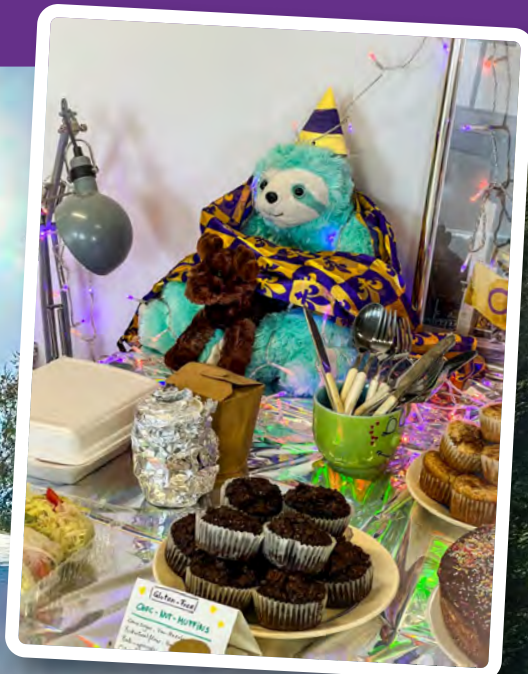
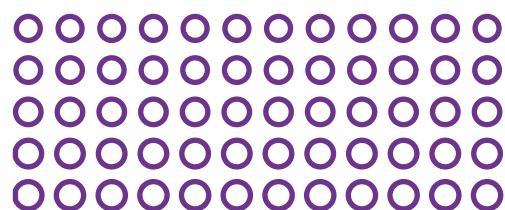


Organisation Intersex International Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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EUROPE





WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS!

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We are also very grateful and thank our anonymous funders and individual donors for their generous support

Cover image: OII Europe Kiosk stand at the Europride Thessaloniki, Greece 2024

This page graphic: Reworked graphic based on a prompt in the Artificial Intelligence tool "Adobe Firefly" of Mx. Happy, the OII Europe Wellbeing Officer



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Organisation Intersex International Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Introduction

2024 was a year... of many things.

We saw the third year of the war in Ukraine unfold and witnessed other conflicts emerge, which are equally rooted in inhumane ideologies and actions. We welcomed a new staff member in March and said goodbye to another one in May. With the first ever UN intersex resolution *Combating discrimination, violence and harmful practices against intersex persons*, we were part of reaching an incredible milestone in April; and at the same time we saw new and unprecedented levels of hate towards and adversity faced by female athletes with variations of sex characteristics during the Summer Olympics in July/August.

We celebrated the first ever mention of the ground of “sex characteristics” in binding EU legislation in one of the two *Directives on binding standards for equality bodies* due to the efforts of members of the European Parliament; and we saw the European Parliament turn to become more conservative than ever the very same year.

We participated in an excellent training in May offered by the US State Department to build our capacity to become a future grantee and potentially a regranting intermediary for the European intersex community; in fall we were forced to postpone these plans after the election results.

We saw funding spaces shrink and then one of our funders generously increased our grant.

We’ve seen far right wing forces on the rise and, as a response, we’ve seen our networks and allies becoming stronger and stronger in joining forces. We continue to see civil society spaces shrink and at the same time, we expanded our mandate to include Central Asia and the Maghreb region upon request of activists working there.

We’ve seen our member organisations fight against the multiple challenges they face and then move to overcome them and bring change to their countries. We’ve seen positive changes on the European level that we weren’t sure we would be able to see 10 years ago.

This is why nothing will hinder us to take a next step, and another one, including striving to become in the coming years, as OII Europe, a regranting entity for intersex organisations in Europe. We will continue working to ensure that human rights standards and strong legislation will guarantee the protection of intersex people, that intersex people and their families continue to have organisations that they can turn to and spaces where they can meet, and that they are able to get the respect and acceptance they deserve, as they are.

We welcome you to the 2024 OII Europe Annual Report.

The OII Europe Staff and Steering Board

The war in Ukraine

Support of community


As the war in Ukraine entered its third year, OII Europe continues providing intersex people in and from Ukraine with help and support, as well as accepting donations for the cause. Specifically in 2024, OII Europe continued its support of intersex people with funds for medicine and hormones.



Our “Support of Intersex People From Ukraine” campaign is ongoing

- ➡ to give and share support and solidarity with intersex persons that have been directly affected by the war in Ukraine;
- ➡ to raise awareness & solidarity;
- ➡ to provide information to affected persons in three languages (English, Russian, Ukrainian) e.g. for getting access to funds, medications or hormones, and bringing them into contact with national intersex organisations;
- ➡ to collect donations to support intersex persons that have been directly impacted by the war in Ukraine.

CONSIDER DONATING

 <https://www.oiiurope.org/support-of-intersex-people-from-ukraine/>

POLICY & ADVOCACY

In 2024, OII Europe continued to steadily increase its **policy and advocacy work at both the EU and Council of Europe level**. At EU-level, it was a particular year for our advocacy and policy related work, in that it was a year of European elections, which impacted the number of legislative processes to which OII Europe contributed. At the Council of Europe level, OII Europe continued to work together with and to be consulted by the SOGIESC Unit on various topics, such as hate crime and hate speech and the impacts of the anti-gender movement.

At national level, OII Europe continued to support its 29 member organisations in various advocacy and policy-related initiatives, thereby building the capacity of members. OII Europe continued to work to **amplify the policy demands** of the European intersex community, with

the aim to ensure greater visibility at EU-level and to secure the inclusion of intersex people in various policy areas. As in previous years, 2024 saw a substantial increase in the number of close collaborations that OII Europe engaged in with a wide range of different partner organisations on a large variety of intersex-relevant issues such as violence, protection from discrimination and access to healthcare.

Some 2024 policy highlights include the **first-ever mention of the ground of sex characteristics** in a piece of binding EU legislation, in the new **EU Equality Bodies Directive**; the first-ever **UN Human Rights Council resolution on the rights of intersex persons**, and steady advancement of the work towards a Council of Europe **Committee of Ministers (CM) Recommendation on the equality of rights for intersex persons**.

Advocacy at the European Union level



1 – Advocacy in the context of the EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

In 2024, OII Europe continued to work on behalf of the European intersex community to advocate for a comprehensive inclusion of intersex survivors of gender-based violence and domestic violence in the **EU Directive on Combating Violence Against Women & Domestic Violence**.

Over the past two years, OII Europe closely followed the legislative process, through, among others, the preparation of a [submission](#) to the European Commission in May 2022, participation in stakeholder consultations organised by the European Parliament FEMM and LIBE Committee rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs, as well as an [event](#) at the European Parliament in April 2023.

The long-awaited Directive was **adopted in May 2024**. The Directive, for the first time in history, explicitly recognises intersex people as being among the victims who are at a heightened risk of experiencing violence due to intersectional discrimination. This explicit recognition marks an important standard-setting moment within the framework of binding EU legislation.

