

Organisation Intersex International Europe ANNUAL REPORT 2025





OII Europe Staff and Board at the OII Europe Community Event and Public Conference in Athens, Greece, November 2025

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: Group photo of participants of the High-Level event on the Launch of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)7 to member States on Equal Rights for Intersex Persons, Strasbourg, France in October 2025



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Organisation Intersex International Europe

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Introduction

If there has ever been a year that combined extremes, it was 2025: a political crisis with ripple effects that shattered existing support structures on a global level started the year off; and, at least for Europe, a watershed moment closed the year.

The start of 2025 saw the Trump administration shutting down financial support to many different human rights actors, including but not limited to NGOs. The shattering of the funding landscape in a never before seen way on a global level, had a detrimental impact on the existence of many human rights- and direct service NGOs as well as on human rights defenders. Our hearts go out to those whose existence was put into question or even terminated as a result of funding losses. As OII Europe, we were affected on a smaller scale and in the aftermath, our existing donors were key in supporting us: not only with financial resources but by standing with us and the intersex movement in times of unprecedented shifts in the funding world.

While we managed to navigate the challenges we faced with our donors' help, the crisis still affects future opportunities and some of our members have felt the impact in regards to further shrinking accessibility of funding for an already massively underfunded movement. OII Europe's vision to, in the future, become an intermediary with the US State Department and to be able to direct funds through regranting to our member organisations has, for now, been stalled.

Fast forward to Fall 2025 and a watershed moment for intersex equality: On October 7th 2025, the Council of Europe's 46 Member States unanimously adopted the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Equal Rights for Intersex Persons (CM/Rec(2025)/7). The Recommendation sets out the most comprehensive framework to date for protecting the human rights of intersex people and provides thorough guidance to Member States on closing persisting legal gaps, particularly as related to prohibiting intersex genital mutilation (IGM), as well as recognising sex characteristics as a necessary protected ground for discrimination.

The importance of such a comprehensive set of measures cannot be overstated. The Recommendation sends an important message of hope to intersex persons across Europe, as 46 countries have now officially acknowledged the existence of as well as the need to protect intersex people. In a time of right-wing backlash, as well as the anti-gender movement which is becoming more and more vocal – coupled with crises like the ones induced by political actors around the world, including in Europe – the unanimous adoption of the Recommendation came close to a miracle and not only empowered the intersex movement but also many other equality and human rights organisations and institutions. The fight for fundamental rights is alive and kicking with success.

The OII Europe Staff and Steering Board

In 2025, OII Europe learnt with deep sadness of the passing of Kris Günther, a treasured former board member, kindhearted colleague and passionate activist who made a lasting impact on OII Europe and the intersex community.

Kris Günther was a founding member and served on the board of OII Europe from 2015 to 2018, during which time he brought invaluable insight, unwavering commitment, and a genuine warmth and humor to our organisation.

Beyond his board service, Kris Günther was a tireless advocate for intersex rights in Belgium and France, and his multilingual ability to connect with members from the German- and French-speaking communities helped create strong cross-border relations and exchange within Europe and beyond. He possessed an exceptional combination of fierce clarity in vision and compassionate



understanding, inspiring those around him to join together in the pursuit of positive change.

Kris Günther's dedication extended beyond our organisation, touching the lives of countless individuals through his work with OII Belgium and within Genres Pluriels. He belonged to the first wave of European intersex activists and he co-authored the now historic Malta Declaration, an important document of human rights demands formulated by the International Intersex Forum in 2013.

He believed deeply in the power of collective action and the importance of creating a more just, equitable and safer world for intersex people.

We extend our deepest condolences to Kris Günther's family, friends, and all who were touched by his kindness and friendship.

The war in Ukraine

Support of community

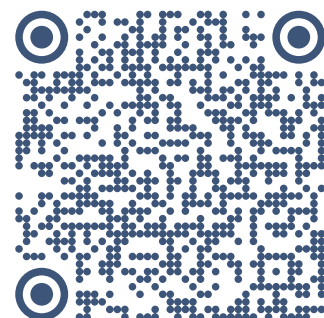
In the fourth year of the war in Ukraine OII Europe kept accepting donations for the cause of supporting the intersex people in and from Ukraine and staying in touch with them.



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.oieurope.org/support-of-intersex-people-from-ukraine/>

POLICY & ADVOCACY

The year 2025 was a **momentous year** for intersex rights at the policy-level in Europe. In the policy team at OII Europe, we continued to maintain our **policy and advocacy related activities and outputs** at both EU and Council of Europe level, despite a worsening political climate, marked by mounting pressure and threats. At the Council of Europe level, we celebrated a huge **milestone** and many years of work, together with intersex people across Europe, with the historic adoption of the **Committee of Ministers recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons** (CM/Rec(2025)7). OII Europe continued to work to **amplify the demands**

of the European intersex community as well as strengthening our collaboration with partner organisations working on intersectional issues, with the goal of ensuring greater visibility at EU, Council of Europe and UN-level.

At the EU-level, submissions to the public and targeted consultations for the next five-year **EU LGBTIQ and Gender Equality Strategies**, as well as discussions on the **next EU-budget**, framed much of the work of the policy team. We worked together on these files with EU equality NGOs and our member organisations. At national level, OII Europe continued to support its 29 member organisations

in various advocacy and policy-related actions and initiatives, thereby building the capacity of members to advance protections or to stand up against backlash at national level.

We celebrated diverse policy highlights, including the [first-ever panel](#) on intersex persons and their rights at the **60th United Nations Human Rights Council** in Geneva, the publication of two important reports, [one](#) from the **European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)** and [another](#) from the **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**.

Advocacy at the European Union level



1 – Submission to the public consultation from the European Commission on the EU's next long-term budget, the MFF

In 2025, work to prepare the EU's **next long-term budget, European Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034**, steadily progressed. Discussions on the next MFF are happening at a crucial time globally, where funding to intersex and LGBT(I) organisations across Europe has already been significantly cut, at the same time as priorities are shifting to focus more on securitisation, militarisation and defence.

- In May, OII Europe prepared a **submission to the [public consultation](#)** from the European Commission for the next MFF.
- » OII Europe also prepared a **guidance document for its member organisations**, outlining the importance of the next MFF for intersex rights as well as the sustainability of funding for

the civil society organisations over the coming years.

- From March-December, OII Europe worked on preparing for the next MFF within a **coalition of civil society organisations** to collectively advocate for the safeguarding of civil society funding under the CERV+ strand of the AgoraEU Programme. Those organisations include Civil Society Europe and other equality networks (ILGA-Europe, EL*C, IGLYO, TGEU, The European Network Against Racism (ENAR), European Disability Forum (EDF), EndFGM European Network, AGE Platform, Equinet, the European Women's Lobby (EWL), International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF) Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE) and Centre for Reproductive Rights among others.)
- In July, OII Europe – together with a group of 13 leading civil society organisations – [sent a letter](#) to **European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen** and **European Commissioner for**

Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration Piotr Serafin, urging the EU to take decisive action to protect civil society organisations, in the context of the discussions on the next MFF. ▼

- In November, OII Europe responded to a second European Commission [public consultation](#) on the **Commission Proposal on the next MFF**, outlining our joint proposals for amendments to the Commission's text.



2 – Submission to the European Commission in the context of the new LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030

In 2025, OII Europe was consulted by the European Commission during its work to draw up and publish the **follow-up Strategy** to the first LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025, which comprehensively included a clear mandate to work on a range of actions inclusive of intersex human rights issues. In this context, OII Europe worked to put forward a submission to both the public and targeted consultations, which included comprehensive recommendations related to the concrete policy actions needed to advance intersex people's fundamental rights, across all areas of life. We worked to support our member organisations in their own responses to the public consultation, and participated in online meetings organised by DG JUST in the preparatory phase.

