

OII Europe Good Practice Map 2021 Press Release

Today, on the 17th of May 2022, OII Europe is proud to present its 2021 Good Practice Map! **The map highlights advancement achieved in 2021 towards the better protection of intersex human rights across Europe.**

This year's Good Practice Map features a new section, **"In the Making"**. This section features newly adopted IGM legislation and analyses their protective elements as well as the still existing gaps and inconsistencies. In addition, a new page* on the OII Europe website serves as an extended version of the map's new section. This page will be updated periodically to display legislative advancements related to the banning of non-vital, non-emergency medical interventions on intersex children in Europe.

In addition, the map presents good practice examples related to

- anti-discrimination law,
- hate crime & hate speech legislation,
- national action plans,
- research projects,
- training programs,
- official apologies issued by governments,
- as well as commitments made by governments pointing towards increased political will to protect intersex rights.

"We are observing a growing will among European governments to combat violence against intersex persons", says Dan Christian Ghattas, Executive Director of OII Europe. "Two countries, Germany and Iceland, have established legislation on IGM and while both laws, unfortunately, do not ensure comprehensive protection yet, they prove that the violation of intersex children's bodily integrity is considered a serious problem in both countries and for this we strongly applaud both. However, as long as these laws are not based on the premise of self-determination and inclusive of all children with variations of sex characteristics, they will fail in ensuring the comprehensive protection and protection of all intersex children from harmful medical practices. We therefore encourage both governments to consider these laws as a first important step but to further improve them in the near future. The new 'In the making' section of this year's map, together with the more in-depth analysis on the new page on our OII Europe website, aim to support governments in this process and to help those countries who are considering establishing a ban on IGM."

“2021 has been a year of progress in many areas”, adds Magda Rakita, Co-Chair of OII Europe. “By introducing ‘sex characteristics’ as a protective ground in their anti-discrimination legislation, Denmark and Serbia have taken an important step towards protecting intersex persons in every-day life, as have Scotland and, again, Denmark, by adding ‘sex characteristics’ to their hate crime and hate speech legislation. These trends show that more and more countries consider ‘sex characteristics’ as the adequate ground to protect intersex people.”

“We also are excited to see that, as recommended by OII Europe and its member organisations, decision makers are increasingly including intersex-led organisations in the development of such measures”, continues Kristian Randelović, Co-Chair of OII Europe. “Finland, for example, has involved the national intersex organisation ISIO in the implementation of the National Child Strategy. Other countries, such as Austria and Greece, are increasingly relying on intersex-led organisations’ expertise for delivering training on intersex issues with a human rights-based perspective. We and our member organisations celebrate these collaborations as an important step towards ensuring that the fundamental rights of intersex persons are upheld.”

“OII Europe’s member organisations work tirelessly year-round to advance and protect the human rights of intersex persons across Europe”, adds Irene Kuzemko, Community & Capacity Building Officer. “The resiliency and determination of intersex organisations and activists is vital to ensure the survival and growth of the European intersex movement. The launch of the 2021 Good Practice Map, therefore, is also a moment to acknowledge the fact that intersex organisations across Europe continue to face significant challenges in the face of growing anti-LGBTI forces online and offline, all whilst mitigating the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 crisis.”

OII Europe therefore encourages stakeholders and funders to increase their financial support of intersex organisations, so as to ensure that movement-building can continue far into the future. Activists need to be able to continue their incredible efforts in a way that supports their wellbeing, prevents burnout and fosters sustainability.

END

^{*} In The Making: <https://oiieurope.org/igm-legal/>