

Equinet News

Register for Equinet Conference on Equality Duties!

Equality Duties: The Equinet Conference on *Advancing equality: The Potential of Equality Duties* sets out to share the experiences of implementing equality duties, as well as good practice examples across the EU. We will discuss possibilities and challenges in introducing such duties in other jurisdictions. The conference will take place in Brussels on 4 May. **Register by 21 April.** [Read more...](#)

Equinet Highlights 2015/16

Annual report: The *Equinet Highlights* summarises our activities in 2015/6, based on our strategic objectives of capacity building, contributing to the European equality agenda, serving as a knowledge and communication hub on equal treatment and consolidating the network and the position of our members. The report focuses in particular on our work on standards for equality bodies. [Read more...](#)

Combating Discrimination towards Young People

Age: Young people may experience inequality and individual and structural discrimination on the ground of their age. But there may also be intersectional discrimination based on other characteristics such as disability, gender, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.

Opening up the Issue. Equality Bodies combating discrimination against Young People aims to analyse and learn from the work of equality bodies in this area and tease out the implications of their work for policy and practice development. [Read more...](#)

Call for proposals: Research for Equinet Paper

Research: Equinet is commissioning a research paper on the evolution of the mandates and resources of equality bodies over the past decade. The planned

research will aim to elucidate how the mandates and resources of national equality bodies have developed, and if there can be found possible correlative relationships between them.

Submission deadline: 2 May 2017 (09:00 AM). [Read more...](#)

Strategic meeting with the Fundamental Rights Agency and ENNHRI

Cooperation: On the eve of the 10 year anniversary conference of the Fundamental Rights Agency, Equinet and ENNHRI were invited to Vienna to discuss their strategic cooperation with the Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency and the heads of relevant departments. [Read more...](#)

Equinet Seminar: Equality bodies tackling discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities

Disability: On 9-10 March 2017, Equinet and the Croatian Office of the [Ombudswoman for Persons with Disabilities](#) co-organised a capacity-building seminar for equality bodies on tackling discrimination against persons with intellectual disabilities. The event took place in Zagreb, Croatia. [Find the presentations from the seminar here...](#)

[Members' News](#)

Slovenia: On the road to becoming an

independent and effective equality body

Standards: In 2016, a new *Protection from Discrimination Act* entered into force in Slovenia, thus resulting in the **Advocate of the Principle of Equality** developing into an autonomous state body. However, these legislative changes need to be accompanied by a guarantee of adequate additional human and financial resources in order to seize this opportunity and enable the Advocate of the Principle of Equality to fulfil its potential. [Read more...](#)

Romania: Senate rejects Bill aiming to repeal Anti-Discrimination Law and disable the Equality Body

Standards: On 28 February 2017, a bill aiming to repeal Romanian Anti-discrimination Law was tacitly adopted by the Romanian Chamber of Deputies. If this bill had been adopted, it would seriously have affected the **National Council for Combatting Discrimination (CNCD)**. However, on 14 March, the Senate voted not to accept the draft law. [Read more...](#)

Poland: Equinet meets with Human Rights Defenders

Cooperation: On the fringes of the Equinet board meeting in Warsaw on 16 March, Equinet board members and staff met with key actors in the field of equality in Poland, including the Commissioner for Human Rights Adam Bodnar, the Plenipotentiary for Civil Society and Equal Treatment and representatives of civil society. [Read more...](#)

Serbia: Equality of Children with Disabilities

Disability: The research *Education and Community Living as a Precondition of Equality of Children with Disabilities* aims to support equality for children with disabilities in the education system. It was implemented by the Mental Disabilities Rights Initiative MDRI-S in partnership with the Initiative for Inclusion VelikiMali and cooperation with the **Commissioner for Protection of Equality**. [Read more...](#)

Ireland: Concluding Observations from CEDAW

Gender Equality: The United Nations CEDAW Committee, which leads on combating discrimination against women, has published its comprehensive assessment of Ireland's record on women's rights and equality. The 'Concluding Observations' reflect several crucial gaps in Ireland's compliance with international obligations on women's rights and equality. These had been highlighted to the UN Committee by the [Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission](#). [Read more...](#)

France: 10th Barometer on perception of discrimination in Employment

Employment: The Barometer on the perception of discrimination in employment by the French [Defender of Rights](#) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) shows that one-third of the working population (34%) has reported discrimination based on gender, age, pregnancy or maternity, religious beliefs, disability or health, in his or her professional career over the past 5 years. [Read more...](#)

European News


60 Years of the Treaties of Rome

Anniversary: 60 years ago in Rome, the foundations were laid for the Europe that we know today, ushering in the longest period of peace in written history in Europe. The Treaties of Rome established a common market where people, goods, services and capital can move freely and created the conditions for

prosperity and stability for European citizens. However, 60 years after it was declared illegal, the gender pay gap still lingers over 16% in the EU. [Read more...](#)

