

Stop hurting transgender people in the EU

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Stockholm, Sweden on 26-28 May 2023:

Notes that:

- the European Union is founded on the respect of human dignity, freedom, equality and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities and that the non-discrimination and tolerance are the values that should prevail in all Member States;
- transgender people are less satisfied with their lives than the EU average and a significantly above-average incidence of suicide attempts concerns trans people, especially transgender youth;
- at least 1 in 4 respondents had experienced discrimination in essential aspects of their lives, such as healthcare (30-46%), with an alarming 3% reporting physical and sexual violence;
- the procedure of how a transgender person can change their civil status and identification documents remains in the competence of the EU Member States;
- if put in place, procedures of gender recognition are lengthy, with an important financial and emotional burden on individuals and in several countries they still violate fundamental rights by requesting proof of sterility or medical interventions;
- without matching documents, transgender people are exposed to egregious human rights violations including discrimination, harassment and abuse;
- in several EU countries transgender people remain the only social group forced by law to undergo sterilisation;
- 14 transgender persons have been murdered in Europe in 2022.

Believes that:

- there is no place for LGBTIQ+ hatred and discrimination in Europe, or anywhere else in the world;
- in order to be able to fully enjoy the right to free movement within the EU, transgender people should be granted civil status and identification documents reflecting their gender identity and corresponding name(s);
- displaying someone's sex on their travel documents is of negligible value in the identification process since photographs are added;
- compulsory sterilisation is a pervasive abuse and a gross violation of fundamental rights.

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Calls for the ALDE Party, its member organisations and the EU institutions to:

- establish smooth, transparent and accessible legal gender recognition based on self-determination and ensure appropriate legal and policy framework for trans people, especially in matter of healthcare;
- enhance the rights of transgender people by ending requirements such as undergoing medical procedures especially the sterilisation in order to have their gender legally recognised and to put in place a compensation schemas for those who have been forced to undergo the sterilisation;
- ensure a mutual recognition of civil status and other key documents in the EU Member States and to ban limitations that some put in place to restrict its trans nationals' access to gender reassignment, change of legal gender and/or change of name in another EU Member State;
- lobby the ICAO for the removal of the display requirement for sex from the ICAO's rule on travel documents;
- the subsequent removal of sex from travel documents issued in the future;
- governments to generally stop keeping record on the gender or sex of their citizens. The only exceptions should be specific cases where the information is essential for a government's programme, for example to reach beneficiaries in actions tackling discrimination. These exceptions shall be subject to a public necessity assessment by the equivalent Data Protection Supervisor;
- until governments generally stop keeping record on the gender or sex of their citizens with the exceptions mentioned, they should at least stop having discriminatory administrative documents and forms that only have binary gender options;
- ensure that gender identity and expression are mentioned in EU treaties as protected grounds of discrimination and legislate on hate crimes against trans people.

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