- OII Europe prepared a [statement](#) on the occasion of the European Parliament and EU Member States reaching a **political agreement** on the Directive, on February 6th.
- Following the [adoption of the Directive](#) by the EU Member States on May 7th 2024, OII Europe prepared and published a [joint statement](#) together with a coalition of 12 other organisations working to advance human rights, women's rights and LGBTIQ rights.
- In June, OII Europe **prepared a commentary** on the Directive on Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence, in order to elaborate on the specific ways in which intersex people who are victims

of gender-based violence will be able to benefit from the provisions set out in the Directive.

- Jan-Dec. 2024: in the context of the continued advocacy following adoption of the Directive and its awaited implementation at national level, OII Europe participated in **multiple meetings with a coalition of 13 organisations**.

» From May to December, along with EndFGM, Amnesty International, WAVE, International Planned Parenthood Foundation (IPPF), Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR), EL*C, ILGA Europe, La Strada, PICUM and ESWA, OII Europe planned a workshop which it jointly facilitated on December 10th at the [2024 European Institute for Gender Equality \(EIGE\) Forum](#), in Brussels. The **workshop**, entitled *Unlocking the EU Directive on Violence Against Women & Domestic: Advancing prevention, support and justice for survivors of gender-based violence*, asked participants to divide themselves among tables organised along different key themes addressed by the recently adopted EU Directive.

» Following the EIGE Forum 2024, OII Europe, in collaboration with the abovementioned organisations, jointly prepared a [statement](#), entitled – *Our Collective Vision for Gender Equality in the EU*, which it published on December 10th. The statement focused on the **key priorities identified by the coalition** for the next five years, in working towards the practical realisation of a Union where everyone can live in safety, free from discrimination and violence, and **where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a lived reality for all** – regardless of their gender, ethnicity, race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sex characteristics, disability, residence status, social class and/or age.



OII Europe's Policy Officer Jana Hugo at the 2024 EIGE Forum in Brussels.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

■ 2 – Advocacy in the context of the European Commission’s initiative on strengthening Equality Bodies

- In 2024, OII Europe celebrated a **milestone** in its work for **explicit inclusion of intersex people** in legislation, with the first-ever mention of the ground of sex characteristics at EU level in the [Directive on standards for equality bodies](#). OII Europe’s advocacy and awareness raising work within the European Parliament led the institution to be very clear about the fact that equality bodies need to “provide assistance to victims of discrimination [...], irrespective of their [...] sex characteristics”. This amendment to the original draft was accepted by the Council.
- For the past two years, OII Europe, in collaboration with ILGA-Europe, TGEU, EL*C and IGLYO, had been working to see the explicit inclusion of **sex characteristics**, along with sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression as discrimination grounds in the directives. While the current mention does not establish “sex characteristics” as an official ground yet, it is an important step towards it.
- Turning to implementation, OII Europe took the opportunity of attending an **event organised by Equinet**, the European network of equality bodies, to engage policymakers at national level as well as equality bodies and advocate for the importance of ensuring an ambitious transposition of the directives in EU countries, so that intersex people will be better protected against discrimination in practice, and not only in theory.
- OII Europe also strengthened its collaboration with Equinet on this file by providing input for its publication, [Understanding the New EU Directives on Standards for Equality Bodies – Advocating for a successful transposition: Civil Society Toolkit](#). The toolkit is a hands-on tool for civil society organisations wishing to use this new text to its full potential.

■ 3 – Briefing to the European Commission in the context of the review of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and recommendations for a forthcoming Strategy

- In March 2024, in the context of a **roundtable with LGBTIQ civil society organisations** organised by the European Commission, OII Europe provided a briefing reviewing the implementation of the [LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025](#), and outlining proposals for intersex rights in the forthcoming LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. We helped to point out remaining gaps in the implementation of the Strategy, as well as ways forward to further advance intersex rights in the work of the European Commission.

■ 4 – Briefing to the European Commission in the context of the Recommendation on the prevention of harmful practices against women and girls

In May 2022, work on a forthcoming European Commission **Recommendation on the Prevention of harmful practices against women and girls** commenced. Over the past two years, OII Europe has attended workshops organised by the Commission as well as prepared a **detailed submission** outlining the importance of including intersex women and girls in the scope of the Recommendation. In 2024, OII Europe and many other civil society organisations eagerly awaited the publication of the Recommendation, one of the actions committed to in both the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 and the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. However **publication of the Recommendation is stalling**, and as a result OII Europe engaged in the following advocacy activities:

- In September 2024, OII Europe prepared a briefing for the European Commission, outlining the importance of including IGM in the scope of the Recommendation.

Advocacy at the European Union level



- In October 2024, OII Europe, along with International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR), EndFGM and ILGA-Europe prepared an open letter to European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, urging her to publish the Recommendation as soon as possible. The open letter gathered signatures from over 80 civil society organisations.

5 – European Parliament elections info leaflet & questionnaire

- With 2024 being an **important election year in the EU**, OII Europe produced an [information leaflet and questionnaire](#) to raise awareness on the importance of casting a vote and contributing to the democratic process, ahead of the June 2024 European Parliament elections. The leaflet was conceptualised to provide a clear overview of the **vital role played by the European Parliament** in advancing intersex rights across the EU. Additionally, the leaflet offers a retrospective view of some of the most significant advancements that have already been achieved by the European Parliament over the past years, encouraging EU citizens to use their vote.
- Alongside the leaflet, OII Europe created a concise questionnaire to be utilised by national member organisations and intersex activists when interacting with candidates, in order to inquire about their plans to **advocate for and commit to advancing intersex rights** within the EU, should they be elected. The questionnaire can be used to urge candidates to pledge to uphold democracy, equality, bodily integrity and the right to self-determination and freedom for intersex people, in all their diversity. ▶

6 – Contribution to the European Commission High-Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity's Conclusion paper on Age Equality and Non-Discrimination on the grounds of age

- Together with four other LGBTIQ European umbrella organisations, OII Europe provided input to the conclusion paper of the European Commission High-Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity on Age Equality and Non-Discrimination on the grounds of age. The coalition of organisations highlighted the specific needs of LGBTIQ older people and provided several key recommendations to better address those needs.



