FRP Advisory Panel Presentation to the EU FRA Management Board

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Overview of Presentation

• Purpose of presentation
• About the FRP
• FRP in Action: 6\(^{th}\) FRP meeting
  – Discussion, process and learning/reflections
• About the FRP Advisory Panel (AP)
• Conclusion and reflections
• Discussion/Q&A.
About the FRP

• FRA’s network of civil society organisations, with over 300 organisations.

• The agency’s channel for cooperation and information exchange, bringing together a diverse group of actors on the European, national, and local levels.

• Three way process - directly inform CSOs about the agency’s work, explore synergies with their activities, and provide valuable input into the FRA’s work (FRP-FRA; FRA-FRP; FRP-FRP).
  
  • (See http://fra.europa.eu/en/cooperation/civil-society/about-frp)

  • Key benefit: The FRP helps to better tailor the agency’s work to the real needs of European citizens.
Value of FRP – participants’ voices

• “I cannot think of any other place where different parts of the human rights structure meet – in numbers and also in depth and quality.”

• “We must give victims a voice, we must hear directly from the victims.”

• “…The actors nearest the citizens.”

• “What you bring to us is an unfiltered voice from the edges of society.”

• “…Helps address the issue of how to reach out so that the right issues reach the right tables.”

• “There will not be any change without civil society organisations.”

• “This meetings is a privileged position to get input from many people in one go. This is the right time to have this discussion.”
Purpose of the FRP meeting

• To encourage a European debate on fundamental rights among different civil society organisations
• To facilitate knowledge and exchange of good practices among FRP participants
• To provide information on the work of the FRA about challenges and promising initiatives on the ground
• To create opportunities for networking and further cooperation between civil society, FRA and others.
# Full and Diverse “Floor is Yours”

## 6th Fundamental Rights Platform Meeting 2013

### ‘The Floor is Yours’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Plenary (EN/FR)</th>
<th>Room I</th>
<th>Room II</th>
<th>Room III</th>
<th>Room IV</th>
<th>Room V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>European Parliament, Greens/EFA Group</td>
<td>European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy</td>
<td>European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe</td>
<td>European Expert Group on the Transition from Institutional to Community based care</td>
<td>Observatory on Intolerance and Discrimination against Christians</td>
<td>European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Introduction to the Fundamental Rights Platform</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:45</td>
<td>EU Equality Action Calendar</td>
<td>Fighting racism and discrimination through human rights education</td>
<td>Collective complaint procedure at the ECtHR</td>
<td>Locked up ... keys thrown away?! Community-living - a right for all!</td>
<td>Equality and Non-Discrimination as well as Hate Crime Documentation with regard to Christianity in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:55</td>
<td>European Commission, DG Justice</td>
<td>Association of European Police Colleges</td>
<td>EQUINET Europe</td>
<td>Access Info Europe</td>
<td>Movement for defence of pensioners, jobless and socially weak citizens</td>
<td>Defense for Children International</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:40</td>
<td>EU fundamental rights policy</td>
<td>Police training as a tool to better address discrimination and hate crimes</td>
<td>Equality bodies and civil society organisations - natural allies in promoting equality and combating discrimination</td>
<td>No time for Questions?! The right to ask and the right to know about human rights</td>
<td>Problems of representation of masses of protestors in disputes with the systems of power</td>
<td>Applying human rights in the field of juvenile justice: challenges, difficulties and way forward</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:15</td>
<td>Amnesty International</td>
<td>UNITED for Intercultural Action</td>
<td>European Organisation of Military Associations (EUROMIL)</td>
<td>Bureau for the Implementation of Equal Treatment (BUG) &amp; Klagenverband</td>
<td>Advisory Panel of the Fundamental Rights Platform</td>
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<tr>
<td>17:45</td>
<td>Human rights here, Roma rights now</td>
<td>Populist parties and the effects on social cohesion concerning minorities</td>
<td>Freedom of association for all?</td>
<td>Exchange of experiences concerning strategic litigation to secure fundamental rights</td>
<td>The role of the Advisory Panel: an interactive first-hand testimony</td>
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<td>18:00</td>
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A 10-minute break is foreseen between the sessions.
Thematic considerations

• Anti-Discrimination
  “Human rights are indivisible, our identities plural.” Progressing protections against discrimination is crucial. Finding the best ways is a work in progress. While the general sense that victims should be protected by additional legislation prevailed, some CSOs expressed different concerns on the Anti-Discrimination Directive.

• Social Rights
  There is a complementarity among European mechanisms (inc. Council of Europe). CSOs have a role to play in enabling mechanisms.

• Hate Crime
  Evidence shows hate crime is a problem in the EU. Victims of hate crime must be protected. Currently, protections and supports vary across groups and Member States.

• Conclusion
  “Human dignity and profound respect are the starting points for fundamental rights ... Everyone has the right to be themselves.”
Voices from the Forum

• “There is hard evidence and facts that in Europe in the 21st Century, discrimination and even violence are a reality for many people in the EU.”

• “Human dignity and profound respect are the starting point for fundamental rights ... Everyone has the right to be themselves.”

• “Human rights are indivisible, our identities are plural – we cannot split rights, we cannot split ourselves.”

• “When we are talking about victims of hate crime, we are talking about people who live in fear of hate crime, change their behaviour because of hate crime and hide their identities due to hate crime. There is a common experience across groups but there is not a common level of protection across group. We do not have the same legislation for different groups.”
Voices from the Forum

• “It isn’t sufficient to be at conferences where everyone agrees. You need to convince those who are not convinced — both in public opinion and national decision makers.”

• “…coalition of the committed.”

• “We regret that the agency’s Multi-annual Framework is limited.”

• “We need FRA to expose the inconsistency of the EU — on the one hand asking Members states to do more, but on the other, cutting budgets for social issues.”

• “Civil society is key, they change attitudes by advocating for people and raising awareness. Civil society energy has led to new legislation and better support.”

• “The European Commission’s position is, we will not give up.”
What is the FRP AP?

The Advisory Panel advises and supports the FRA’s director in the organisation and coordination of the Fundamental Rights Platform. It helps prepare FRP meetings, consultations and other activities. The nature of the Advisory Panel is consultative. It deals with procedural issues only and not with questions of content.

Terms of reference (30.09.2010)
FRP messages and reflections

• Content and discussion
  – Capacity to both promote fundamental rights and protect people is key.
  – Developing understanding across stakeholder groups (including legal capacity) on how we can better protect rights for all in a complementary way, is an ongoing and important process.
  – CSOs are key to realising change both on the ground and in decision-making.

• Process and supports
  – Recommendations from evaluations implemented.
  – Engagement with FR thematic priorities
  – Presence of, engagement with Commission, MEPs, decision-makers.

• Reflections – overarching
  – Mandate of the FRA
  – Keeping the fundamental rights agenda to the fore
  – Achieving better visibility and outcomes at the national level.
Thank you.

- Thank you for your attention and support.

- The AP would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the professional and committed support we receive from the FRA staff, throughout the year.

Go raibh maith aghaibh go leir.