



Seminar on the Human Rights to Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation
“The Right to Gender Identity and Affective-Sexual Diversity. Challenges for Equality”

Ararteko – IOI Europe

Goal of the seminar:

LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Rights have been widely claimed and asserted by civil society organisations. LGBT Rights have also been progressively recognised by national and international bodies. However, in most places around the world as well as in many European countries, these rights have not been formally recognised yet. Furthermore, even where they have been legally enshrined, their effective fulfilment remains far from being realised.

The goal of this seminar is to foster reflection and dialogue about the human rights to gender identity and sexual orientation, both from a legal perspective and from a public policy perspective. In particular, the seminar will bring an opportunity to think about the role that Ombudspersons can play in the defence and promotion of these rights.

The seminar will be divided in five sessions combining legal context, advocacy by civil society, public policy analysis, and two workshops to share best practices.

Date and venue:

Bilbao, Euskalduna conference centre, 20 and 21 May 2013 (Monday and Tuesday)

19 May:

Arrival and registration of participants

20:00. Dinner (venue: Hotel NH Villa de Bilbao)

20 May:

9:30-10:00. Opening

- Iñaki Azkuna, Mayor of Bilbao
- Soledad Becerril, Ombudsman of Spain
- Peter Kostelka, Secretary General of the IOI (TBC)
- Iñigo Lamarca, Ararteko – Ombudsman of the Basque Country

10:00-11:30. Session 1: Legal framework of LGBT rights in Europe: trends and challenges

- Morten Kjaerum, Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union
- Alexander Schuster, Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Trento (Italy)

11:30-12:00. Coffee break



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12:00-13:30. Session 2: Workshop on the reality of LGBT rights in Europe

- Based on some of the findings from the survey done by the Fundamental Rights Agency
- Facilitated by Silvan Agius, Policy director at ILGA-Europe
- The engagement of all participants is expected

13:30-15:00. Lunch

15:00-17:00. Session 3: Civil society advocacy in defence of LGBT rights

- Richard Köhler, Policy and Capacity Officer at Transgender Europe – TGEU
- Catalina Pallàs, President of NELFA (Network of European LGBT Families Associations)
- Kaspars Zailitis, Board member of Mozaika (Latvia)
- Klaus Jetz, Director of Lesben und Schwulenverband (LSVD) (Germany)

20:00. Dinner (venue: Restaurante Guria, Gran Vía 66)

21 May:

9:30-11:00. Session 4: Ombudspersons and LGBT rights: Sharing best practices

- María Luisa Agirretxe, Legal advisor on LGBT Rights at the Ararteko
- Máté Szabó, Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary
- Peter Tai Christensen, Head of compliance monitoring at The Equality Ombudsman of Sweden

11:00-11:30. Coffee break

11:30-13:00. Session 5: Workshop on homophobic bullying

- Discussion of a real case study. Firsthand testimony of a victim of homophobic bullying
- The engagement of all participants is expected

13:00-13:30. Conclusions and closure

- Peter Kostelka, Secretary General of the IOI (TBC)
- Iñigo Lamarca, Ararteko – Ombudsman of the Basque Country

13:30-15:00. Lunch