- On April 1st, OII Europe participated in an **online roundtable** organised by DG JUST on the upcoming Strategy, where we outlined our key priorities and recommendations for the EU's next LGBTIQ Equality Strategy.
- From Jan-May, OII Europe prepared its [submission](#) in the context of DG JUST's **targeted consultation** for the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030, which it sent in on May 13th. The submission included **comprehensive recommendations**, grouped under 17 subheadings: countering backlash and the anti-gender movement, hate crime and hate speech, gender-based violence, conversion practices, awareness raising about intersex realities and IGM through targeted action, protection from discrimination, health, socio-economic inequality, youth & education, intersectionality, asylum, sport, undelivered items from the previous LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, mainstreaming intersex including across DGs, data collection, funding, enforcement of EU legislation & infringement procedures, and finally, external dimension.
- In May, OII Europe also responded to the European Commission's [public consultation](#) on the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030. OII Europe also **supported its member organisations** in preparing their own responses to the public consultation questionnaire.

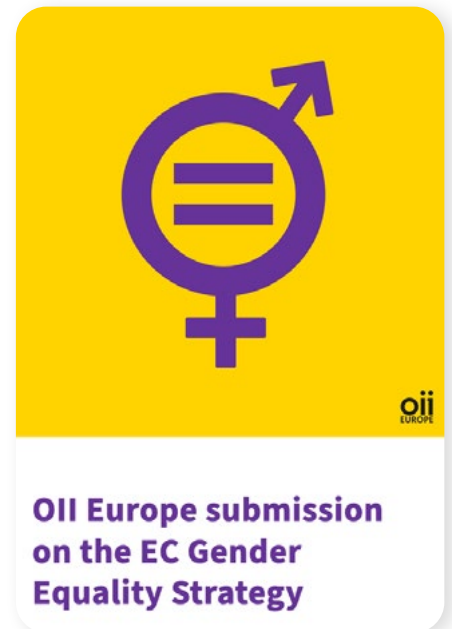


New EU LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy: Intersex Rights Overlooked

- In June, OII Europe participated in an **online consultation** on the **international dimension** of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2026-2030, organised by DG JUST.
- On the 8th of October 2025, the European Commission [published](#) its **second EU LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030**. OII Europe [reacted in a press release](#), welcoming the new Strategy, which was published at a moment of global and EU-wide backlash against equality, LGBTIQ rights and democracy, where the EU's commitment to human rights is more needed than ever. However, we also expressed deep concern over the lack of intersex-specific measures and actions in the Strategy. We noted that this omission was especially concerning given that most of the previous Strategy's commitments on intersex rights were not delivered on, namely the failure to publish the study on intersex people in the EU as well as the recommendation on harmful practices against women and girls. ▲

3 – Submission to the European Commission in the context of the new Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030

Over the last 5 years, OII Europe has worked with the European Commission to advance gender equality between men and women *in all their diversity*, notably in line with the specific measures



OII Europe submission on the EC Gender Equality Strategy

set out in the first-ever Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025. In 2025, OII Europe contributed to the work leading up to the next five-year strategy, through a comprehensive submission outlining the key issues and recommendations, covering the themes of intersectionality, freedom from gender-based violence, hate crime and hate speech, victims' rights, conversion practices, highest attainable standard of health, quality and inclusive education, socio-economic empowerment, political participation and equal representation, institutional mechanisms that deliver on women's rights, and sport.

- In January, OII Europe prepared and submitted a briefing to DG JUST D3 on the **Roadmap for Women's Rights**.
- In July, OII Europe attended an in-person full-day consultation for the upcoming Gender Equality Strategy in Brussels.
- On August 8th, OII Europe prepared and [submitted](#) ▲ detailed recommendations related to the specific situation of intersex persons in response to the public consultation for the next **Gender Equality Strategy 2026-2030**.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Advocacy at the European Union level cont.



4 – Consultation in the context of the FRA ‘Being Intersex in the EU’ report

In April, OII Europe was **consulted** by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in the development of their report “[Being Intersex in the EU](#)”, which features an in-depth look at the disaggregated data from 1,920 intersex respondents to FRA’s [2023 LGBTIQ II survey](#), which was conducted in 30 European countries. The FRA report was published on September 17th and reveals that intersex people face extreme, **rising levels of violence, harassment, and discrimination** in the EU, far exceeding that of the general LGBTIQ population. OII Europe issued a [press release](#) to mark the publication of the report. ▶

5 - Advocacy in the context of the withdrawal of the Equal Treatment Directive

In 2025, OII Europe engaged in advocacy within a coalition of organisations, following the announcement on February 12th that the European Commission intended to **withdraw** the draft **horizontal Equal Treatment Directive**, a piece of legislation that would grant **protection from discrimination** across the EU, beyond just the workplace. The Directive has been blocked in the Council since 2008, since it requires unanimity, and as a result, in its [2025 workplan](#), the Commission expressed its intention to withdraw the piece of legislation due to “unlikely further progress”.

○ In response, on February 17th, OII Europe published a [joint statement](#) with other equality networks AGE Platform Europe, EL*C, ENAR, ERGO Network, IGLYO, ILGA-Europe and TGEU, urging the Commission to **withdraw its proposal**.



- In March, the coalition of equality networks, together with All Out, launched a **public petition** to call on the Commission to reverse its decision, including other advocacy actions as part of the broader campaign. Our joint petition, **signed by 33,000 people**, was delivered to the European Commission on July 17th.
- Later in July, the Commission, recognising the importance of this draft Directive, reversed its decision and kept the legislation on the table for continued negotiations.

Advocacy at Council of Europe level

1 – Adoption of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation to Member States on equal rights for intersex persons CM/Rec(2025)7

In 2025, OII Europe's and our partners work towards the **Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons CM/Rec(2025)7** culminated in a watershed moment when it was unanimously [adopted](#) by all 46 Member States on October 7th. The new Recommendation sets out the most comprehensive framework to date for the protection of intersex human rights in Europe, and this historic adoption marked the start of a new era for intersex organisations across the Region.

- In March, OII Europe **hosted a cross-country meeting** (online) for its member organisations on advocacy around the Committee of Ministers Recommendation. The meeting served as a space for OII Europe to build the capacity of its membership to engage with national policymakers in the lead up to the Committee of Ministers vote.
- In June, OII Europe and ILGA-Europe invited representatives of CoE member States to a **breakfast exchange** on the human rights of intersex people aimed at enhancing understanding of their lived realities and the remaining legal barriers to the full enjoyment of their human rights.
- Following its adoption, OII Europe **collaborated with the Council of Europe's SOGIESC Unit** for the [official launch](#) of the Recommendation, attended in-person by 34 intersex activists from across Europe as well as OII Europe staff. The Recommendation was launched with a **high-level Presidency event** in Strasbourg on October 27th under the Maltese Presidency of the Committee of Ministers where the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Alain Berset, presented a keynote address,



Official launch of the CM/Rec(2025)7: Council of Europe High-Level Presidency Event in Strasbourg, October 27th 2025. ([Source: CoE](#))

in presence of other speakers such as Helena Dalli, Former EU Commissioner for Equality, Michael O'Flaherty the Council of Europe High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy Director-General for the International Dimension of Justice Policies, Rule of Law and Equality (DG JUST), Irena Moozova, and the voices of intersex activists from across Europe, among others. ▲

