

## Press Release Good Practice Map 2022

Today, on the 11th of May 2023, OII Europe is happy to present its Good Practice Map 2022! **The map highlights advancements achieved in 2022 towards the better protection of intersex human rights across Europe.**

This year's Good Practice Map once again features the section, "In the Making". In this section we feature newly adopted IGM legislation and analyse their protective elements as well as the remaining gaps and inconsistencies. This year we have dedicated this section to the IGM ban in Greece: On July 19th 2022, The Greek Parliament voted, almost unanimously, in favour of the Law 4958 "Medically Assisted Reproduction Reforms Act", which includes Articles 17 to 20 of PART C on "Change of Sex Characteristics of Intersex Minors".

In addition, the map presents good practice examples related to local action, reparations, research, human rights bodies, hate crime & speech, arts & culture, and funding.

Furthermore, this year, the OII Europe Good Practice Map spotlights our newly published *Indicators for effective protection of the rights of intersex people, in particular protection from IGM*<sup>1</sup>. The indicators aim to give policy makers and law makers a useful tool when preparing legislation to prohibit intersex genital mutilation and to establish comprehensive legal protection of the right to bodily integrity and self-determination of intersex people. They were developed based on analyses of existing IGM laws and consultation with intersex civil society across Europe about the essential elements that constitute a ban.

*"2022 saw increasing support from public funders of a wide range of activities of the European intersex community", says Magda Rakita, Co-Chair of OII Europe, "including advocacy, community and capacity building, awareness raising, also via arts and culture, education, research. The Framework Partnership Agreement signed by OII Europe with the European Commission has already resulted in boosting the organisation's capacity to participate in EU processes that will impact intersex people's rights across Europe. On a national level, the educational work of VIMÖ/OII Austria's project VARGES also benefited from public funds. The transformative role of the arts, in the path towards change, was celebrated in the cities of Vienna and Berlin, where respectively a theatre piece was put on and an exhibition could take place. Equally remarkable was the support given to a collaborative research project involving the Dutch intersex organisation NNID, which focused on intersex youth in the Netherlands".*

*"Last year provided positive examples of how public institutions can listen to the voices of the intersex communities to understand their needs and take concrete action", adds Kristian Randelović, Co-Chair of OII Europe. "In France, on the local level, the vow adopted by the Paris Council in defence of intersex people's rights, which includes a call for ending non-consensual non-vital interventions, is a*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.oiiurope.org/igm-ban--indicators-checklist/>

*significant example of engaging the local intersex community. On a national level, the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights followed up on the concerns and demands expressed by the intersex community and submitted a letter to the Minister of Health asking them to provide the number of surgeries performed in the country in recent years”.*

*“Some national governments showed the political will to take steps towards better protecting intersex people’s rights”, says Dan Christian Ghattas, Executive Director of OII Europe. “In Ireland, the Minister for Justice presented a bill that, if passed, would protect intersex people from hate crime and hate speech on the ground of sex characteristics. In Germany, Ministers presented the cornerstones for a future legislative proposal on legal gender recognition based on self-determination and inclusive of reparations.”*

*“2022 was also the year when Greece became the 6th CoE member state to have established provisions to protect intersex persons’ bodily autonomy and self-determination by adopting a ban on intersex genital mutilation!” continues Dan Christian Ghattas, “The new law protects intersex minors below the age of 15 from non-vital, non-consensual medical interventions and includes provisions to ensure that intersex minors older than 15 can only undergo an intervention once their free and informed consent has been given. Intersex Greece was consulted in the process of preparing the law, which marks a successful example of involvement of civil society. We congratulate Greece for taking this very important step and encourage the Greek government to take all necessary action to ensure full implementation of the ban. The developments in the past years have shown that there is an increasing political will to end IGM and we hope that OII Europe’s new indicators will support governments to take the necessary steps.”*

*“All of these good practice examples” concludes Irene Kuzemko, Community & Capacity Building Officer, “account for the growing attention given to intersex issues by decision makers and funders, as well as for the extraordinary determination of intersex activists and organisations. This also reminds us that the intersex community is still heavily underfunded and under supported. If steadier political will emerged, along with wider and more stable financial support, as well as involvement of the community in policy design, the examples featured in this map would multiply tenfold and we would be able to enjoy a safer Europe – for intersex people, for all forms of diversity and ultimately for everybody”.*

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<https://www.oiiurope.org/good-practice-map-2022/>