European Commission on Progress Reports.

Lilit Poghosyan, ILGA-Europe's Programmes & Policy Officer, who leads ILGA-Europe's work on the Western Balkans and Turkey, said:

"The Commission's progress reports are one of the most important tools at hand for the EU in influencing the human rights situation in candidate and potential candidate countries. The gradually wider and more self-evident inclusion of LGBT human rights in the Commission's monitoring system and in the Progress Reports shows that LGBT rights are recognised within the European Union and that it is expected and demanded of the future members that they comply with the European values.

<sup>1</sup> under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99

# EUROPE:

We welcome the way in which the human rights of LGBT people are raised in this year's progress reports and encourage the Commission to continue asserting the principles of non-discrimination and equality in accession negotiations with the countries."

The reports can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press\\_corner/key-documents/reports\\_oct\\_2009\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/press_corner/key-documents/reports_oct_2009_en.htm)

References to LGBT rights in specific countries are summarised in a document on our website:

[http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/media/lgbt\\_people\\_s\\_rights\\_need\\_to\\_be\\_respected\\_the\\_european\\_commission\\_tells\\_the\\_potential\\_eu\\_member\\_states/references\\_to\\_lgbt\\_rights\\_in\\_the\\_european\\_commission\\_s\\_progress\\_reports\\_2009](http://www.ilga-europe.org/europe/media/lgbt_people_s_rights_need_to_be_respected_the_european_commission_tells_the_potential_eu_member_states/references_to_lgbt_rights_in_the_european_commission_s_progress_reports_2009)

## Lithuanian Conservatives will seek abolishment of EP resolution on anti-gay law

*Source: Media release by Lithuanian Gay League, 13 October 2009*

The ruling conservative Christian Democrats in Lithuania have encouraged the Seimas (parliament) to fight against the European Union. Christian Democratic MP Mantas Adomenas prepared a draft of a resolution in which he asks the government to go to the Court of Justice of the European Communities to make the European Parliament abolish its resolution on the Lithuanian Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information, which was passed on 17th of September 2009.

The draft prepared for the Seimas by representatives of the Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats proposes expressing the opinion that the EP resolution regarding the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information, particularly paragraph 1 of the resolution, constitute "an unlawful action due to lack of jurisdiction". In the aforementioned paragraph, the EP asked the Agency for Fundamental Rights to present its opinion about the law and its amendments after considering the legislation and treaties of the EU.

If the proposed resolution were passed, the Lithuanian government would be encouraged to file a case with the Court of Justice by 17 November 2009 concerning the lawfulness of the resolution and to request that the document, in particular the aforementioned paragraph, be acknowledged as void.

The Seimas would also be asked to express its concern that in case the resolution is not officially acknowledged as void it may "become a dangerous precedent" which will make it possible for the EP and the Agency for Fundamental Rights "to encroach on the prerogatives of the European Commission and the Court of Justice of the European Communities".

Furthermore, the proposed resolution is aimed at expressing regret and deep concern with regard to the "attempt" on the part of the EP "to doubt the lawfulness of the law passed by the great majority of the democratically elected parliament of a member state, although this issue should not fall under the jurisdiction of the EP".

If passed, the resolution would then be forwarded to President of Lithuania Dalia Grybauskaitė, Prime Minister of Lithuania Andrius Kubilius, the EP, the EU Council, the European Commission, the governments and parliaments of EU member states and candidate countries, the Agency for Fundamental Rights, and the Council of Europe.

# Turkey: Life-Long Sentence to Hate Murder: A Victory

*by Kemal Ordek, Pink Life LGBTT Solidarity Association*

The decision hearing of the case of transwoman Melek K. Who was murdered in her house in Ankara, Turkey was held on 15 October 2009 with the demand of a life-long prison sentence. The date and the decision of the court have historical significance for the LGBT people in Turkey. The court ruled that Tayfun P., the murderer of Melek K, is sentenced to a life-long prison sentence with a 10 year sentence for his qualified depredation in Melek K.'s apartment. LGBT organisations have fought the well-known "provocation decreases" in the sentences of the murderers of transsexuals by the courts and this decision of Ankara 6. High Criminal Court contrary to the previous decisions shows that LGBT movement has won a significant victory.

# Italy: Parliament rejects a bill to combat homophobia by means of criminal law

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

While the number of homophobic and transphobic incidents reported in Italy is increasing, members of the Parliament have tried to address the issue, acknowledging the evidence of an unacceptable level of violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Two bills proposed by the center-left opposition MPs Paola Concia and Antonio di Pietro were merged by the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives, after attempts to elaborate a compromise with the ruling political parties.

On 13 October, whereas the House was supposed to start its first reading, a motion asking for a vote on the constitutionality of the text was tabled by the representatives of a small opposition catholic party. Among them was the former candidate to EU commissioner Rocco Buttiglione. As a result, the bill was turned down by the conservative majority.