Our information leaflet and questionnaire for the European Parliament elections in 2024 can be downloaded here: <https://www.oii-europe.org/european-parliament-elections-2024/>

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Advocacy at Council of Europe level

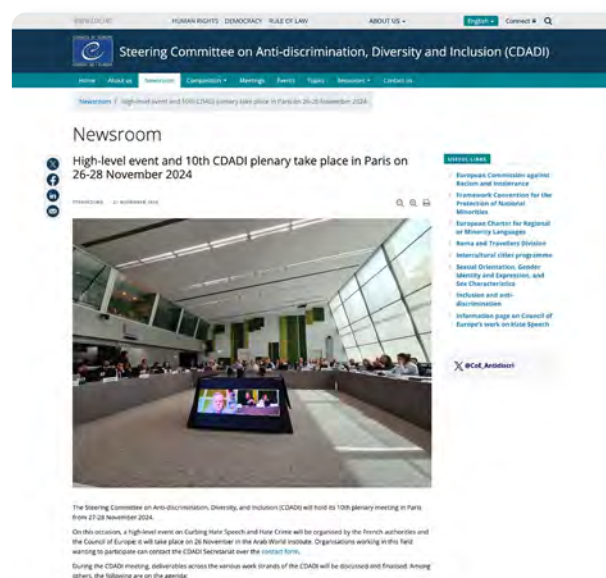


■ 1 – Contributing to the process towards a Committee of Ministers (CM) Recommendation on the equality of rights for intersex persons

- In 2024, the work towards a **Committee of Ministers (CM) Recommendation on the equality of rights for intersex persons** advanced significantly. Work on the forthcoming Recommendation has been ongoing since January 2023, and is spearheaded by the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity, and Inclusion (CDADI) mandated the Committee of Experts on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics (ADI-SOGIESC, formerly GT-ADI-SOGI) to draft the text of the forthcoming Recommendation. OII Europe is a consultant to the process.
- The Recommendation aims to create a comprehensive legal framework and **set minimum standards** for all Council of Europe Member States to ensure that intersex persons can enjoy their fundamental rights across all areas of life, including medical, psychological and social care; legal gender recognition; private and family life; protection from discrimination and hate speech; asylum and sport. The Recommendation also includes comprehensive preventive measures through education and awareness raising.
- During the November 2024 meeting of the **Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity, and Inclusion (CDADI)**, in Paris, France, two intersex activists spoke before the Committee, sharing their powerful testimonies with Member State representatives from 46 countries. ►

■ 2 – Input to the CoE SOGIESC Unit report on the anti-gender movement in the Council of Europe region

- OII Europe contributed to the CoE SOGIESC Unit “Research and analysis of the perceptions and root causes contributing to anti-LGBTIQ disinformation, negative stereotyping, hate speech, and incitement to violence”;
- OII Europe’s submission highlighted the various ways in which the intersex human rights movement across the Council of Europe region, has and continues to be impacted by targeted attacks by the anti-gender/ anti-LGBTIQ movement(s), including through the spread of mis- and disinformation about intersex people, as well as incitement to hatred (in person and offline) which are fuelled by harmful gender norms and stereotypes.



Screenshot of the Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) website © Council of Europe 2025

Advocacy at United Nations level



United Nations

1 – Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls in the context of her report on violence against women and girls in sports

In 2024, OII Europe worked considerably on the topic of sports. While we unfortunately witnessed waves of **intersexphobia in the media**, particularly those brought to the fore during the Paris Summer Olympics, the exclusion and discrimination faced by intersex athletes in competitive sport, embodied by the legal proceedings initiated by Caster Semenya in front of the European Court of Human Rights, continued to be denounced by OII Europe and intersex activists across the EU and the world.

- In April 2024, OII Europe prepared and sent a [submission](#) documenting the human rights violations faced by intersex athletes to the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls, Reem Alsalem, for her report prepared for the UN General Assembly on violence against women and girls in sport.
- In June, OII Europe was subsequently invited to an online closed expert consultation with the Special Rapporteur and other organisations, where we highlighted the human rights violations experienced by intersex women and girls in sport.
- In October 2024, OII Europe co-authored a [joint statement](#), together with other organisations committed to gender equality, human rights, social justice, and LGBTIQ+ rights, affirming the right of intersex, trans and gender diverse people to participate in sports without any form of discrimination. We took the occasion to reaffirm these rights, as we welcomed the publication of the [report](#) on the right to participate in sports by United Nations Special Rapporteur in the field of Cultural Rights, Alexandra Xanthaki.

2 – UN resolution on the rights of intersex people



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

In 2024, OII Europe contributed to a significant milestone for intersex rights globally, with the [first-ever resolution](#) from the **United Nations Human Rights Council** on the rights of intersex people, brought forward by Finland, South Africa, Chile,

and Australia, which was officially adopted on April 4th. A group of intersex activists were instrumental in working with the Member States leading this initiative, to raise awareness on intersex human rights issues and advocate more Member States to support the resolution with their vote. The resolution was adopted with 24 votes in favour, 23 abstentions and no votes against.

United Nations address the human rights of intersex persons in ground-breaking resolution

Press Release

3 – Submission to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

OII Europe provided input to the **United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** for its upcoming report entitled “**Combating discrimination, violence and harmful practices against intersex persons**”. This report was requested by the groundbreaking [Resolution 55/14](#) from the Human Rights Council adopted in April 2024, its first-ever resolution specifically addressing discrimination, violence, and harmful practices affecting intersex persons. Several of OII Europe’s member organisations provided input to the report, with their specific expertise from the situation of intersex persons at national level. The report will be discussed at the Human Rights Council in September 2025.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Collaborations

Over the course of 2024, OII Europe continued as in previous years to significantly strengthen its collaborations with a wide range of partner organisations, including through the establishment of new partnerships and collaborations. We continue to see the ways in which collective action and advocacy bear fruits on EU-level, and help to strengthen our collective calls to action.

- OII Europe continued to work closely with a **coalition of 12 organisations**, including but not limited to Amnesty International, Center for Reproductive Rights, EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C), European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA), Human Rights Watch, IPPF European Network (IPPF EN), La Strada International, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) on a range of files. ➔ *See more in the section "Advocacy at European Union level" on page 7.*
- OII Europe continued to strengthen its collaboration with **EndFGM European Network** around common policy files (the EU Directive on Combating VAW & DV, Recommendation on harmful practices, the EIGE Forum 2024), including a visit to the OII Europe office in November to discuss future collaborations and mutual strategies in combating both IGM and FGM.
- Following the worrying intersexphobic and transphobic discourses proliferated in the media during the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, as well as those given space by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, OII Europe joined forces with a **coalition of nine organisations**, including: Sports & Rights Alliance, Centre for Sports & Human Rights, Human Rights Campaign, ILGA World, OUTright, GATE, TGEU,

Count Me In Consortium and International Service for Human Rights, on a [joint statement](#) affirming the **rights of intersex, trans and gender-diverse people to participate in sports** free from violence, discrimination and exclusion.

- In January 2024, OII Europe was invited to join the [LGBTIQ workstream](#) of the **European Cancer Organisation's Inequalities Network**. The workstream focuses on gathering expert knowledge related to challenges faced during the cancer pathway, and aims to help build more robust policies on the topic, as well as bringing the topic of LGBTIQ people's specific experiences with cancer to the agenda of policymakers. In August 2024, OII Europe was invited to join the Expert Group as consultants in the development process of a [newly launched research survey](#) run by the LGBTIQ workstream, on *Disparities affecting the European LGBTIQ+ community in cancer*. ➔ *See more in the Consultancy section on page 14.*
- In August 2024, OII Europe established a new partnership with the **European Network Against Racism (ENAR)**. Our mutual exchanges during an initial online meeting focused on fostering intersectional approaches in our work, as well as strategic overlaps in achieving intersex equality and in advancing racial equality.
- In September 2024, OII Europe held a first online meeting with the **European Union of the Deaf**. The mutual exchange meeting allowed both organisations to share about the overlaps in experience and protection gaps for both vulnerable groups – intersex people and those part of the Deaf community.

