

Join us  pes.cor.europa.eu

 /pesgroupcor

 @pes_cor

 /pesgroup

 /pesgroupcor



I AM WHAT I AM

Promoting the rights of LGBTI in the EU

PROGRAMME

 pescor.eu/iamwhatiam

Seminar of the PES Group
in the Committee of the Regions

Brussels 29 November 2016

#IamWhatIam

The context

Equality is one of the founding values of the EU and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation is prohibited. However, we are a long way away from equal treatment throughout the EU of LGBTI people, who still face multiple forms of discrimination.

Despite considerable advances in some EU Member States, social equality for LGBTI people remains an unattained goal. For example, the absence of equal civil recognition of same-sex relationships deprives them of a whole range of derived civil rights, such as rights to parenting and adoption as well as of social security and fiscal rights. At the same time, it limits access to public services such as social housing or health services.

Although equality of civil rights is a matter addressed at national level, the delivery of related services is dealt with at local and regional level, and this is where progressive politicians can make a difference. The same holds true when it comes to breaking stereotypes about LGBTI people through education and fighting hate crime. This is essential for changing regressive mind-sets and promoting social inclusion.



29 November 2016

14.30 - 18.30



European Committee of the Regions
Rue Belliard 101, 1000 Brussels

Room JDE 52

Intepretation

DE - EN - ES - FR - IT - NL - PT

14.30 - 14.40

I am what I am

14.40 - 15.00

*... and what I am
needs no excuses*

15.00 - 16.30

*...It's my world that
I want to have a
little pride in*

16.30 - 16.45

16.45 - 18.15

*...My world and it's
not a place I have
to hide in*

18.15 - 18.30

*...It's one life. So
it's time to open up
your closet*

Welcome addresses

Catiuscia Marini, President of the CoR PES Group

Aurélien Mazuy, President of Rainbow Rose

Setting the scene at EU level

Helena Dalli, Malta's Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties

Salla Saastamoinen, Director in charge of Equality in the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

Roundtable 1:

Defending equality of civil rights for LGBTI people

Chair: **Michael Cashman**, former Member of the European Parliament (UK)

The right to found a family: direct implications of legal recognition of same-sex couples

Jose María Núñez Blanco, LGBTI Activist and Lecturer at the University of Extremadura, Spain

Peter Bossman, CoR PES Group Member, Mayor of Piran, Slovenia

Access to public services for LGBTI people

Juul van Hoof, Founder and Coordinator of the Rainbow Cities Network

Kevin Peel, CoR PES Group Member, Member of Manchester City Council, UK

Coffee Break

Roundtable 2:

Fighting discrimination against LGBTI people

Chair: **Ksenija Joksimovic**, Member of the Board of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO)

Breaking stereotypes in education and fighting LGBTI bullying

Liliana Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group, Portugal)

Eily Barnes, CEO and Founder of "Educate & Celebrate"

Preventing hate crime

Giorgio Dell'Amico, Spokesperson on migration and asylum for Arcigay (Italy)

Representative of **ILGA-Europe**, the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)

Conclusions