

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

POLITICAL WILL

In October 2025, the **Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe** unanimously adopted the **Committee of Ministers Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons, CM/Rec(2025)7**, marking a watershed moment for intersex rights in Europe.

AWARENESS RAISING

The **SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe**, in collaboration with OII Europe, launched a two week long, European-wide awareness raising campaign, **#EuropeGoesPurple** aimed at raising awareness, promoting and building public and institutional commitment around the Council of Europe Recommendation.

▶ See also the section “Europe Goes Purple Campaign” on reverse page

UN OHCHR

POLITICAL WILL

On August 8th 2025, the **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** published the report “**Discriminatory laws and policies, acts of violence and harmful practices against intersex persons**” and presented it to the Human Rights Council, where on September 15th the first-ever full panel on intersex persons and their rights was held.

CANARY ISLANDS (Spain)

BODILY INTEGRITY

In 2025 in the **Canary Islands**, work at the ministerial level continued to create new **medical protocols for the care of intersex people and their families**, in close collaboration with OII Europe member organisation, **Caminar Intersex**.

Additionally, the **Laguna City Council** hosted a space for **dialogue between nurses and doctors**, led by **Caminar Intersex**.

BELGIUM

AWARENESS RAISING

In 2025, the **Belgian Institute for the Equality of Women and Men** launched a **guide** on supporting intersex people in the workplace and published a **leaflet** raising awareness of intersex variations.

FRANCE

LEGISLATION

In December 2025, the **National Assembly introduced Bill No. 2286**, aimed at “combating violence against intersex children”. Before, its **study group on discrimination and LGBTQI-phobia** invited OII Europe member organisation the **Collectif Intersexe Activiste - OII France** to a hearing and took note of their demands.

FUNDING

OII Europe member organisation the **Collectif Intersexe Activiste - OII France** received project funding from the French **DILCRAH (Interministerial Delegation for the Fight against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Anti-LGBT Hate)** to host a day-long meeting for parents of intersex children on May 17th 2025.

VISIBILITY

Also, **Collectif Intersexe Activiste - OII France**, was invited by **Paris Pride** organisers to **open the Paris Pride march** on June 28th 2025.

SPAIN

EQUALITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

In April 2025, the **Spanish electoral platform 'Sumar'** introduced a **bill in Congress** to recognise and protect the rights of intersex and non-binary people by proposing a legal definition of non-binary people, the adaptation of official documents such as passports and IDs to include a third option, improved options in data collection and reparations for intersex people subjected to non-consensual medical interventions (IGM) as well as the incorporation of content into the educational system to eliminate harmful gender stereotypes and stigma.

▶ See also **CANARY ISLANDS**

THE NETHERLANDS

LEGISLATION

The **Dutch lower house of parliament** adopted with overwhelming majority a motion calling on the government to not further delay the legislative process on banning non-consensual unnecessary medical interventions on intersex minors.

VISIBILITY

On August 2nd 2025, **Amsterdam Canal Pride** saw the **first-ever intersex boat** participate in the parade, sharing the message “**Love Every Body!**”.

GERMANY

AWARENESS RAISING

In April 2025, the **Berlin Senate Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Equality, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination** launched a month-long **poster campaign Inter*Leben in Berlin** featuring portraits of intersex Berliners across the city in order to raise awareness of the intersex community. The Senate developed the campaign in close cooperation with experts from the intersex community, and the campaign website lists contact points and organisations for and by intersex people.

AUSTRIA

FUNDING

In October 2025, OII Europe member organisation, **Verein Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ**, received the first-ever three-year **funding** from the **Austrian city of Linz** for the **peer-counselling work** within their project **Var.Ges.**