Advocacy and policy support on national level

In 2024, OII Europe continued to support member organisations on a national level in our joint work towards advancing intersex rights through regular exchanges in the context of different policy activities, and on an ad hoc basis when the need for support was expressed by members.

- In February, OII Europe was invited by our member organisation Inter Dayanışma (Inter Solidarity Turkey) to visit them in **Ankara, Türkiye** during a local KuirFest between 22.02. - 26.02.2024. OII Europe took part in a panel discussion following the screening of the documentary **Superhero Intersex** as a part of KuirFest, held meetings with Inter Dayanışma and their allies and held a training for Ankara LOL Bar Association lawyers on intersex rights and IGM bans.
- In June, in the context of an analysis of the **Spanish IGM ban** adopted in 2023, OII Europe touched base with Spanish activists who were involved in the process and reflected their expert opinion on strengths and weaknesses of the law in our analysis.
- In June/July, OII Europe supported national **advocacy in Germany** together with its member organisation OII Germany around [exposing the loopholes in the current IGM ban](#) adopted in 2021 which were highlighted in an [analysis of the deeply worrying Family Court decision from March 2024](#) which bypassed the current provisions in the law and authorised prohibited medical interventions.

- In June, OII Europe travelled to Thessaloniki, Greece, for **Europride**. In addition to participating in a panel of the Europride Human Rights Conference, OII Europe provided support on advocacy and related themes to its Greek member organisation, Intersex Greece. The panel during the Human Rights Conference focused on policy advancements related to intersex rights in the last five years, as well as remaining challenges faced by the intersex human rights movement. OII Europe also hosted an **information stand** alongside Intersex Greece, where we shared information about who intersex people are, the demands of the intersex human rights movement and the work of OII Europe.
- In September, OII Europe held a one-day meeting with Intersex Greece in our office, aimed at supporting and providing capacity building to Intersex Greece.
- In September, OII Europe, after being alerted by activists in **Denmark** about a worrying opinion piece in a prominent Danish newspaper written by the ex-Danish Minister for Gender Equality, published during Copenhagen Pride Week, published [its own statement](#) in reaction.

In 2024, OII Europe also provided expert advice to policy-makers and human rights organisations on national level on the topic of intersex rights, including to the Swedish Parliamentary Network on LGBTI rights (07.03.2024), as well as to the Norwegian and German equality bodies (18.10.2024 and 03.12.2024).

Image from the Intersex panel during the Europride Human Rights Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece. From left to right: Dr. Nikoletta Pikramenou (Intersex Greece), Kristian Randelović (OII Europe/XY Spectrum), Irene Kuzemko (OII Europe), Luan Pertl (VIMÖ), Jana Hugo (OII Europe), and Rinio Symeonidou (Intersex Greece).



POLICY & ADVOCACY

Panel in the German Bundestag on banning IGM during the SPD Queerpolitical Human Rights Conference

On September 27th, OII Europe participated in a panel in the **German Bundestag** during the [Queer Political Human Rights Conference](#) organised by the SPD political group. The event was opened with a welcome by German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, alongside US Special Envoy to Advance the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Persons, Jessica Stern, Francisco Quiroga, Mexican Ambassador to Germany as well as Louisa Wall, New Zealand's former ambassador for pacific gender equality.

The panel entitled **Verbot von Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM) in Griechenland** [The Ban on IGM in Greece], was focused on outlining the similarities as well as the differences between the Greek [2022] and German [2021] IGM bans. OII Europe member organisation Intersex Greece participated



in the panel, alongside an expert on non-binary issues in Germany. OII Europe raised important points about the need to ensure that the upcoming revision of the German IGM ban closes the existing legal gaps.

Consultancy for data collection and research

- The European Cancer Organisation consulted OII Europe, as a member of their LGBTIQ workstream of the Cancer Inequalities Network, which OII Europe became a member of in January 2024 (→ see also the section on *Collaborations* on page 12), in the development of the survey Disparities affecting the European LGBTQI+ community in cancer, launched at the end of 2024.
- Non-binary in the EU survey: OII Europe supported, together with TGEU, ILGA Europe and four academic organisers, an EU-wide survey on non-binary gender recognition in the EU and Central Asia. For over two years, OII Europe has been consulted in the design of this survey, which we hope will help to capture the experiences of non-binary intersex persons in accessing (or not) legal gender recognition.
- INIA closing conference – OII Europe's Executive Director participated in a panel during the closing conference of the INIA project (Intersex New Interdisciplinary Approaches) in Brussels.
- FRA LGBTIQ III Survey publication – creation and publication of OII Europe infographics highlighting the main findings of the survey. → See also under the section *Awareness Raising & Campaigns* on page 17.
- 1-0-1 Ethical Intersex Research Toolkit. In 2024, OII Europe continued to develop its forthcoming toolkit, the 1-0-1 Ethical Intersex Research Toolkit. The toolkit is being created in cooperation with academic partners, including intersex academics and experts from across Europe and the globe, to foster a better understanding of the challenges and common malpractices which impact research on the topic of intersex people and their lived realities, as well as provide good practice examples to academics and researchers, policy makers, funders, intersex activists and NGOs across Europe on how to overcome such challenges. Publication is foreseen for the end of 2026.

OII Europe spoke at the following events in 2024:

- 18.01.2024, online, Caster Semenya Case Update & Intersex/NonBinary Sports Division in Strongman (attended by Urs Vanessa Sager as OII Europe's consultant on Sports)
- 31.01. - 01.02.2024, in-person, Brussels, INIA Closing Conference
- 01.02.2024, online, European Cancer Organisation LGBTI workstream meeting
- 07.02.2024, online, meeting with University of Bristol Peter Dunne on non-binary LGR in the EU survey project
- 22.02. - 26.02.2024, in person, Ankara, Turkey, KuirFest events – documentary screening, panel discussion and workshop with Ankara Bar Association.
- 26.02.2024, online, ILGA World Intersex Steering Committee meeting
- 06.03.2024, online, ILGA-Europe meeting on hate speech with social media platforms YouTube, META/Facebook & TikTok
- 15.03.2024, online, European Cancer Organisation Inequalities Network workshop
- 13.05. - 16.05.2024, in person, The Hague, IDAHOT Forum, co-organised by the Dutch government, SOGI Unit
- 17.05.2024, in person, Brussels, Belgian Presidency Event co-organised by the European Commission & the Belgian Presidency of the EU.
- 14.06.2025, online, UN SR VAWG consultation meeting on violence against women and girls in sport
- 23.06.2024, in person, Oslo, Norway, Intersex Lived Experiences and Community Building Session at Oslo Pride
- 28.06.2024, in person, Thessaloniki, Europride Human Rights Conference panel
- 27.09.2024 SPD Queer Political Human Rights Conference, Panel on Verbot von Intersex Genital Mutilation (IGM) in Griechenland
- 17. - 20.10.2024, in person, Bucharest, ILGA Europe Annual Conference, IGM Bans: Advocacy strategies, framing essentials, analysis of the first laws in Europe Session
- 07.11.2024, in person, Rome, Equinet & UNAR high-level conference on Sport's role in fighting discrimination
- 11. - 15.11.2024, in person, Cape Town, ILGA World Conference
- 10. - 11.12.2024, in person, Brussels, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) Forum