- » For the launch event, OII Europe further **strengthened its relationship with allied organisations**, including other equality networks. This collaboration culminated in statements delivered by representatives from ILGA-Europe, the European Disability Forum, the International Planned Parenthood Federation Europe and Central Asia, and End FGM European Network during the official launch of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation.
- » The launch event also marked the official launch of the joint **OII Europe and Council of Europe awareness raising campaign**, #EuropeGoesPurple which ran from October 26th (Intersex Awareness Day) until November 8th (Intersex Day of Solidarity) → [See more under "Intersex Awareness Weeks Campaign 2025" pp.16-17](#)

In December, OII Europe held a **dedicated session** for its member organisations at the **2025 OII Europe Community Event and Public Conference** in Athens, on the process leading up to the adoption of the Recommendation, as well as how intersex activists can use the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Equal rights for intersex persons for advocacy at national level. The session included a presentation by OII Europe's Executive Director Dan Christian Ghattas as well as Senior Policy Officer Cianán Russell, ILGA-Europe, both civil society experts in the Expert Drafting Group for the Recommendation. The community event session was attended by more than 100 intersex persons and their loved ones from across Europe, Central Asia and the Maghreb region. → [See more under "OII Europe Community Event" pp.20-23](#)

A presentation of the Recommendation by Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGIESC Unit, also took place during the panel discussion at the OII Europe public conference.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Advocacy at Council of Europe level cont.



2 – Advocacy in the context of the European Court of Human Rights’ Grand Chamber Judgment in *Semenya v. Switzerland*

On July 10th 2025, in a pivotal [judgment](#), the **Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)** ruled in the case of [Semenya v. Switzerland](#). The Court overturned its Chamber judgment of July 2023, and found a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing) of the Convention, but held that there was no territorial link between Switzerland and Caster Semenya, the South African international-level middle-distance athlete, in respect of her other complaints under Articles 8 (right to respect for private life), 13 (right to an

effective remedy) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the European Convention on Human Rights, declaring them, therefore, inadmissible.

- On July 10th, OII Europe, together with the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and ILGA-Europe published a joint press release as third party interveners in reaction to the judgment. OII Europe had **submitted a third party intervention** in the case, together with ILGA-Europe and ICJ, in 2024.
- Throughout the year, following the Court’s Grand Chamber judgment, OII Europe continued strategising within an informal coalition of various actors on the topic of the rights of intersex ath-

letes. The coalition of experts include academics and legal experts working on international sports law, sports and inclusion advocacy organisations, experts at UN level, and experts on intersex rights. The decision was also discussed within the OII Europe European Intersex Strategic Litigation (EISL) network. ➔ [See more on the EISL network in the Our Programs-chapter p.28](#)

- On October 8th, OII Europe submitted a joint Rule 9.2 submission for enhanced supervision of the execution of the Semenya case judgment of the European Court of Human Rights.

Advocacy at United Nations level



1- Advocacy in the context of the first-ever intersex panel at the 60th session of the UN Human Rights Council

On September 15th, OII Europe was part of the [first-ever full panel](#) on intersex persons and their rights was held at the **60th United Nations Human Rights Council** in Geneva. The discussion centered on combating violence, discrimination, and harmful practices against intersex people, and six intersex activists from Europe and around the globe spoke, including our Executive Director, Dan Christian Ghattas. The event followed the landmark [2024 resolution](#) adopted by the 55th Human Rights Council, which was supported by a core group of countries including Australia, Chile, Finland, and South Africa.

The panel was opened with a statement by Ms. Nada Al-Nashif, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for



Human Rights, and the other panellists, Jeff Cadangahan, Executive Director at Intersex Philippines and Board Member of Intersex Asia, Yuri de Boer, Chair of the Expert Committee of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council of Europe, Undersecretary of Public Health of Chile, Andrea Albagli Iruretagoyena, and UN Special Rapporteur on Health, Tlaleng Mofokeng, addressed issues ranging from the **broad scope of human rights violations intersex people face** and the harmful impact of pathologisation of variations of

sex characteristics, to the **importance of national political will** and the strong need for **international instruments** which set standards and provide guidance to ensure the human rights of intersex people as well as their protection is upheld.

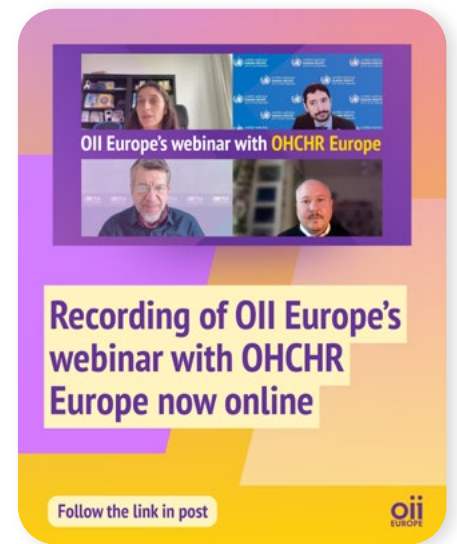
2 – Launch webinar for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report

On August 8th 2025, the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** published its [report](#), entitled “*Discriminatory laws and policies, acts of violence and harmful practices against intersex persons*”. This landmark report **analyses relevant human rights norms and standards**, identifies promising practices and makes recommendations on protecting the human rights, including the right to health, of intersex persons. The report



was called for by the first-ever UN Human Rights Council resolution on the rights of intersex persons from April 4, 2024.

- On October 16th OII Europe co-organised a **webinar** with the OHCHR Regional Office for Europe to launch the report, together with a representative of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA). The recording of the webinar is [available online](#). ▶



Collaborations

2025 marked a year of further strengthening OII Europe’s collaborations with a wide range of partner organisations working on **gender and LGBTIQ equality** as well as **human rights issues**, including through the establishment of new partnerships. Especially in a time of politically motivated attacks, restrictive funding, foreign agent laws and shrinking space for civic action, collective action and advocacy is key. We continue to see the ways in which collective action and advocacy bear fruits at EU, UN and Council of Europe level and help to strengthen our overlapping movements.

- OII Europe continued to work closely with a **coalition of 11 organisations**, including but not limited to EuroCentralAsian Lesbian* Community (EL*C), ILGA-Europe, IGLYO, Transgender Europe (TGEU), Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN), Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), EndFGM European network, AGE Platform Europe, European Network Against Racism (ENAR) and European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network on a wide range of topics and files. [➔ see more in the section ‘Advocacy at European Union level’ above.](#)
- In January 2025, OII Europe held a first online meeting with the **European Roma Rights Center**, exchanging on our work with vulnerable minorities.

- In February 2025, we established a new partnership with the **European LGBTI Christian Forum**, with an in-person meeting at the OII Europe office in Berlin, exchanging on the lived realities of intersex persons as well as LGBTIQ persons of faith and learning more about each other’s work.
- In June, from the 25th-27th, OII Europe participated in **IGLYO’s Proud Pupils - LGBTIQ Inclusive Education Conference** in Barcelona, Spain. Policy Officer Jana Hugo spoke during a roundtable Discussion entitled *Trans and Intersex Inclusion in Education: Best Practices on How to Make Schools Safe and Supportive*. ▶ The Proud Pupils’ conference was also an opportunity to strengthen our collaboration with IGLYO and the

Council of Europe in the context of the joint EU-CoE project *Combating Anti-LGBTIQ Violence and Hate Speech and Strengthening Awareness Raising and Facts-based Narratives About LGBTIQ People* and the subsequent SOGIESC-inclusive education tools that are being developed as part of the project (forthcoming 2026). The expert working group providing input into the education tools that OII Europe was invited to be a part of, reconvened in December to provide further feedback on the toolkits, following the meeting in June.