The Minister for Equal Opportunities, Ms Mara Carfagna, said that the government will propose another bill in the future. However, LGBT NGOs point out the negative consequences of this parliamentary failure. The arguments used by the opponents to the bill included unacceptable confusions between homosexuality and pedophilia. New homophobic and transphobic incidents have already been recorded by the Italian media.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mrs Navi Pillay, condemned the vote of the Italian House of Representative, calling for full protection to be given to homosexual persons.

In September, in reaction to particularly violent incidents, ILGA-Europe had written to the President of the House, Mr. Gianfranco FINI, to stress that combating homophobia by means of legal provisions, including criminal law, is necessary. ILGA-Europe also quoted the recommendations provided by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in favour of such a legislation.

# Estonia: Same-sex family versus local municipality – win!

by *Lisette Kampus*

Although the Estonian Family Act states that marriage is between a man and a woman, it never states that neither family nor household should consist of partners of opposite sex (and their children). On the contrary, legislation is in general meant to protect anyone that is factually a provider/care-taker regardless of their sex.

Municipalities usually provide various social support measures to their citizens. So, when two lesbian women that raise 3 children in their family looked up the qualifications of one specific support measure, nothing seemed wrong. They are a family, they form one household, they pay their taxes in Viimsi municipality, they have more than two children - all that means that legislation that the very same municipality has created, entitles them financial support in the form of free public transport and free lunch at school.

After a brief phonecall, they were left optimistic and confident that there is no issue with the family being a same-sex family. Little did they know that rural municipality mayor Haldo Oravas (conservative Pro Patria Union) had decided that same-sex families shall not be eligible for support measures. Thus the family was denied their application in written and justifying it by referring to the Family Act.

Shortly after that, the family made a complaint to Estonian Chancellor of Justice who quickly studied the case and decided that such denial by Viimsi municipality is illegal and ordered the municipality to review the case.

The municipality then continued to seek ways how not to make a positive decision for a same-sex family and how to secure that no same-sex family ever applies for such support again. A new regulation for receiving social support was introduced and this time it exclusively stated that a only a family consisting of a man and a woman are eligible for support. And the lesbian family was denied their application yet again, now referring to the municipality regulation.

The family decided to fight for their rights and sued the municipality. Few days ago the Administrative Court decided that Viimsi municipality has not only violated the law and illegally denied a family their right for social support, but also misinterpreted the Family Law. The court also ordered the municipality to nullify the regulation that defines family as opposite sex partners and re-instates their previous regulation that did not do so.

Viimsi municipality has decided to proceed the case to the District Court. The municipality mayor stated in the press that in his opinion, such support measures are meant for "normal families". The irony of it is that while this family applied for financial support of less than 600 euros, the court already ordered them to cover administration fees in the amount of 1500 euros, and the municipality is willing to spend even more just to lose once again.

# Greece: appeal brought to contest the invalidity of the two same sex civil marriages in Tilos

by *Pantelis Ravdas*, barrister, [bigmouth@otenet.gr](mailto:bigmouth@otenet.gr), 19 October 2009

The validity of the two first ever same sex civil marriages that took place in June 2008 in the town hall of the tiny island of Tilos shall now be judged from the Court of Appeals, as last week the two couples filed their appeals against the first instance rulings of the Civil Court of the island of Rhodes, which had ruled the marriages invalid earlier this year. The case was initially brought to Court by the Public Prosecutor last June, after the mayor of island of Tilos agreed to marry a gay and a lesbian couple based on the fact that the Greek civil code does not explicitly require the difference of sex as prerequisite for marriage. The two same sex civil marriages have initiated a fruitful and intense socio-legal debate, undoubtedly marking a step forward in the broad perception of same sex unions and same sex families in Greece. The exact dates of the appeals' hearings have not yet been appointed, yet their filings coincide with the change of government after the Greek national elections of the 4th of October; the now ruling Party has explicitly declared during its electoral campaign its commitment to open the recently passed law for civil unions to same sex partners and has also previously adopted the Party of European Socialists' (PES) Council's relevant **"Socialist Manifesto for the 2009 elections to the European Parliament: "People First, a New Direction for Europe"**, thus triggering expectations for a serious effort towards an inclusive legal reform regarding partnerships in the near future.



# Hungarian Parliament Adopts New Civil Code, Rejects Step-child Adoption for Same-Sex Couples

by **Tamás Dombos**, *Háttér Society for LGBT People*

After ten years of preparation work the Hungarian Parliament adopted the new Civil Code on September 21, 2009. Over four hundred pages long, consisting of seven books and more than 1220 articles, the new Civil Code contains several provisions that affect the LGBT community in particular.

First, the Book of Family Law defines marriage as an institution between a woman and a man, but incorporates current provisions on registered partnership granting same-sex couples all the rights and duties that come with marriage except for joint surnames, adoption and artificial insemination. Long term cohabiting couples – whether same-sex or different-sex – are recognised as family members; they are entitled to alimony upon separation, and the surviving partner has the right to remain in the apartment owned by the deceased partner. The law provides that the legal change of sex results in the automatic annulment of marriage, but – in effect – makes it possible to convert marriage into registered partnership and vice versa.