OII Europe attended or disseminated information at the following events in 2024:

- 11.01.2024, online, FEMM and EMPL Committee hearing on Equality bodies initiative
- 24.01.2024, online, FEMM Committee hearing on the VAW & DV Directive
- 06.02.2024, online, co-rapporteurs Fitzgerald & Incir VAW & DV Directive press conference
- 08.03.2024, online, Council of Europe EPAS Breakfast roundtable on sport officiating and gender equality
- 16.04.2024, online, ERA (Academy of European Law) Conference on legal aspects of gender identity in Europe
- 08.04.2024, online, FEMM Committee hearing on obgyn violence report
- 03.05.2024, online, European Cancer Organisation Inequalities Network meeting
- 07.05.2024, online, Council of the European Union adoption of the Equality Bodies Initiative & VAW + DV Directive
- 15.05.2024, online, Strasbourg, Grand Chamber hearing in the case of Semenya v. Switzerland at the ECHR
- 15.10.2024, in person, Brussels, Equinet High Level event on Directives on standards for Equality Bodies

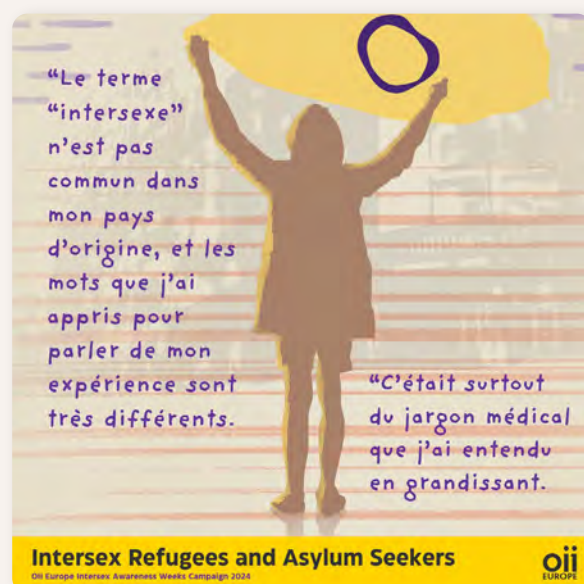
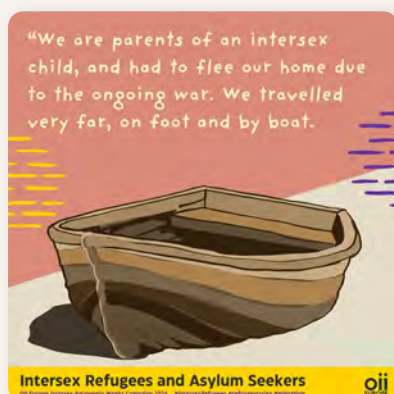
AWARENESS RAISING & CAMPAIGNS

Intersex Awareness Weeks Campaign 2024

We dedicated this year's **Intersex Awareness Weeks Campaign** to Intersex Refugees and Asylum Seekers, following the publication and launch of our newest toolkit "**Intersex Refugees and Asylum Seekers**" (→ see more on our *Refugees & Asylum Seekers Program* on page 22) in early 2024. With the campaign we continued to disseminate information on this important topic to a broader public by highlighting the experiences and sharing the voices of intersex refugees, intersex asylum seekers and their families, and the very specific challenges they face. The campaign focussed on four main areas: terminologies, legal gender recognition, support, guidance, intersex minors and their families. Furthermore it covers some good practice examples and includes the video recording of the launch event of the toolkit and a panel with the authors of the toolkit in conversation with experts, including intersex refugees and asylum seekers.

Once again, we've created a dedicated page for the campaign that is available on the OII Europe Campaign website: <https://campaigns.oii-europe.org/intersex-refugees-and-asylum-seekers/>

The campaign materials and social media snippets feature engaging custom-made illustrations, and the page includes a communication kit for everyone to easily share and promote the campaign. For our member organisations we again provided an open Canva project for using it in their language context and to create social media assets in their dedicated language. As an example we show one of the snippets from our French member organisation CIA / OII France! Thanks for sharing them with us!

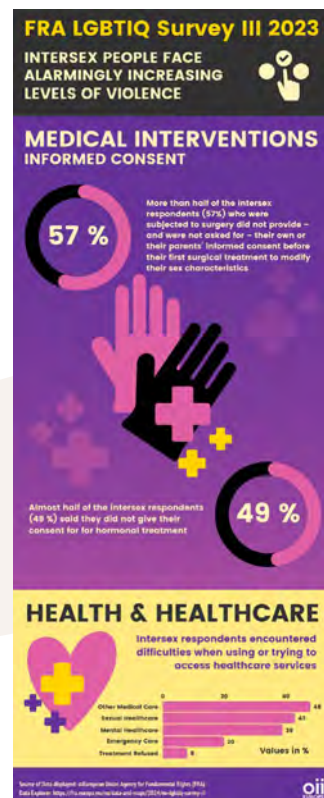


Infographics on findings from the FRA LGBTIQ III Survey 2023

On May 14th 2024, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) published the third edition of its survey on LGBTIQ people, providing up-to-date information on the lives of LGBTIQ people in the 27 EU Member States and EU candidate countries of Albania, North Macedonia and Serbia. This year's survey saw a significant increase in the number of intersex respondents. However, it also showed that intersex people face alarmingly increasing levels of violence in their everyday life!

We created new infographics on findings in the following areas: employment status, homelessness, medical interventions and informed consent, health & healthcare, hate-motivated harassment, discrimination, experience of discrimination based on being intersex, violence, hate-motivated physical or sexual attacks, bullying at school, and conversion practices. ►

<https://www.oiiurope.org/infographics-findings-from-the-fra-lgbtiq-survey-2023/>



Social media graphics with the joint statement on German Family Court case

In July 2024 OII Germany & OII Europe published a joint statement and analysis of a deeply concerning German Family Court decision authorising an intervention on an intersex minor. Next to the joint statement the social media posts included some accompanying graphics to inform and empower parents of intersex children and the general public. ▼

<https://www.oiiurope.org/oii-germany-oii-europe-joint-comment-german-family-court-decision/>



Translation of OII Europe Materials

OII Europe has been launching several translations of OII Europe materials in 2024, including:

- Chinese translation of “#MyIntersexStory”
<https://www.oiiurope.org/chinese-translation-of-myintersexstory/>
- Bosnian translation of “#MyIntersexStory”
<https://www.oiiurope.org/bosnian-translation-of-myintersexstory/>

➔ Please see also the section on our *Intersex Resources Translation Program*

Statistics

In 2024 OII Europe's Social Media reach on Facebook gained over 10.000 & over 23.500 on Instagram, with over 37.000 views. For Twitter/X we no longer have access to the statistical data, since the platform's statistics are now behind a paywall.

