

FRA ROUNDTABLE ON LGBT RIGHTS

Dublin, 9 March 2010

DRAFT AGENDA

- 08:30-09:00 Registration
- 09.00-09.30 Welcome and Opening of the Roundtable
Matteo Bonini Baraldi, FRA
Katherine Zappone, Irish Human Rights Commission
- 09.30- 10.30 Presentation of FRA's key findings in the report "**Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**"
Matteo Bonini Baraldi, FRA
- Institutional Homophobia and need for a policy response**
Franca Bimbi, University of Padua, Monitoring Centre on LGBT issues of the city of Venice
- Possible response by policy makers**
Ben Baks, Informal European Network of LGBT Focal Points
- 10.30-11.00 Discussion
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee Break
- 11.30-13.00 **How to ensure that educational and curricula provision provide information on LGBT issues? What could be done to stop bullying and harassment in schools? A good practice example from Ireland on cooperation between the Equality Body, NGOs, teachers' unions and government.**
Cathal Kelly, The Equality Authority
Sandra Gowran, GLEN - Gay and Lesbian Equality Network
Caitriona O'Brien, Department of Education and Science
- 13.00-14.00 Lunch
- 14.00-15.30 **How to ensure safety of LGBT communities and address homophobic hate crimes and hate speech?**
Pierre van der Steen, Amsterdam police force
Joël Le Deroff, ILGA Europe
- 15.30-16.00 Coffee Break
- 16.00-17.15 Consultation on the Work Programme of the Agency 2012
Matteo Bonini Baraldi, Pia Tirronen, FRA
- 17.15 – 17.30 Conclusions

Background Information:

In 2008 and 2009, the FRA published its first EU-wide report on "**Homophobia and Discrimination on Grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in the EU Member States**", which comprises both a legal and a sociological part. According to the evidence provided in this FRA report, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and transgender (LGBT) persons experience discrimination, bullying and harassment throughout the EU. This often takes the form of demeaning statements, name calling and insults or the use of abusive language, but also verbal and physical attacks, including even deadly assaults. In addition, unequal treatment also derives from inadequate structural dynamics and legislation, as is the case for employment, free movement, freedom of assembly or refugee claims. Discrimination against transgender persons was also reported in all areas investigated for the report.

Key issues addressed in the report and chosen for this round table discussion include:

- ✓ Hate crime and hate speech
- ✓ Bullying and harassment in education

The report outlines a number of **good practices** being implemented within the EU Member States and notes that although LGBT persons lack media visibility throughout the EU, there is evidence that things are slowly changing.

Objectives of the Roundtable:

1. Collect feedback on the FRA report with a view of informing future activities in the area of networking/policy impact need, research and awareness raising (FRA Work Programme 2012 and beyond).
2. Review of existing gaps and constraints for the development of long-term LGBT friendly policies.
3. Presentation of examples of good practice for tackling discrimination in education, bullying and hate crimes and ensuring safety for LGBT communities.
4. Discussion and transfer of knowledge and experience.

Questions to raise at the Roundtable:

1. Are FRA research activities well-crafted? Are FRA research findings useful for the process of policy making? Is there anything that could be improved or done differently in order for you to plan/execute your work more effectively?
2. What form/ languages of research products FRA should prioritise?
3. Who is the most important stakeholder to reach on LGBT issues? Suggestions as for reach out and partnership would be very much appreciated.
4. What should be the priority areas (name 3) that the Agency should explore in its research, awareness raising and networking in 2012?
5. Do you consider that there is a concrete added value in exchanging views through a network? Do you want to join FRA's network on LGBT issues? What would you need or expect from FRA with regard to networking on LGBT issues?