Annual Activities OII Europe 2012-2014

(shortlist)

Advocacy

upcoming in 2015

Release of the Issue Paper by the HR Commissioner of the CoE in Brussels;
cooperational meeting with TGEU in Berlin

2014

Statement in regard to the upcoming Maltese Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act
Input at the Roundtable on LGBTQI health in Europe: challenges and good practices, organized by ILGA-Europe together with the French Ministry of Health (Paris, France)
Joint contribution by ILGA Europe, TGEU and OII Europe: Towards an European Commission Gender Equality Strategy mainstreaming Trans and Intersex People’s Fundamental Rights, November 2014

Intersex Pre-Conference, ILGA-World Conference in Mexico: demands to the ILGA-World-Organisation for intersex campaigning/mapping; Involvement in changing ILGA-World-statutes to improve inclusion of intersex issues; Meeting with potential funders.

European Intersex Meeting (Intersex Pre-Conference) to the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference 2014 (Riga). See the statement
Meeting with Helena Dalli, Equal Opportunities Minister of Malta, during the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference 2014 (Riga)
Douarnenez Film Festival: Panel Débat Genre, classe, race... Imposture de l’Identité (Douarnenez, France, 26.8.2014)
Meeting with Lauri Sivonen, Assistant to the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe (Douarnenez, France)
Conference Panel “Journée Internationale de la Solidarité Intersex”, Business School Strasbourg (Strasbourg, France)
IDAHO Forum: Input at the Workshop Ensuring equality for trans and intersex persons. Input on Intersex (Malta, 14.5.2014)
Joint contribution by ILGA Europe and OII Europe: Joint contribution by ILGA-Europe and Organisation Intersex International Europe to the consultation on the implementation of the Directive 2004/113/EC, 31 May 2014

2013


Intervention at the Regional conference on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Europe, organized by France - Ministry of Women’s Rights, Government Spokesperson, with the European Commission and in partnership with Poland (Paris, France)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - OII Europe gave input / shared expertise / - and members of OII Germany and OII Francophonie had the opportunity to talk with Marlene Rupprecht, Rapporteur of the resolution “Children’s right to physical integrity”


2012

First informal meeting with Lauri Sivonen, Assistant to the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, during ILGA-Europe in Dublin

continues →
Requested expertise for political stakeholders, governmental bodies and NGO’s

2014
Maltese Government on regard to the upcoming Maltese Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act
Meeting with Human Rights Watch (Berlin)

2013
Panel (together with TGEU) and training for governmental officers of Albania, organized by the Council of Europe (Tirana, Albania)
International work-meeting with Lauri Sivonen, Assistant to the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe (Malta)

2012-2014
Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights of the CoE in regard to the Commissioners comment on intersex (released May 2014) and upcoming issue paper on intersex (2015)

2012 ongoing
ILGA Europe on development of intersex policy

Journal Articles / Books

Community Development / Peer Counselling / Capacity Building
The most recent success in the field of community and organization building was the co-organising and participation at the European Intersex Meeting in Riga (2014, facilitated by ILGA-Europe), which resulted in strengthening OII Europe as an organization and led to a joint statement with a recommendation for intersex inclusive anti-discrimination legislation as well as common European objectives. The empowering effect of this meeting diffused into the national organizations and giving their members the experience of being part of an European intersex community and so feeling more united, stronger, and less isolated in their respective national- and country-specific settings. We want to proceed on this path with the present application.

Media Work
2013
Joint OII Europe and ILGA-Europe Statement on the adoption of a historical intersex resolution by the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE: “Children’s right to physical integrity”

2012-2014
Commenting on European developments by press releases
Answering to enquiries by journalists and media

International Movement Building
2014
Intersex Pre-Conference, ILGA-World, Mexico City
European Intersex Meeting, Riga (ILGA-Europe pre-conference)

2013
Third International Intersex Forum, Malta

2012
Second International Intersex Forum, Stockholm, Sweden → Founding of OII Europe

As individuals
2014
Dan Christian Ghattas: Training for ILGA-Europe and World Board and Staff (Brussels, 5.9.2014)

2013

2011, ongoing
Del LaGrace Volcano: “Visibly Intersex” (lecture performance)
Strategic Plan OII Europe

Advocacy and Education

Since starting our work in 2012 we have established OII Europe as an NGO that gives expertise on intersex issues to political stakeholders within the EU and the CoE. With the upcoming issues paper in intersex by the Human Rights Commissioner of the CoE and the hopefully passing Maltese “Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act” we will have many opportunities to advocate for intersex issues in Europe. We also plan to continue our work on the 2017 upcoming ICD reform for intersex individuals.

Community Development and Movement Building

We want to strengthen the already growing European Intersex Human Rights Movement and help it to evolve into an empowering movement, that inspires intersex activists as well as supports intersex individuals in general by increasing their self-esteem and self-confidence. Europe includes a variety of languages and political structures. In most countries being intersex is still a taboo and intersex individuals are invisibilized. This amplifies the difficulty to transfer existing knowledge from one country to the other. We consider the proposed website- and video-project as the first step to generate a platform where activists from different countries can disseminate information in their own language as well as empower other intersex people by telling their stories while raising awareness of the broader public. Even though our working language is English, one important aspect as an international organisation is to be sensible of the variety of languages in our organisation. Therefore we believe it is essential to provide translations of relevant arguments for several non-English languages, in order to convey the European and international discourse to the contexts of our individual member states.

For 2015 we plan to engage in

Advocacy

Approaching political stakeholders and raise their awareness for the upcoming issue paper on intersex by the Commissioner of Human Rights of the CoE

Raising awareness for the Maltese “Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics Act” and the current positive developments in Iceland as an example of good practice

Working together with the LGBTI Intergroup of the European Parliament on intersex policy

Advocating for the inclusion of “sex characteristics” as an anti-discrimination ground within the EU antidiscrimination legislation

Movement/Community Building & Awareness Raising

Launching the video- and website project “European Intersex Visibility Works!” (working title)

Translating significant material from English in European languages and vice versa to make it available to the international intersex human rights movement

Organisation Building

Registering OII Europe as an non-profit NGO

Holding three face-to-face meetings of the Steering Board as well as monthly Skypemeetings