Followers: 2200 3550 2300 228

Website visits in 2024:

www.oiiurope.org = 528.000 visits,
intervisibility.eu = 110.000 visits,
campaigns.oiiurope.org = 23.300 visits.

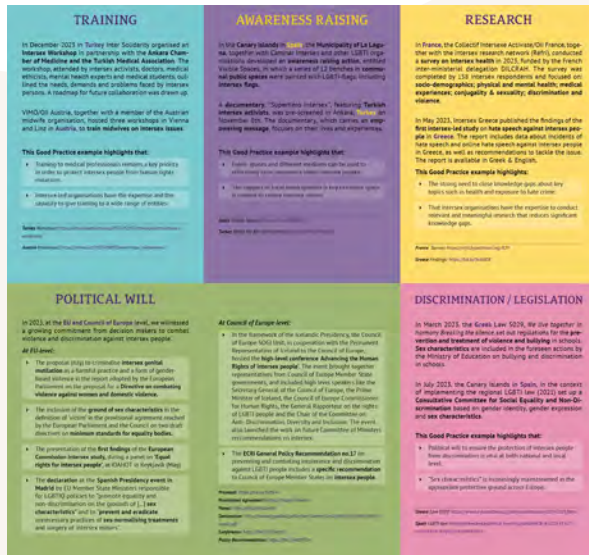
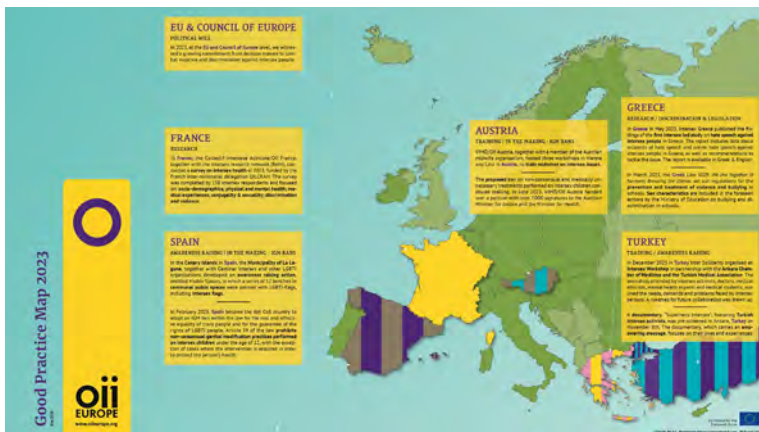
AWARENESS RAISING & CAMPAIGNS

Oil Europe Annual Good Practice Map Good Practice Map 2023

Our annual Good Practice Map was published with a selection of new positive findings from 2023, in the areas of **training, awareness raising, research, political will, discrimination and legislation**.

The section entitled **"In the Making: IGM Bans"** was also included again, this time focusing on developments in **Austria and Spain** to protect intersex people from this harmful practice.

<https://www.oii-europe.org/good-practice-map-2023/>



Other publications of Oil Europe in 2024

- Oil Europe Annual Report 2023

<https://www.oii-europe.org/oii-europe-annual-report-2023/>

- Oil Europe Good Practice Map 2023

<https://www.oii-europe.org/good-practice-map-2023/>

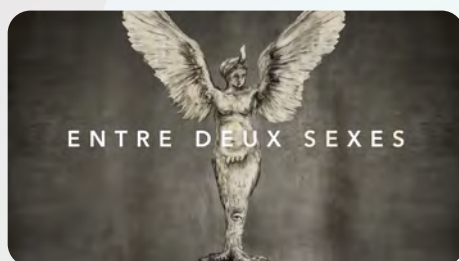
- Intersex Refugees and Asylum Seeker Toolkit

<https://www.oii-europe.org/new-resource-oii-europe-refugees-asylum-seeker-toolkit/>



■ Europride Thessaloniki & Europride Human Rights Conference

During the Europride Event we took part in a film screening of *Entre Deux Sexes* (Documentary, 2017) followed by a live Q&A session with OII Europe's staff members Ins A Kromminga and Irene Kuzemko. During the Europride we provided informational materials and in-person awareness raising on intersex at our joint awareness raising kiosk together with our member organisation Intersex Greece. ➔ See also the section *Policy & Advocacy* to read more about the OII Europe participation in a panel of the Europride Human Rights Conference on page 13.



■ OII Europe websites

oiieurope.org

As a living platform, the OII Europe website is constantly being updated and enhancing the usability of its content. One of the latest additions is a dedicated page for our translation program, which includes a process breakdown and a growing list of existing translated materials such as flyers, toolkits, our testimonial book, and more.

campaigns.oiieurope.org

Our dedicated campaigns website is growing every year as a free and open-access resource to all that want to learn

more about different aspects of intersex lives. Presented in a visually appealing and accessible format, the site is useful to both general audiences and those seeking more in-depth knowledge.

intervisibility.eu

Our multilingual website *European Intersex Visibility Works!* was one of OII Europe's first projects back in 2017 providing basic information about intersex in over 30 languages. While it will remain as an ongoing resource for non-native English speakers, we are considering ways to revise and update the site in the near to medium term.

COMMUNITY & MOVEMENT BUILDING



ONLINE
oii
EUROPE

COMMUNITY EVENT &
PUBLIC CONFERENCE
SEPT 27-29 2024

**STRENGTHENING
OUR MOVEMENT**

OII Europe Online Community Event & Public Conference 2024

The OII Europe Online Community Event & Public Conference 2024 was held on September 27-29, 2024.

This year our OII Europe Online Community Event & Public Conference had over **140** registrants. The event hosted intersex people, families, allies & activists from 25 countries across Europe, Central Asia and the Maghreb region, participating under the theme “Strengthening our movement”.

Topics of sessions included a mixture of new capacity building topics and relevant topics in the focus of the community.

■ 28. & 29.09.2024, OII Europe Online Community Event

(open for intersex people and their families, loved ones and support persons; both days from 10:00 to 16:00- 18:00)

Topics of sessions included, among others (two tracks, 14 sessions total):

- Intersex advocacy updates session
- Current issues faced by the intersex movement
- Strategies to help prevent or alleviate burnout
- Collaborations with other movements
- Communication tools
- EU funding
- Intersex journeys

27.09.2023 Public Conference

(open for everybody, from 11:00 to 15:15)

The Public Conference was held before the two Community Event days to allow a larger number of participants to join due to being held during working hours. The program of the Public Conference included invited speakers, policy makers and researchers, specifically:

Welcome by

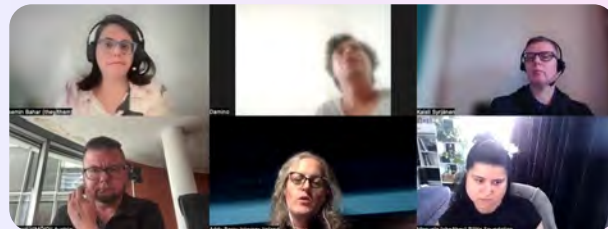
- Kristian Randelović, Co-chair of OII Europe



▲ Keynote speech by Michael van Gelderen, Human Rights Officer at the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)



The sessions of the Public Conference were recorded with prior consent to recording and dissemination given by all speakers and moderators and are available on [OII Europe's YouTube channel](#).