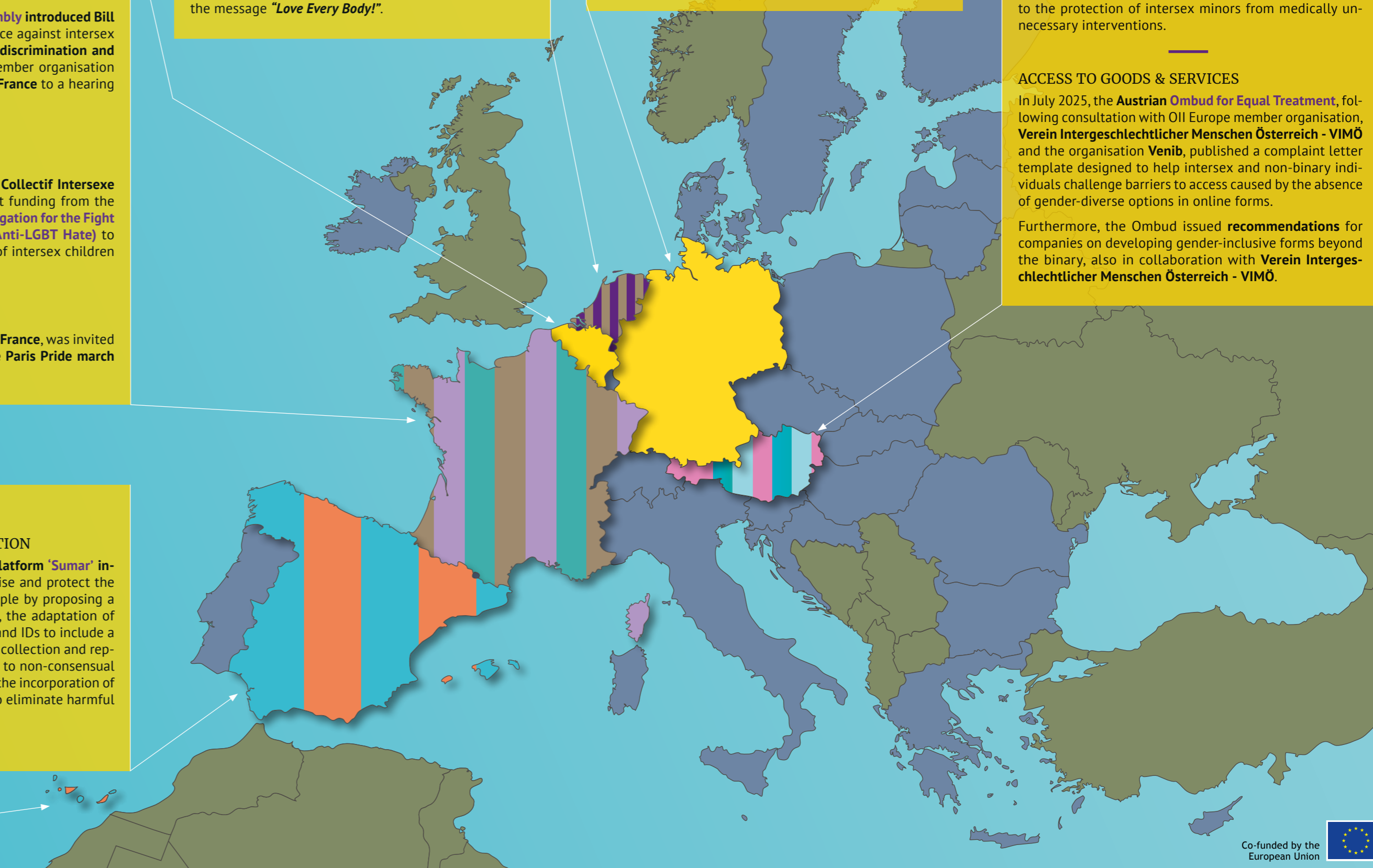
BODILY INTEGRITY

In February 2025, the newly formed **Austrian government** included a **provision** in their coalition agreement related to the protection of intersex minors from medically unnecessary interventions.

ACCESS TO GOODS & SERVICES

In July 2025, the **Austrian Ombud for Equal Treatment**, following consultation with OII Europe member organisation, **Verein Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ** and the organisation **Venib**, published a complaint letter template designed to help intersex and non-binary individuals challenge barriers to access caused by the absence of gender-diverse options in online forms.

Furthermore, the Ombud issued **recommendations** for companies on developing gender-inclusive forms beyond the binary, also in collaboration with **Verein Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ**.



POLITICAL WILL

In October, the **Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe** unanimously adopted the **Committee of Ministers Recommendation on equal rights for intersex persons, CM/Rec(2025)7**, marking a watershed moment for intersex rights in Europe.