- In August 2025, OII Europe met online with **Red Cross Europe**, exploring future collaborations and overlap in our work on education and gender equality.



Policy Officer Jana Hugo (center-right) and other panelists at the IGLYO’s Proud Pupils - LGBTIQ Inclusive Education Conference, Barcelona, June 2025. (Photocredit © IGLYO / Alisa Sibirskaya)

POLICY & ADVOCACY

Advocacy and policy support on national level

In 2025, OII Europe continued to provide **support to member organisations** in 29 countries across Europe, Central Asia and the Maghreb region, through regular exchanges, whether connected to EU-level or **national policy developments** and activities. OII Europe also provided support on a more ad-hoc basis upon request by members, especially during moments of backlash, like we saw in 2025 in Turkey, the United Kingdom and Belgium.

- In March, OII Europe was alerted by its member organisation İnter Dayanışma about the **intensifying pressures on LGBTI+ rights in Turkey**, including the arbitrary arrest of journalist and LGBTI+ rights defender Yıldız Tar and the 10th Judicial Reform Package, which was on the agenda of the Turkish parliament at the time and which aimed to introduce criminal sanctions against “any person who publicly encourages, praises or promotes attitudes and behaviors contrary to innate biological sex and public morality”. OII Europe [issued a statement](#) and call to action regarding the backlash and **called on the Council of Europe, the European Union, and international human rights bodies** and organisations to take a strong stance against these oppressive measures.
- In May, OII Europe issued a [statement](#) condemning the **UK Supreme Court ruling** *For Women Scotland v Scottish Ministers*, in which the Court ruled that the term “sex” under the UK’s Equality Act only refers to “biological sex” and therefore excludes trans women. OII Europe expressed deep concern regarding the harmful **transphobic as well as intersexphobic rhetoric** underpins the blatant fear-mongering which has driven the debates surrounding the ruling and the inclusion of intersex people and trans women in the category ‘women’. ▶

- Also in May, Intersex Iceland met with the OII Europe Policy Team in person in Berlin, to update them on legal developments in relation to Icelandic intersex human rights and the implementation of the Icelandic IGM ban.
- Later in May, OII Europe’s member organisation Intersex Belgium faced an **intersexphobic verbal attack** by one of the event’s organisers during the **Brussels Pride march**. OII Europe issued a [statement](#) condemning the

verbal attack and urging the organisers to issue a formal apology and to commit to ensuring the future Brussels Pride events remain a safe space for all members of the LGBTIQ community, including intersex persons. ▼

In 2025, OII Europe also provided expert support and advice to intersex activists, policymakers and human rights organisations on national level on the topic of intersex rights in different areas of life, including in Italy, France, the Netherlands, Ireland, Iceland and Poland.



Panel at the German Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth's #EuropeGoesPurple event

On November 3rd 2025, OII Europe was invited to participate in the German Federal Ministry for Education, Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth's [event](#) in Berlin in the context of the #EuropeGoesPurple campaign. OII Europe's Executive Director, Dan Christian Ghattas, gave a presentation at the event, outlining recent international developments and the role of civil society in the context of the Committee of Ministers recommendation on Equal rights for intersex persons (CM/Rec(2025)7). The German translation of the Recommendation was also presented. ▶



OII Europe Executive Director Dan Christian Ghattas (top image) and Dr. Wolfram Bechtel, Secretary of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) of the Council of Europe during the #EuropeGoesPurple event at the German Federal Ministry.

Consultancy for Data Collection and Research

- In March and October, OII Europe participated in two of the [European Cancer Organisation's 'Cancer Inequalities Network'](#) meetings, which OII Europe had become a member of in January 2024. At the end of 2024, OII Europe as part of the **expert group**, had helped the European Cancer Organisation develop and launch the **EU-wide survey 'Disparities affecting the European LGBTQI+ community in cancer'**. In February 2025, the expert group met to discuss dissemination of the survey and collection of survey data.
- In March, 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: Non-binary in the EU**. OII Europe supported, for the third year, the research team led by Dr. Peter Dunne in the **development, launch and collection of survey data** on the experiences of non-binary intersex persons in accessing (or not) legal gender recognition.

- In November, OII Europe was invited by the **Belgian Institute for the Equality of Women and Men** to be part of an advisory committee on a nationwide [study](#) on intersex persons in Belgium, conducted by the University of Ant-

werp and NNID (the Dutch expertise center for sex diversity, on behalf of the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men. The study, entitled *"Living as a person with variations in sex characteristics/ intersex person in Belgium"* aims to collect data on the experiences of intersex people in relation to the medical world, their social and romantic relationships, levels of openness and secrecy, as well as their experiences of discrimination.

POLICY & ADVOCACY

OII Europe spoke at the following events in 2025:

■ 30.01.2025, online, ILGA-Europe Peer-learning session on legal recognition of non-binary gender at the national and EU levels

■ 19.02.2025, online, Greens/EFA exchange on the withdrawal of the Equal Treatment Directive

■ 13.03.2025, CSW69 Outright International Intersex Panel: Lived Realities of Intersex Women in New York as a part of UN CSW69, in person, New York ▶

■ 09-10.04.2025, LGBTIQ Equality Subgroup meeting, in person, Brussels

■ 12.05.2025, online, Equinet Webinar - Advancing LGBTIQ+ Equality in Europe: The Role of Equality Bodies

■ 20.05.2025, IDAHOT+ Forum, in person, Valetta

■ 09-10.06.2025, Intersex Insights Conference, in person, Dublin

■ 25-27.06.2025, IGLYO Proud Pupils conference, in person, Barcelona

■ 04.07.2025, Consultations for the upcoming Gender Equality Strategy, in person, Brussels

■ 07.09.2025, Reykjavik Pride's Rainbow Conference 2025

■ 15.09.2025, Formal intervention during the Panel discussion on intersex, 60th United Nations Human Rights Council, in person, Geneva

■ 17.09.2025, Fulfilling the rights of intersex people, 60th United Nations Human Rights Council side event, in person, Geneva

■ 16.10.2025, Launch report of OHCHR report in Europe, online

■ 25.10.2025, Panel: Defending trans health: Challenges, responses, and solidarity with intersex health, ILGA Europe Conference, in person, Vilnius, Lithuania



Source: Maddalena Bianchi



■ 27.10.2025, Formal intervention during the Council of Europe official launch of Recommendation on intersex, in person, Strasbourg ▶▶

■ 08.11.2025, Panel Intersex rights in France and in Europe, in person, Paris ▲

■ 03.11.2025, Intervention during Europe Goes Purple event of the Bundesministerium für Bildung, Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend

■ 03.12.2025, Intervention for the preparation of teacher training content from IGLYO, online



Attendance and/or dissemination of information at the following events:

- 19.02.2025, online, organised by DG JUST, impact of cuts in financial support from the US on NGOs
- 24.02.2025, online, EIGE CSO consultation meeting
- 27.03.2025, online, FRA civic space exchange on funding pressures
- 19.06.2025, online, Council of Europe Conference on preventing and combating hate crime
- 18.06.2025, online, PICUM workshop on EU detention law
- 24.06.2025, online, ILGA World Webinar on Global Impact of Foreign Aid Cuts
- 16.09.2025 UN Biennial Panel on Youth and Human Rights, Geneva
- 17.09.2025 Sexual Rights Evolution at the Human Rights Council, 60th United Nations Human Rights Council side event, in person, Geneva
- 25.09.2025, online, Community of practice Task Force meeting organised by SOGIESC Unit CoE

AWARENESS RAISING & CAMPAIGNS

Intersex Awareness Weeks Campaign 2025 in collaboration with the SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe



This year's campaign aimed at highlighting protection gaps across all areas of intersex people's lives and was organised in collaboration with the SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe. Due to the current developments and the foreseeable publication of the Council of Europe *Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)7 to Member States on Equal Rights for Intersex Persons*, we decided to set the focus of our 2025 OII Europe IAW Campaign solely around highlighting the protection gaps that intersex people face across Europe, as addressed by the CM/Rec.