Europe taking a stand to combat violence against women

Gender Equality: On the occasion of International Women's Day, the European Commission published a joint statement, with a strong message of the importance of promoting gender equality: *"Intolerance against women and misogyny manifest themselves in the public sphere as well as behind the cowardly anonymity of the Internet. Attacks on women's rights are on the rise. Too many Europeans still think sexual intercourse without consent can be justifiable. Women are also on the frontline of discrimination and violence, especially in conflict areas around the world."* [Read more...](#)



2017 Report on equality between men and women in the EU

Gender Equality: This report takes stock of progress in implementing the European Commission's strategic engagement for gender equality. It provides a wide array of evidence for key trends based on indicators. [Read more...](#)

EIGE: Analysing the "Victim's Directive" from a gender perspective

Gender Equality: This study focuses on the implementation of the Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, vis-à-vis victims of gender-based violence. The aim of the study is to critically examine the measures taken under the Directive, of which some could be counterproductive or cause unintended effects. [Read more...](#)

TGEU: Human Rights and Gender Identity

Gender Identity: This Best Practice Catalogue prepared by Trans Gender Europe gives practical examples on how to implement trans human rights demands in practice. The aim of the catalogue is to inspire stakeholders to seek similar or new ways to ensure a high standard of trans human rights. These inspirational examples, coming mainly from Europe, cover a number of issues, including the work of Equinet and equality bodies on trans people. [Read more...](#)

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Racial Discrimination: In his statement, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is an annual reminder to us all to do more to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech and hate crimes. Equality bodies and national human rights institutions play an important role in combating such discrimination. He also underlined the importance of data collection on hate crimes to understand causes, and design and implement targeted action to bring about real change. [Read more...](#)

Regional and local representatives on fight against anti-gypsyism

Roma Equality: On 29 March 2017, in the framework of the debate on the fight against anti-Gypsyism, the Congress for Local and Regional Authorities adopted a Declaration of Mayors and Elected Local and Regional Representatives of Council of Europe Member States against anti-Gypsyism. The declaration was presented by John Warmisham, Congress Spokesperson for Roma Issues, and Valeriu Nicolae, the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (SRSG) for Roma Issues. [Read more...](#)

Roma face discrimination in accessing water!

Roma Equality: The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) has released its report *Thirsting for Justice: Europe's Roma Denied Access to Clean Water & Sanitation*, highlighting the shocking disparities between Roma and non-Roma in their access to water. The report summarises research carried out by the ERRC, between 2014 – 2016, covering 93 Romani neighbourhoods and settlements in Albania, France, Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Slovakia. [Read more...](#)

Taking action against hate speech through counter and alternative narratives

Hate Speech: This manual offers guidance to develop counter and alternative narratives to combat hate speech and promote human rights, especially in online environments. It aims to strengthen the toolboxes of youth workers, educators and activists already engaged in human rights work and education or willing to be engaged. It is designed for and within the context of the No Hate Speech Movement, a Council of Europe youth campaign for human rights online. [Read more...](#)

European Case Law

Court of Justice of the EU rules on headscarf cases

Religion / Gender Equality: On 14 March, the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) published its long awaited judgments in two similar requests for preliminary rulings concerning the wearing of Muslim headscarves in the work place.

Both cases were lodged in April 2015 and concerned Muslim women who were dismissed from work after refusing to take off their headscarves. The applicant in the Achbita case (C-157/15) is supported by our Belgian member Unia. The Bougnaoui case (C-157/15) originated from France.

In its judgements, the CJEU found that an existing general internal rule of a private employer prohibiting the wearing of visible signs of political, philosophical or religious beliefs **does not constitute direct discrimination** on the basis of religion or belief as long as this internal rule is universally applied to all employees.

The Belgian and the French national courts requesting the preliminary ruling will now have to decide the cases at national level, making use of the interpretation of EU law provided by the CJEU. [Read more...](#)

European Court of Human Rights: Case of Talpis v. Italy - 2 March 2017

Violence against Women: The **case concerns domestic violence** against a mother of two (Ms Talpis), and which resulted in the murder of her son and her own attempted murder. The Court found, that by failing to take prompt action on the complaint lodged by Ms Talpis, the national authorities had deprived that complaint of any effect, creating a situation of impunity conducive to the recurrence of the acts of violence, which had then led to the attempted murder of Ms Talpis and the death of her son. The Court found that Ms Talpis had been the **victim of discrimination as a woman on account of the inaction of the authorities**, which had underestimated the violence in question and thus essentially endorsed it. [Read more...](#)