
The Human and Civil rights of LGBTI persons need a strong voice in Europe

With the European elections in May it will be decided the contribution the EU can provide to a Europe without discrimination and for a life with equal rights for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Trans and Intersex people. It will also be decided if the European Parliament passively observes when human and civil rights are curtailed e.g. in parts of Europe, Africa or Asia or if there is a strong liberal group raising its voice and bringing about improvement.

We as liberals recognize the universality of human rights and reject every attempt of relativizing them according to national traditions or in any other way. We turn against any kind of discrimination based on sex, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics.

Oppression or attacks on other human beings or groups of people always constitute attacks on the freedom of the whole society. Therefore we want that the foreign and international cooperation policies of the EU clearly oppose any kind of discrimination based on sex, ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics. We support LGBTI projects sponsored by the EU all over the world and advocate for critically evaluate the development cooperation with governments.

The right to freedom of speech and association, the right to family life and the right to freedom of movement are fundamental rights that are valid for all EU citizens. They are explicitly also valid for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans and intersex people and their families. Therefore it has to be secured that demonstrations can be held by LGBTI people unhindered and safely everywhere in the EU. There cannot exist any limitations to informing about the life of LGBTI people in the EU as free societies depend on informed citizens.

Anybody who is legally married according to the laws of an EU member state has to be fully recognized as spouse in all EU Member States – not only with regard to the right of residence of the spouses from third states, but in all regards. The same shall apply for the recognition of civil partnerships and the rights that civil partners have in the respective countries.

The EU has to be a space where discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics are fully excluded and where the rule of law and fundamental rights, including civil society space and human rights defenders, are fully respected.

EU institutions must develop a comprehensive anti-discrimination framework – including explicitly on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics – applicable throughout the EU, as well as including this as a condition for third countries in



partnership or association agreements with the EU. There cannot be any rebate on the respect of the human and civil rights of LGBTI people for EU candidate countries.

EU institutions must continue to take leadership in defending the human rights of LGBTI people in critical times, when they are being challenged and questioned both outside the EU, and within its borders. To this end, the EU must be a visible champion of the human rights of LGBTI people by, first and foremost, adopting an EU LGBTI Strategy. We support internal and external coherence in the EU's commitment to the human rights of LGBTI people as well as the inclusion of the human and civil rights of LGBTI people throughout EU policy-making.