During the campaign #EuropeGoesPurple, skylines and digital spaces turned purple to raise awareness about intersex people and the challenges they face, while celebrating intersex lives and calling for equal rights across Europe and beyond. For two weeks, beginning on Intersex Awareness Day (October 26th), institutions, communities and individuals were invited to take part in creative and visible actions – from sharing stories online and hosting film



screenings, discussions or exhibitions, to lighting up buildings on Intersex Day of Solidarity (November 8th) in a show of support for intersex people. Together, these actions sent a unifying message: intersex people are seen, their lives are valued, and their equal rights must be recognised.

#EuropeGoesPurple is still an open invitation to all institutions, organisations, communities and individuals to raise awareness, spark conversation and show solidarity with intersex people.

■ Core objectives of the campaign

- Raise awareness of the lived realities, rights and systemic challenges faced by intersex people in Europe.
- Promote visibility and amplify intersex voices by centring intersex people and their testimonies.
- Celebrate solidarity through collective action and creative, visible gestures across Europe and beyond.
- Mark the historic adoption and launch of the Council of Europe Recommendation on Equal Rights for Intersex Persons and encourage its dissemination and implementation.
- Foster political and societal commitment to the human rights of intersex people by mobilising institutions and communities at local, national, and European levels.

■ Process and collaboration

For this campaign we worked closely with members of the team of the Council of Europe SOGIESC Unit to develop the messaging, visual representation and overall content. The process had to be flexible enough to cater to the challenge that the Committee of Ministers vote on the CM/Rec that was going to take place on October 7th, 2025, only a few weeks before the campaign period would begin – and whether it would be adopted was still to be seen. We would like to thank the SOGIESC Unit for this amazing opportunity and the incredible and smooth collaboration. ♥

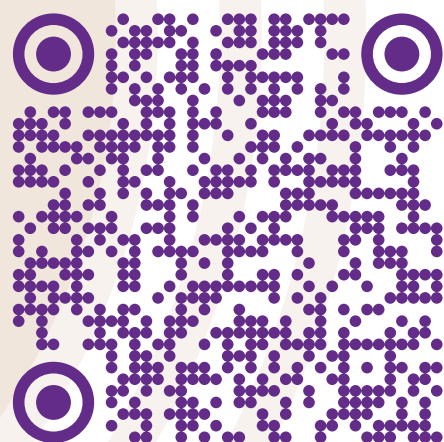
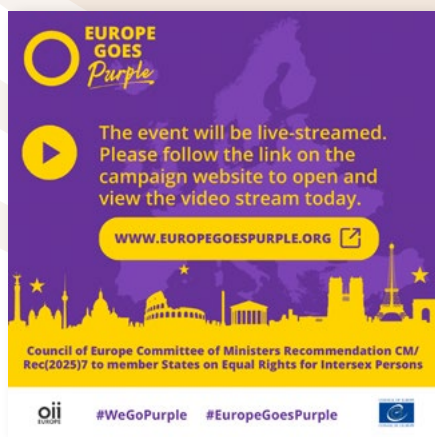
For OII Europe, the work process involved several cycles of conceiving, drafting, design and prototyping campaign visuals and messaging, including the development of a dedicated WordPress website for the campaign with several pages.

Process and collaboration cont.

The website development encompassed the comprehensive design, programming and plugin implementation, including an event calendar, statistical analytics, navigation and populating the content such as texts, images, videos, and external links.

The created campaign website remains hosted and maintained by OII Europe and is publically accessible beyond the campaign period as a measure for documentation and as an awareness raising resource about this historic milestone.

The [documentation of the Launch Event](#) on October 27th 2025 of the CM/ Rec you find in detail (in form of video recordings and photograph archives) linked on the campaign website here:



Campaign graphics ▶ The camp. website startpage ▶
The Milanote campaign assets page ▼



Statistics:

Based on our provider data, the campaign website received over 80,000 Hits with almost 5,000 visits in October 2025 alone. By the end of the year 2025 the campaign website had over 121,000 visits and over 130,000 hits in the first three months.

This impressive surge in public outreach has amplified our impact and will strengthen future advocacy efforts, by helping us to engage more stakeholders and audiences through meaningful dialogue around intersex human rights issues.

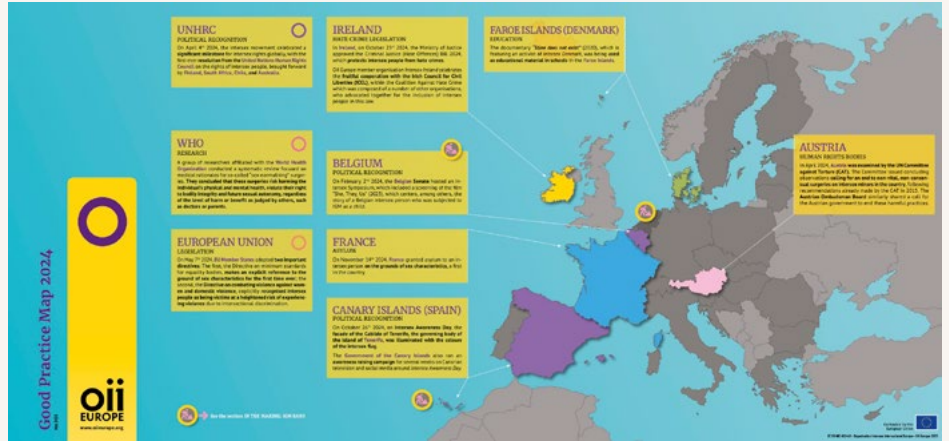
AWARENESS RAISING & CAMPAIGNS

Good Practice Map 2024

On May 15th 2025 we launched our [OII Europe Good Practice Map 2024](#). The Good Practice Map is an annual publication that brings together good practices from the national and regional level, up to European-level developments. We launched the Map on our website and shared it on our social media channels and within our network.

In addition, we made a social media post on the Map Presentation by OII Europe's Executive Director during the IDAHOT+ Forum event in Valletta, Malta (20.05.25) which took place a week after the International Day Against Homo-, Bi, Intersex- and Transphobia (IDAHOT or IDAHOBIT - May 17th). This also included cross-posting on different social media platforms on May 15th and 20th, to attract maximum attention through coordinated international events taking place within the global LGBTI+ movement in over 130 countries worldwide.

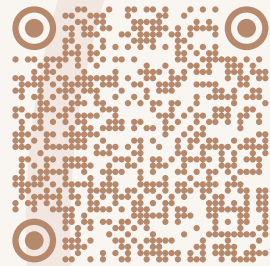
The IDAHOT+ Forum event provides an opportunity to launch and subsequently disseminate information to European policymakers and government representatives, maximising reach and impact.