Misinformation on intersex issues throughout Europe and the actors involved panel - facilitated by Irene Kuzemko, with speakers:

- Kaisli Syrjänen, OII Europe, ISIO Finland
- Dr Adeline Berry, Intersex Ireland
- Luan Pertl, VIMÖ
- Manuela Popova, Bilitis
- Yasemin Bahar, Inter Dayanışma (Inter Solidarity Turkey)
- Damino, Massarat Tunisia



Different types of misinformation and how they overlap with misinformation on intersex issues Panel - facilitated by Luan Pertl, with speakers:

- Urs Vanessa Sager, InterAction Switzerland
- Math, OII France
- Rodrigo Cruz, Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- Michael van Gelderen, OHCHR

Online Campfires

2024 was the fifth year in which we kept on holding online Campfires for our community. Held bi-monthly in 2024 and originally set up as a COVID-19 measure right at the beginning of the pandemic, these calls proved to be a space for connection, low-threshold networking, exchange and peer support for the European and global intersex community.



OUR PROGRAMS

Refugees & Asylum Seekers Program

In 2024, OII Europe continued its work to raise awareness about and advocate for better protection of intersex refugees and asylum seekers' rights under our *Refugees & Asylum Seekers Program*. Notably, on March 26th 2024, OII Europe launched its new publication, the [Intersex Refugees & Asylum Seekers Toolkit](#), authored by OII Europe Policy Officer Jana Hugo and the Consultant for the OII Europe Refugees & Asylum Seekers Program Luan Pertl.

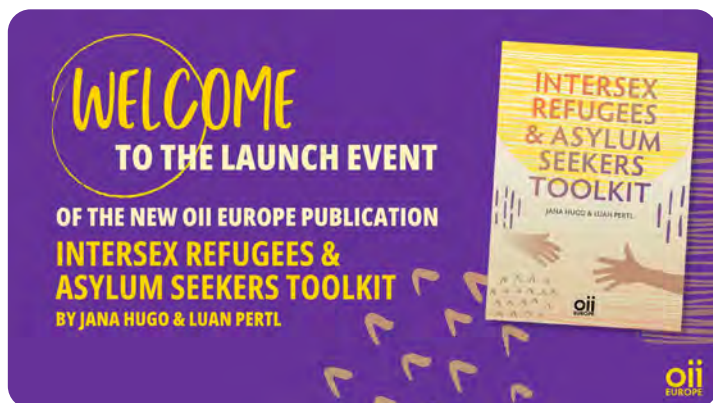
The online [launch event](#) included a panel discussion with intersex activists from around the world and Dr. Petra Sussner, Professor of Legal Gender Studies at *Humboldt University* as well as Georgia Arapidou, Senior Vulnerability Officer, from the *European Union Asylum Agency* (EUAA). The toolkit focuses on outlining the needs and challenges of intersex refugees and asylum seekers, as well as issuing concrete recommendations for a diverse range of actors working in the sphere of LGBTIQ asylum.

Our 2024 Intersex Awareness Weeks Campaign was also dedicated to intersex refugees & asylum seekers.

→ See more in the section on *Awareness Raising and Campaigns* on page 16.

OII Europe also continued to raise awareness and provide input via targeted consultations through the EUAA's [vulnerable groups expert network](#). This opportunity allowed OII Europe to highlight the continued barriers faced by intersex asylum seekers who flee their country of origin and seek international protection within the European Union. In addition, OII Europe conducted two separate targeted trainings on intersex refugees & asylum seekers' specific needs for staff from the International Organisation for Migration's EU economic area office in September 2024 as well as their Germany office in December 2024.

→ See more under the section "*Research, Training & Education*" on page 25.



Intersex Resources Translation Program

■ Making our resources available in multiple languages

Given the limited funding available to intersex organisations, it is crucial to share materials among intersex activists and organisations. OII Europe is dedicated to making its policy and empowerment materials available to intersex communities, who can use them for their advocacy work across the Council of Europe region. To ensure the accessibility of our content in various languages, we collaborate with translators from the intersex community and with expert allies. These collaborations have proven to be essential for maintaining the quality of terminologies, ensuring a human rights-based and depathologizing approach, and to foster sensitivity towards the specific issues at hand.

In 2024 one of our foci was to continue to translate the OII Europe *Legal Toolkit Checklist* which we then published in Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Portuguese and Slovak. This checklist is a simplified but complete list of the recommendations from the Toolkit *Protecting Intersex People in Europe*. It is designed as a quick reference guide for policy makers, lawmakers and public servants working to protect the rights of intersex people. Making the checklist available in more EU Member States' languages allows national intersex NGOs and their allies to better raise awareness about intersex protection gaps with national law and policy makers and allows the latter to increase their understanding and enhance their efforts to implement protection of intersex people as laid out in the *EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020 - 2025*.

Other translations and launches of publications in 2024:

The **Bosnian** and **Chinese** translations of our testimonial book **"#MyIntersexStory - Personal accounts by intersex people living in Europe"** were published, and the following items were translated and layouted in 2024:

- **"Intersex Refugees and Asylum Seekers Flyer"** in **German, Greek and Polish**,
- **"Indicators for effective protection of the rights of intersex people, in particular protection from IGM"** in **German and French**,
- **"Protecting Intersex People in Europe: A toolkit for law and policy makers"** in **Finnish and Greek**.

In 2024 we also continued to streamline our translation program process and added a dedicated [page to our website](#) to introduce this process to member organisations and allies volunteering or seeking translation of OII Europe materials in their national or local languages.

The page also provides an overview of all existing translations of our materials and collaborations and is being updated regularly.



OUR PROGRAMS

European Intersex Strategic Litigation (EISL) Network & other strategic litigation activities

The European Intersex Strategic Litigation Network, established in 2020, continued its activities in 2024.

It is made up of intersex experts and activists as well as legal experts and lawyers from different parts of the European region. In 2024, the meeting of the EISL Network focused on

- a) exchanges and discussions on current case law developments at European and national levels;
- b) exchanges and discussions on ongoing strategic litigation undertaken by members of the Network on legal gender recognition;
- c) continuation of capacity building on the ECtHR Semenya v Switzerland case, including arguments raised in the Grand Chamber hearing and OII Europe's [third party intervention](#) in the procedure, in collaboration with the International Commission of Jurists and ILGA-Europe.