The Recommendation was launched with a 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** gave a keynote address, followed with speeches by

- ▶ **Helena Dalli**, Former EU Commissioner for Equality,
- ▶ **Michael O’Flaherty** the Council of Europe High Commissioner for Human Rights,
- ▶ **Irena Moozova**, the Deputy Director International Dimensions of Justice Policies, Rule of Law and Equality,
- ▶ and the **voices of intersex experts and partner organisations** from across Europe, among others.

The CM/Rec: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sogi/intersexrecommendation>

Launch event: <https://mycloud.coe.int/s/5IYpHZGfSr6Cmt77dir~/&editing=false&openfile=true>

OHCHR report: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/60/50>

UN HRC session: <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1w/k1wk3w7u6i>

On August 8th, the **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** published the report **“Discriminatory laws and policies, acts of violence and harmful practices against intersex persons”** and presented it to the Human Rights Council, where on September 15th the first-ever full panel on intersex persons and their rights was held. Panel speakers included

- ▶ **Ms. Nada Al-Nashif**, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights,
- ▶ **Ms. Tlaleng Mofokeng**, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health,
- ▶ representatives of **UN member states groups**, the **Council of Europe** and the **European Union**
- ▶ as well as **Jeff Cagandahan**, Executive Director of Intersex Philippines,

followed by interventions from the floor, which included **five intersex activists** from around the globe, including from Europe.

In October, the OHCHR and its European division collaborated with OII Europe for an online launch event for the report on October 16th, which included a presentation from the EU Fundamental Rights Agency.

LEGISLATION

The **Dutch lower house of parliament** adopted with overwhelming majority a motion calling on the government to not further delay the legislative process on banning non-consensual unnecessary medical interventions on intersex minors. OII Europe member organisation **NNID** worked alongside parliamentarians to achieve this good outcome, leading to the tabling and passing of the motion. The motion is accompanied by a growing number of local governments committing to intersex inclusion.

In **France**, the **National Assembly’s study group on discrimination and LGBTQI-phobia** invited OII Europe member organisation the **Collectif Intersexe Activiste - OII France** to a hearing and took note of their demands; the **Collectif** had resumed their work with members of parliament to ban intersex genital mutilation (IGM) in France, despite an unfavourable political climate, including by also raising awareness among politicians at the LGBTI+ committee of the Defender of Rights.

In December, the National Assembly **introduced Bill No. 2286**, aimed in particular at “combating violence against intersex children”.

French bill: https://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/17/textes/117b2286_proposition-loi

FUNDING

In October 2025, OII Europe member organisation, **Verein Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ**, received the first-ever three-year **funding** from the **Austrian city of Linz** for the **peer-counselling work** within their project *Var.Ges*, allowing the organisation to reimburse those coordinating the peer-counselling, as well as the peer-counsellors, a vital element in guaranteeing the sustainability of this important project.

OII Europe member organisation, **Collectif Intersexe Activiste - OII France** received project funding from the **French DILCRAH (Interministerial Delegation for the Fight against Racism, Anti-Semitism and Anti-LGBT Hate)** to host a day-long meeting for parents of intersex children on May 17th, which included workshops and in-depth conversations on how parents can best support their intersex child.

The gathering, part of their newly created PEVI parents network, was attended by six families, who were able to attend thanks to the ministerial funding. The meeting included an exhibition by illustrator Aude Nasr.

Var.Ges: <https://varges.at/angebote/peer-beratung/>

PEVI: <https://pevi.fr/>

EQUALITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

In April, the **Spanish electoral platform ‘Sumar’** introduced **a bill in Congress** to

- ▶ recognise and protect the rights of intersex and non-binary people by proposing a legal definition of non-binary people,
- ▶ the adaptation of official documents such as passports and IDs to include a third option,
- ▶ improved options in data collection,
- ▶ reparations for intersex people subjected to non-consensual medical interventions (IGM),
- ▶ as well as the incorporation of content into the educational system,

to eliminate harmful gender stereotypes and stigma.