The list of activities for the launch included:

- an edition of 500 printed copies
- policy launch and presentation of the Map at IDAHOT Forum; dissemination of printed copies during IDAHOT Forum
- public launch and online dissemination via OII Europe's website and social media platforms (Bluesky, Mastodon, Facebook, Instagram) with over 3,000 views for Facebook & Instagram.
- 15.05.25 additional distribution on mailing lists (e.g., SOGI list; OII Europe member organisations lists; OII Europe network lists)
- 15.05.25 and ongoing: online version available and shared by allies through their networks
- 20.05.25 Additional social media post on the Map presentation during the IDAHOT FORUM+ Event
- Short-format teaser video clip posted on social media on the publication of the OII Europe Good Practice Map 2024

The dissemination of the remaining printed editions continued during the course of 2025 at policy-related events in Europe as well as at the national level.



▲ Download the PDF

Statistics:

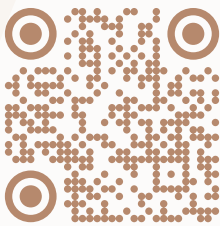
Since its launch, the map has been accessed as a digital PDF over 600 times. The webpage for the Good Practice Map 2024 was visited over 1000 times in 2025.

■ **Link to the website posting:** <https://www.oiiurope.org/good-practice-map-2024/>

OII Europe websites

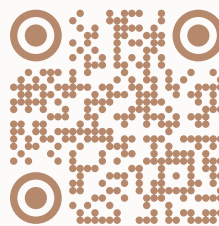
oiiurope.org

The [OII Europe website](https://www.oiiurope.org) serves as a medium for the dissemination of information and education regarding intersex human rights issues. One of our objectives is to ensure that users from diverse backgrounds can easily navigate the resources available, and to provide a high level of accessibility. Although English is the language of the website, a significant proportion of OII Europe's primary publications are available in multiple languages (also see our Intersex Resources Translation Program). The website's functionality is based on the widely utilised Wordpress framework, which operates efficiently across a range of browsers and devices, including mobile. The website is updated multiple times a year, and maintenance is carried out on an ongoing basis. This serves to guarantee the functionality and relevance of our website, both in terms of the technical advances of internet technologies and the dynamic landscape of intersex human rights advocacy.



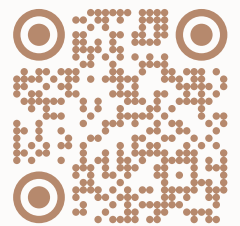
campaigns.oiiurope.org

Our dedicated [campaigns website](https://www.campaigns.oiiurope.org) is growing every year as a free and open-access resource to all who 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. For the 2025 campaign, which was a collaboration with the SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe, we created a separate campaign website with its own URL www.europegoespurple.org, will continue to serve beyond the campaign period as a measure for documentation and as an awareness raising resource.



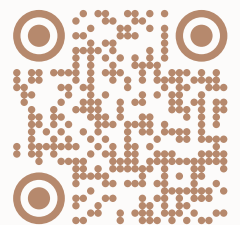
intervisibility.eu

Our [multilingual website](https://www.intervisibility.eu) 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 short to medium term.



New in 2025: EuropeGoesPurple.org

The [website](https://www.europegoespurple.org) for the 2025 IAW Campaign #EuropeGoesPurple is created, hosted and maintained by OII Europe and is publically accessible beyond the campaign period as a measure for documentation and as an awareness raising resource about this historic milestone.



➔ See more on the IAW campaign website p. 17

Publications of OII Europe in 2025

○ OII Europe Annual Report 2024
<https://www.oiiurope.org/oii-europe-annual-report-2024/>

○ OII Europe Good Practice Map 2024
<https://www.oiiurope.org/good-practice-map-2024/>



Statistics:

Websites: In 2025 the website visits for [oiiurope.org](https://www.oiiurope.org) increased by over 400,000 visits from the previous year to a total of 950,000 visits, and our community website [intervisibility.eu](https://www.intervisibility.eu) had a total of over 140,000 visits. Our campaign website [campaigns.oiiurope.org](https://www.campaigns.oiiurope.org) had a total of 26,900 visits in 2025. The newly created website dedicated to the 2025 Intersex Awareness Weeks Campaign www.europegoespurple.org gained 29,000 visits since its inception in October 2025 alone. ➔ [More statistics on the campaign website on p. 17](#)

Social media:

📘 90,000 views | 3,565 followers

📷 130,000 views | 2,700 followers

📺 39,900 views | 236 subscribers

🦋 Still growing - currently 80 followers

Translations of Materials

In 2025, OII Europe launched and coordinated several translations of OII Europe materials:

- **Intersex Refugees and Asylum Seekers Flyer** – translation into four EU languages: Finnish, French, Maltese, Spanish;
- **IGM Ban Indicator Checklist** translation into three EU languages: Finnish, Greek, Spanish.

➔ See also the section on our [Intersex Resources Translation Program](#) p.27



COMMUNITY & MOVEMENT BUILDING



In 2025, two years after our previous in-person Community Event in Paris, over 120 participants gathered in Athens, Greece! In November we were hosted by Intersex Greece who warmly welcomed us in their country! The OII Europe Community Event & Public Conference was held from November 27th to November 29th. Intersex people, their family members and loved ones, allies & activists from 23 countries across Europe, Central Asia and Maghreb region participated in the closed Community Event part of the event under the theme *“We Keep Moving!”*

Throughout the year, OII Europe’s Community and Capacity Building Officer, Irene Kuzemko, and Finance and Administration Officer, Fabi Handloser, with the support of our host organisation Intersex Greece, worked tirelessly to make the event a reality. From communicating with future participants, organising the venue for the Community Event, planning the various breakout sessions with the team, organising travel for scholars and working

with the hotel management, over **1,782 emails in total** were sent in preparation of the event altogether, doing everything to accommodate all needs and requests from participants.

“Every intersex person should get to know this beautiful world of OII events! It’s so amazing.”

Topics of sessions in the event agenda included a mixture of new capacity building topics and relevant topics in the focus of the community, for example (3 tracks, 27 session total):

- Recent milestones and achievements of the intersex movement
- Fighting current obstacles and issues faced by our society

- Intersex people in the workplace and taking part in research
- Sexuality and intersectional experiences and different identities of intersex people
- Movie screenings and activism

As always we were happy to have an Awareness Team to ensure that participants would have an option to receive mental health support throughout the event! The Awareness Team was represented by experienced volunteers from the OII France and Intersex Greece community.

And of course, we had interpretation available for those who needed it! The interpretation from English to Greek and from Greek to English was done by the local Greek interpreters. Whisper interpretation throughout the event was done into Armenian, Spanish (by dedicated interpreters), French, Russian, Turkish (by participants).



Impressions from the Public Conference part of the OII Europe Community Event & Public Conference in Athens, Greece November 2025

OII Europe publications were available throughout the event in the main meeting room. Participants also brought a lot of their own publications, resources and merch to the resources table.

Regarding the Community Event, participants highlighted how they particularly appreciated:

- the opportunity to have cross country connection and networking with intersex people and their family members
- the work of the Welcome team
- the importance and diversity of topics in the event program
- the overall warm atmosphere of the event.

November 28th was the day of the Intersex Greece & OII Europe Public Conference. Over 200 participants signed up through the event registration form for the Public Conference part of the event (including

intersex persons, their family members, loved ones and support persons; policy-makers, researchers and allies).

The program of the Public Conference included intersex activists, local and international policymakers, academics and politicians. Irena Moozová (1), Deputy Director-General for International Dimension of Justice Policies, Rule of Law and Equality, European Commission addressed the importance to “*protect and promote the rights of intersex people as a part of the core values on which the European Union is built on: dignity, equality and respect*” and highlighted the CoE CM/Rec(2025)7 as a guidance. Evgenia Giakoumopoulou (2), Head of SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe, presented the Recommendation during the panel.