On January 8th 2024, OII Europe filed a [joint submission](#) in the Semenya v Switzerland case in front of the European Court of Human Rights, together with the International Commission of Jurists and ILGA-Europe. The aim of this submission was to assist the Grand Chamber in its determination of the case. It focuses on the place of intersex athletes in competitive sports and sporting fairness for

all athletes. The submission analyses World Athletics' constantly evolving rules, which, due to their strict prerequisites, effectively limit and/or prevent the participation of intersex athletes in international sporting competitions.

In 2024, OII Europe also explored new avenues for collaborations with law firms on specific strategic litigation cases and organised a roundtable with legal experts to strategise around litigation cases on intersex rights at national, regional and international levels.





Research, training & education

○ On September 6th 2024, OII Europe hosted an online training for one of our newly established partners, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The training focused on outlining the specific situation of intersex migrants, as well as their support needs in different contexts. We provided concrete recommendations for IOM staff on how to better support intersex migrants who they may interact with at national level, in a variety of contexts (at the EU border, in the context of integration or in relation to the provision of specialised support). The training

was attended by over 55 IOM employees from 27 different country offices in the EU economic area.

○ On December 6th 2024, OII Europe hosted an online training for the Germany office of the IOM. Again, the training focused on outlining the specific situation of intersex migrants, their support needs and recommendations for providing comprehensive support to them in different contexts. The training was attended by 43 staff members.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING

Staff & Board meetings

● Board Meetings in 2024

In addition to the regular online meetings, our Steering Board also met in person twice again this year.

● Staff Retreat 2024

OII Europe Evaluation & Work Staff Retreat 2024 was held in December, allowing us to take a look back at the past year, our achievements, rethink on how to best advance the objectives of the OII Europe Strategic Plan considering the developments we've seen in 2024 and brainstorm on the short-term strategic objectives for the following year.

This year the staff team also continued with our regular supervision sessions with a commissioned facilitator.

● New OII Europe Office Housewarming Party

On May 31st we held a Housewarming Party to celebrate us settling in our new office that we moved into in 2023! Yes, we were a bit late, but still we did not forget to celebrate! ☺ Guests joined us in our office in Berlin for an evening of conversations, snacks and celebration. Thank you all for coming!



Staff development

In March 2024 we were happy to welcome Maddalena Bianchi into our team as new OII Europe Policy Officer to fill the vacant position. ►

In May 2024 we had to say good-bye to our former Finance and Administration Officer Aleks Jahn who left OII Europe for personal reasons. We bridged the time between his leave and filling the vacant position with the help of Luan Pertl, who had been OII Europe's first Finance and Administration Officer and who took on the role of an intermediary FAO. We also engaged the help of a Finance and Administration Trainee, Esi Aninkora ♥.

We are also very much appreciate the support of our consultants to our programs: Luan Pertl (Intersex Asylum Seekers & Refugees Program), Urs Vanessa Sager (Intersex and Sports), Arpi Avetisyan (Strategic Litigation Program).

Staff & SB trainings

The **Understanding and Strategically Responding to Anti-Gender Attacks** training was held for the OII Europe Steering Board and staff in November by an invited expert, Damjan Denkovski. The agenda of the training focused on identifying, mapping, and clustering narratives, landscapes and actors; building resilience and developing strategic responses to the anti-gender movement.

In another training we were instructed on the proper use of breaks for the purposes of building and flying office planes, with a view to both recreation and health. ►

Funding

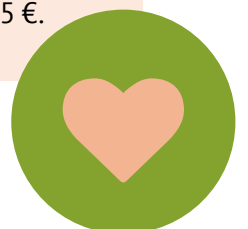
In 2024, we continued our granteeship with American Jewish World Service (AJWS) and secured another 1-year grant for institutional strengthening with them in September 2024. At the same time, Wellspring Philanthropic fund increased our existing grant and the Astraera Intersex Human Rights Fund grant went into its second year of the current cycle. We also continued 2024 with a new operational grant by the European Commission and a project grant from the Council of Europe and were able to give rapid response support to intersex persons and to continue our Strategic Litigation Program with the help of Dreilinden.

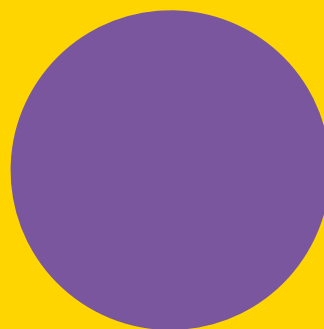
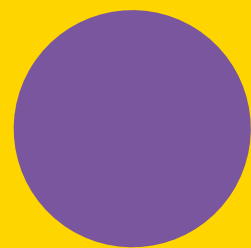
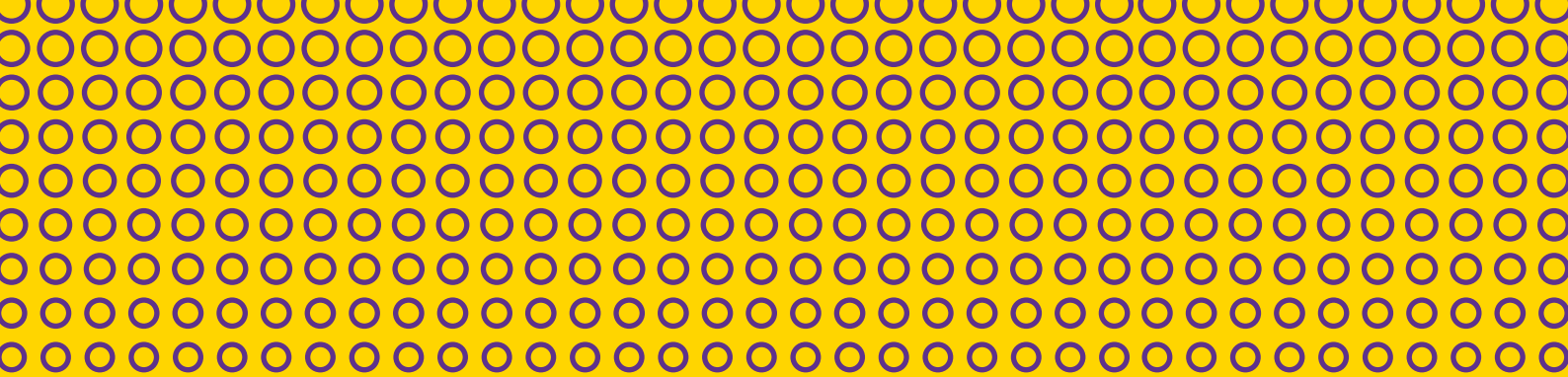


We are thankful for the support, the trust and the appreciation of OII Europe's work expressed through these grants by the following donors:

American Jewish World Service / Astraera IHRF / Council of Europe / Dreilinden / European Commission / Wellspring

For OII Europe's Fiscal Year 2024 we can report a funding income of 545.006,75 €.





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