Although the original version of the bill submitted to Parliament would have allowed joint adoption and step-child adoption only to married couples, an amendment to allow both registered and cohabiting partners to adopt the biological child of their partner was passed by the plenary session of the Parliament on March 30, 2009. On pressure coming from the Ministry of Social Affairs the governing socialists with support from their right wing opposition removed this possibility from the bill.

A potentially important new rule is that in civil proceedings concerning personality rights – such as cases involving discrimination – victims are no longer expected to provide precise proof of the amount of non-material damages suffered, which is believed to lead to higher levels of compensation awarded in such cases.

President of the Republic László Sólyom refused to sign the bill and called on the Parliament to reconsider several of its provisions – none of which concern LGBT people in particular. Right wing parties expected to win the parliamentary elections next spring promised to never let this version of the law enter into force.

## Ireland: Sexual equality guidelines issued to schools

*Source: GLEN Newsletter*

On 12 October 2009, Minister Seán Haughey TD launched a groundbreaking new publication *Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students in Post Primary Schools - Guidance for Principals and School Leaders* developed jointly by the Department of Education and GLEN.

This is the first comprehensive guidance for schools on sexual orientation that has the backing of all the education partners - the school management bodies, national parents councils, trade unions and principals' professional bodies. The breakthrough importance of the involvement of all these stakeholders at a national level is an important recognition of the difficulties faced by young gay people in schools and of the stakeholders' determination to address those difficulties.

Sandra Gowran, Director of Education Policy at GLEN outlined how they were designed to equip school Principals to provide a safe and supportive environment for lesbian, gay and bisexual students by implementing measures such as promoting positive visibility of LGB students and developing zero-tolerance policies on homophobic bullying in their schools. The Department will be sending the Guidance out to all schools this week.

The Minister, launching the Guidance, stated clearly that homophobic bullying was unacceptable, and called for thorough implementation of the guidelines to ensure that lesbian and gay students are safe and supported in schools and achieve their full educational and personal potential. Clive Byrne, Director of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals, also speaking at the launch, wholeheartedly welcomed the Guidance and confirmed that they have already begun the rollout and training of Principals on implementing the guidelines. Download the Guidelines: <http://www.glen.ie/education/pdfs/Guidance%20for%20School%20Leaders.pdf>

# TRANSGENDER:

## Swedish adults is now free to adopt names traditionally belonging to the opposite sex

Sources: *The Local*: [www.thelocal.se/22368/20090929/](http://www.thelocal.se/22368/20090929/) and *RFSL*: [www.rfsl.se](http://www.rfsl.se)

On 30 September 2009, the Swedish Supreme Administrative Court (*Regeringsrätten*) ruled that Jan-Olov Ågren can now add 'Madeleine' to his name.

The court ruling means that all Swedish public administrations are forced recognise that adults now have the right to choose first names, no matter what was traditionally regarded as male or female.

"Congratulations Madeleine! The ruling means that state paternalism of individuals are gone in this area. Each adult can now decide for themselves what they should be named", says Soren Juvas, chairperson of RFSL.

"Verdict is a victory for transgender people, RFSL and all others who fought for many years to get the public administration to change its use of the law regarding names", said Soren Juvas.

# NOTICE BOARD:

## Various events and deadlines:

- **Input request from Protection International**  
**Opportunity to provide input for the updated version of the "Protection Manual for LGBTI Defenders"**

**November 14: Deadline to Provide Input (International)**

<http://www.protectionline.org/spip.php?article7912>

Note: Scroll to bottom of linked page for feedback instructions

- **Training from Equitas**  
**"International Human Rights Training Program (IH RTP)"**

**November 21: Deadline to Apply (International)**

<http://www.equitas.org/english/programs/IH RTP.php>

Note: "An opportunity for human rights workers to deepen their understanding of human rights and of the essential role of human rights education in effecting change"; Training takes place June 6 - 25th, 2010, in Montreal, Canada

- **Program at Columbia University**  
**"Human Rights Advocacy Program"**

**December 31: Deadline to Apply (International)**

<http://hrcolumbia.org/hrap/>

Note: "To build skills, knowledge, and contacts; for proven human rights leaders from the Global South and marginalized communities in the US"

- **Third Eastern Europe and Central Asia AIDS Conference**

**October 28 - 30 (Moscow, Russia):**

<http://www.eecaac.org/en/index.phtml>

- **12th European AIDS Conference**  
**November 11 - 14 (Cologne, Germany)**

<http://www.unaids.org/Services/events/event.aspx?EventID=1725&displaylang=en&y=2009&m=9>

- **HIV/AIDS Actual Issues International Conference**  
**December 8 (Yerevan, Armenia)**

[http://www.armaids.am/main/conferanc\\_type.php?lng=1&conf\\_id=11](http://www.armaids.am/main/conferanc_type.php?lng=1&conf_id=11)