We are very happy about the overwhelmingly positive feedback participants provided after the event, which focused on the value of increase of knowledge, the extensive exchange with other intersex persons and activists and the feeling of

“Events like this make me a stronger warrior for intersex rights!”

empowerment that stayed with participants after leaving Athens: “Events like this make me a stronger warrior for intersex rights!”, “Every intersex person should get to know this beautiful world of OII events! It’s so amazing.” or “It was truly a pleasure to be part of the event. I found it both very informative and wonderfully social.” We are more than grateful that the support of our funders, even in times of crisis like 2025, allowed us to make this event happen as planned.

♥ We express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Intersex Greece, the Awareness Team (consisting of activists from the Collectif Intersexe Activiste-OII France and Intersex Greece), all our interpreters, the hotel staff and all of our participants! ♥

COMMUNITY & MOVEMENT BUILDING

Impressions from the OII Europe Community Event & Public Conference in Athens, Greece 2025



◀ Event co-organisers from Intersex Greece and OII Europe (left to right): Intersex Greece board members Rinio Symeonidou, Eleni Pateraki, Vasso Vouvakis; OII Europe Executive Director Dan Christian Ghattas, Capacity & Community Building Officer Irene Kuzemko. Photo © by Audrey Aegerter.



◀ (Left) OII Europe Volunteer Assistant, Evelyn Köper preparing the participant packs for the OII Europe Community Event & Public Conference.





From left to right:
 Intersex Greece board member Rinio Symeonidou, OII Europe Capacity & Community Building Officer Irene Kuzemko and OII Europe Co-Chair Magda Rakita welcoming the participants during the opening of the 2025 OII Europe Community Event in Athens, Greece.



(Right images) Event tote bags personalised by Community Event participants during the artist workshop.
 (Left image) Stickers and info materials shared during the event.



COMMUNITY & MOVEMENT BUILDING

■ Training & Capacity Building

- On February 7th 2025, OII Europe hosted the European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups at our office in Berlin for a mutual training and exchange. Our conversations focused on sharing more about the work of OII Europe, our advocacy goals, our capacity building and awareness raising activities as well as some persons' experiences as being both intersex and persons of faith. We learnt more about the work of the European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups work and current priorities. ▶
- On December 12th 2025, OII Europe, in collaboration with A&O Shearman organised a panel discussion to mark International Human Rights Day to raise awareness and foster dialogue on intersex rights, human rights frameworks, current challenges, and opportunities for advocacy and legal support.



Visit of the European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups to the OII Europe office in February 2025.
Photo credit: © European Forum of LGBTI+ Christian Groups

Online Campfires coming to a close

In 2025, we held our last two Campfires, ending the tradition started in 2020 as a community support measure during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby giving way to more structured themed community meetings which will start in 2026.

Throughout the six years the Campfires were held, they served as a space for community to come together, con-

nect, recharge, watch movies, laugh and support each other. Even when not a lot of people could join, just being there, Campfires served as a support space people knew they had access to if needed. We are very grateful to everyone who has joined over the years and we cherish those moments! ❤️





OII Europe Community & Capacity Building Officer Irene Kuzemko speaking at the Reykjavik Pride's Rainbow Conference 2025. Panel host is the former OII Europe Co-Chair, Kitty Anderson. Photo credit: © Intersex Iceland

OII Europe Community support & Supporting OII Europe members

In August, OII Europe's Community & Capacity Building Officer, Irene Kuzemko participated in Reykjavik Pride and met with OII Europe member organisation Intersex Iceland. ▲ She:

- took part in the Reykjavik Pride's Rainbow Conference 2025, speaking on August 7th about her intersex activism and community building work
- marched in Reykjavik Pride ▼
- attended Intersex Iceland meetings with members of the intersex community and attended in training for medical students.

In August, OII Europe's Senior Awareness Raising and Campaigns Officer, Ins Kromminga took part in the Amsterdam Pride Event with the first-ever Intersex Boat joining the Pride Amsterdam Canal Parade, and sharing the message "Love Every Body".▼



OII Europe Community & Capacity Building Officer Irene Kuzemko at the Reykjavik Pride Photo credit: © Kitty Anderson



Intersex Boat during the Pride Amsterdam Canal Parade. Photo credit/source: © "Spread The Word Collective"

OUR PROGRAMS

Refugees & Asylum Seekers Program

In 2025, 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. At EU-level, OII Europe continued to raise awareness and provide input via **targeted consultations** through the European Union Agency for Asylum's (EUAA) vulnerable groups expert network. In 2025, we provided input on four forthcoming EUAA guidance modules: the '[Introduction to Vulnerability Module](#)', '[Vulnerability Screening Module](#)', '[Evidence & Risk Assessment Module](#)' as well as the '[Applicants with Diverse SOGIESC Module](#)'. This opportunity allowed OII Europe to highlight the continued barriers faced by intersex asylum seekers in different stages of the asylum procedure.

- OII Europe's Policy Officer, Jana, also attended the **EUAA Consultative Forum plenary** meeting, in Malta on October 15-16th, which included a half-day meeting of the vulnerable groups expert network.

On May 7th and 8th, OII Europe's Policy Officer, Jana Hugo, attended a 2-day in-person **Stakeholder Consortium** in Berlin, organised by ORAM (the Organisation for Refugees Asylum and Migration). The event brought together organisations from across Europe and the world, working on refugee, asylum seekers and migrants' rights, to discuss meaningful collaborations and impactful partnerships, data collection, funding and lastly, the impact of the Common European Asylum System on trans and gender-diverse refugees.



(Top images) EUAA Consultative Forum in Malta.

(Centre bottom images) ORAM Stakeholder Consortium in Berlin. Photo credit/source: © ORAM

Intersex Resources Translation Program

Making our resources available in multiple languages

OII Europe's [translation program webpage](#) contains information on our translation processes and an ever-growing list of all available OII Europe materials and publications in a range of languages.



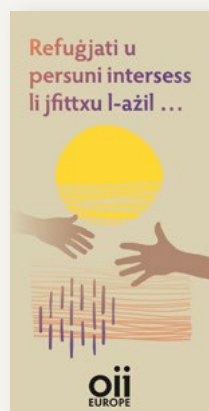
OII Europe is dedicated to making its policy work and empowering material available to intersex communities who can use it for their advocacy work across the Council of Europe region. In the light of limited funding for intersex organisa-

tions it is crucial to share materials among intersex activists and organisations. In order to make the content available in more languages we work with translators from the intersex community to ensure the quality of terminologies and a human rights-based and depathologizing approach and sensitivity.

In 2025:

- OII Europe's Flyer *Intersex Refugees and Asylum Seekers* was translated into **Finnish, French, Maltese, and Spanish**;

- OII Europe's IGM Ban Indicator Checklist *Indicators for effective protection of the rights of intersex people, in particular protection from IGM* was translated into **Finnish, Greek, and Spanish**;
- OII Europe's *Supporting your intersex child – A parents' toolkit* was translated into **Slovenian**;
- OII Europe's testimonial book *#MyIntersexStory – Personal accounts by intersex people living in Europe* was translated into **Serbian**.



