

LGBTI RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS OUR CALL FOR ACTION

From tackling discrimination to ensuring marriage equality, European countries have made significant progress in defending the rights of LGBTI people in the last few years. The S&D Group has been at the forefront of this fight - working to ensure that EU laws further improve the situation of LGBTI persons all over Europe. However there is much work still to be done. Many forms of discrimination and injustice based on people's sexual orientation or gender identity remain. We have adopted a paper calling for concrete action to address major issues still facing LGBTI people in Europe. We demand:



ABOUT THE S&D GROUP

The Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (the S&D Group) is the second largest political group in the European Parliament with 189 members from all 28 EU Member States.

We stand for an inclusive European society based on principles of solidarity, equality, diversity, freedom and fairness. We campaign for social justice, jobs and growth, consumer rights, sustainable development, financial market reforms and human rights to create a stronger and more democratic Europe and a better future for all citizens.



1 SAME-SEX MARRIAGES AND CIVIL UNIONS TO BE RECOGNISED ACROSS THE EU

It is not acceptable that in 2016, many people in civil partnerships or same-sex marriages do not have that status recognised when they move or travel to other EU countries. This is a bar to free movement of people and their families: the EU is required to act to stop this form of discrimination.

2 AN EU WIDE LAW GUARANTEEING EQUAL TREATMENT REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The EU must unblock and finalise the equal treatment directive that will enshrine the principle of equal treatment irrespective of religion, belief, disability, age or sexual orientation in all Union laws outside of the work place.

3 ACTION TO TACKLE HATE SPEECH AND VIOLENCE AGAINST LGBTI PEOPLE

The EU needs to do more to tackle hate speech and violence against LGBTI people. We need to ensure that laws designed to combat racism and xenophobia are also applicable to hate crimes against LGBTI people. Our Group will not tolerate any hate speech.

4 LAWS TO ENSURE THE RIGHT OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR GENDER RECOGNISED

The fact that many EU countries still put forward medical conditions for legal gender recognition, such as surgery, a mental health diagnosis and forced sterilization, is an outrage. This is a clear breach of fundamental rights and the EU has a responsibility to act to rectify the situation.

5 THE EU TO BECOME A GLOBAL LEADER IN PROMOTING LGBTI RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD

Europe must show courage and become a global leader again in promoting LGBTI rights, both by providing asylum for those facing discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity and ensuring the situation of LGBTI people is taken into account in all external policy actions.