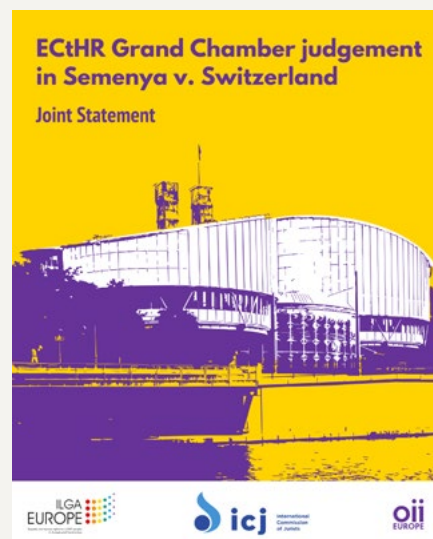
OUR PROGRAMS

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

The European Intersex Strategic Litigation (EISL) Network continued its activities with two online meetings in 2025, including intersex activists and organisations as well as legal experts from Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Turkey. The EISL network is composed of intersex experts and activists as well as legal experts and lawyers from different parts of the region. During our 2025 meetings, participants shared updates on European and national case law developments on a variety of topics, including most notably on the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber judgement in the [Semenya v Switzerland](#) case, and on the United Kingdom Supreme Court case *For Women Scotland v The Scottish Ministers*.

Also during 2025 OII Europe supported an ongoing strategic litigation case on intersex legal gender recognition and started to support two potential claimants in their first steps towards establishing strategic litigation cases on different aspects of IGM. To this aim OII Europe works with legal experts from the EISL network and as well as with pro bono departments of international law firms.

We want to thank our consultant Arpi Avetisyan for her invaluable support to this program. ♥



Research

In 2025 OII Europe continued its work on the forthcoming OII Europe **1-0-1 Ethical Intersex Research Toolkit**. We steadily advanced with the writing process of the toolkit, including the coordination of written contributions by intersex academics and non-intersex experts from across the EU, on the topic of intersex research. Additionally, OII Europe prepared and successfully hosted a **focus group** on the topic of 'Research Participation' during the OII Europe annual in-person Community

Event in Athens, Greece, which allowed for further in-depth discussion on the topic, including the sharing of lived experiences of intersex persons from across Europe of ethical as well as unethical research practices. The outcome of the Community Event session served to inform a further refinement of the structure and contents of the Toolkit. We warmly thank all the participants of the session for sharing so openly about their experiences.



Sports

In 2025, OII Europe continued to raise awareness of intersex persons' lived realities in the world of sport in our dedicated Program on the subject. OII Europe responded to the new exclusionary regulations adopted by international sports bodies like World Athletics and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) linked to eligibility criteria for competing in the female category, as they bowed to political pressure from primarily, but not only, the Trump administration.

For more information on OII Europe's continued work in relation to the ECtHR case *Semenya v. Switzerland* please see the section above on "Advocacy at Council of Europe level" → p. 10

- On February 27th, OII Europe published a [joint statement](#) together with Transgender Europe (TGEU) in response to World Athletics' announcement of a new [stakeholder consultation](#) as part of the revision of its eligibility criteria for participation in the Female Category at the elite level, alongside revisions to the existing DSD (Differences of Sex Development) and Transgender Regulations. OII Europe and TGEU jointly called out the blatant biased framing of the consultation outcomes, which were formulated with the clear intentions to exclude the participation of trans and intersex athletes in the female category. ▶
- On April 15th, OII Europe published a [statement](#) in reaction to World Ath-



letics' adoption of new restrictive "pre-clearance requirements", effectively mandating DNA testing for all athletes who wish to participate in the women's competition. ▶ ▶

- In April, OII Europe's Sports consultant, Urs Vanessa Sager, participated in the [inaugural Humans of Sport Bootcamp](#), which took place at the European Youth Center in Strasbourg, France. Urs also took part in a roundtable on hate speech against intersex athletes in sport.
- In November and December, Urs Vanessa Sager, OII Europe's Sports consultant, attended two events hosted



by the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) of the Council of Europe. The [first meeting](#) on November 14th, the annual meeting of the [Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport](#), focussed on "Creating safer environments for children in sports associations". The [second meeting](#), on December 16th, held within the framework of the Forum on Sport and Human Rights, focused on mental health, women's health and well-being in relation to sport.

We want to thank our consultant Urs Vanessa Sager for their invaluable support to this program. ❤️

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT & FUNDING

Staff & Board Meetings in 2025

Two in person Steering Board meetings were held in 2025: One in Berlin in the OII Europe office on 10-12th June and one in Athens, Greece, on 25-26th November before the Community Event. The Steering Board worked on reviewing OII Europe internal policies, preparing the General Assembly 2026, evaluated the ongoing work of OII Europe and the implementation of OII Europe's Strategic Plan 2023-2027, exchanged about the situation in the different sub-regions of OII Europe's mandate and discussed chal-

lenges created by political and funding developments, including but not limited to the impact of far-right and anti-gender movement actors.



Supervision Sessions & Staff Retreat

As in the previous year, our team was supported by regular supervision sessions throughout 2025, providing us with a space to reflect and workshop different aspects of maintaining our wellbeing during these demanding times. Themes included, e.g. teamwork and resilience in times of crisis; handling pressure and ensuring work-life balance as human rights defenders; preparing for the OII Europe Community Event – stress release techniques; and a team development/work culture assessment.

Our annual Evaluation & Work Staff Retreat was held in December, offering

a moment of calm and gratitude as we looked back on the eventful months just before, including the CM/Rec(2025)7 launch and our Community Event. It gave us the opportunity to come together and grow as a team one final time before the year's close; reflecting on 2025 as a whole while also brainstorming our short-term strategic objectives for the year ahead to further advance the OII Europe strategic plan.

We want to thank our volunteer assistant Evelyn Köper for her invaluable support. ♥



Staff Development & Trainings in 2025

In February 2025, we were happy to welcome Fabian Handloser as the new Finance & Administration Officer to fill the vacant position. ▶



Throughout the year, two of our staff members further developed their skills through individual professional trainings, including a 3-day intensive training on facilitation, The Transformative Facilitator, organised by the Spring Strategies in Amsterdam, Netherlands, for our Community

& Capacity Building Officer. ▶ To prepare for OII Europe's annual audit and to gain a solid footing in OII Europe's bookkeeping procedures, our newly hired Finance and Administration Officer attended an online accounting training hosted by Haufe Akademie, which allowed OII Europe to move accounting back in-house.

In addition, our board and staff each completed a group training on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference held by external trainer Mauro Cabral Grinspan.



Photo credit: © Spring Strategies

Funding in 2025

In 2025, the funding crisis created by the Trump administration's Executive Orders resulted in a massive shrinking of funding for LGBT movement including for the already underfunded intersex movement globally.

As OII Europe, we are grateful not to have been affected to the same amount as other LGBTI and equality NGOs. While we lost an active project grant with American Jewish World Service as the intermediary to US State Department funding, we can gratefully report that AJWS was able to substitute this grant later in the year. We are very grateful to AJWS for the effort and the courage that allowed them to find ways to mitigate the loss of this project grant. We also want to express our heart-

felt gratitude to all our other donors for standing by our side: Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Dreilinden, and the Astraea IHRF, all of which have been unwavering in their support during these hard times. We are also very glad to report the reception of two project grants, from the Maltese government and the Council of Europe, respectively.

While OII Europe was not too strongly affected from a financial perspective, the European intersex movement still faces a significant loss: OII Europe had been on the track to become an intermediary with the US State Department with the vision to be able to regrant to the European, Central Asian and Maghreb region in the

foreseeable future. This opportunity to contribute to stabilising the underfunded intersex movement in our regions was, at least for now and the upcoming years, lost. At the same time, member organisations of ours, who had received funding from intermediaries in the past, reported some loss of funding and, even more so, loss of application and funding opportunities.

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

Dreilinden / Wellspring / AJWS / Astraea / Government of Malta / European Commission / Council of Europe. For OII Europe's Fiscal Year 2025 we can report a funding income of 606.574,74 €.





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