Link: https://www.elespanol.com/espana/politica/20250409/sumar-regis-tra-proposicion-ley-anadir-tercera-casilla-dni-personas-no-binarias-intersex-uales/1003743706352_0_amp.html

BODILY INTEGRITY

In February 2025, the newly formed **Austrian** government included a **provision** in their coalition agreement related to the protection of intersex minors from medically unnecessary interventions. **Verein Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ** had reiterated in 2024 the need for a legal prohibition of non-consensual, medically unnecessary interventions on intersex minors, highlighting the importance to take into account the expertise of intersex organisations.

In 2025 in the **Canary Islands**, work at the ministerial level continued to create new **medical protocols for the care of intersex people and their families**, in close collaboration with OII Europe member organisation, **Caminar Intersex**.

Additionally, the Laguna City Council hosted a space for **dialogue between nurses and doctors**, led by **Caminar Intersex**.

Coalition agreement: <https://vimoe.at/2025/03/06/positiver-schritt-neue-regierung-plant-rechtlichen-schutz-fuer-intergeschlechtliche-kinder/>

Healthcare dialogue: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DP1w7QUDcqa/?igsh=Nz-VhMzJ0dms1ZnRw>

VISIBILITY

On August 2nd 2025, **Amsterdam Canal Pride** saw the **first-ever intersex boat** participate in the parade, sharing the message **“Love Every Body!”**. The boat was the initiative of the Dutch *Spread the Word-intersex collective*, and co-organised with OII Europe member organisation **NNID**.

The boat headed the Canal Pride parade, an important symbolic act which helped to raise the visibility of intersex persons.

OII Europe member organisation, the **Collectif Intersexe Activiste - OII France**, was invited by **Paris Pride** organisers to **open the Paris Pride march** on June 28th.

The **Collectif** opened the march with a powerful speech and held their banner at the head of the parade, distributing flyers and ran a stand at the pride village.

Amsterdam Canal Pride: https://www.instagram.com/p/DM2y9uwIKmC/?img_index=1

Paris Pride: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DLhITQvIAxp/>

ACCESS TO GOODS & SERVICES

In July, the **Austrian Ombud for Equal Treatment**, following consultation with OII Europe member organisation, **Verein Intergeschlechtlicher Menschen Österreich - VIMÖ** and the organisation **Venib**, published a complaint letter template designed to help intersex and non-binary individuals challenge barriers to access caused by the absence of gender-diverse options in online forms.

Furthermore, the Ombud issued recommendations for companies on developing gender-inclusive forms beyond the binary, also in collaboration with **VIMÖ**.

Letter template: <https://www.gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft.gv.at/aktuelles-und-services/aktuelle-informationen/musterschreiben-fuer-geschlechtstvielfalt-in-formularen.html>

Recommendations: <https://www.gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft.gv.at/aktuelles-und-services/aktuelle-informationen/emfehlung-fuer-geschlechtstvielfalt-in-formularen.html>

AWARENESS RAISING

In **Germany** in April 2025, the **Berlin Senate Department for Labour, Social Affairs, Equality, Diversity and Anti-Discrimination** launched a month-long **poster campaign** *Inter*Leben in Berlin* featuring portraits of intersex Berliners across the city in order to raise awareness of the intersex community. The Senate developed the campaign in close cooperation with experts from the intersex community, and the campaign website lists contact points and organisations for and by intersex people.

The **SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe**, in collaboration with OII Europe launched a two week long, European-wide awareness raising **campaign**, **#EuropeGoesPurple** aimed at raising awareness, promoting and building public and institutional commitment around the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)7 (see also the section **POLITICAL WILL**). From Intersex Awareness Day (October 26th), until Intersex Day of Solidarity (November 8th) institutions and



individuals were invited to take part in various awareness raising actions under the unifying message: intersex people are seen, their lives are valued, and their equal rights must be recognised. The campaign included a dedicated website and material created by OII Europe together with the Council of Europe.

In 2025, the **Belgian Institute for the Equality of Women and Men** launched a **guide** on supporting intersex people in the workplace, aimed at helping employers, colleagues and unions better understand their legal rights, duties and responsibilities. The Institute also published a **leaflet** raising awareness of intersex variations to encourage intersex people who are victims of discrimination to contact the Institute.

Berlin Senate campaign: <https://www.berlin.de/sen/lads/schwerpunkte/lsbti/kampagne-inter-leben-in-berlin-1514621.php>

#EuropeGoesPurple: www.europegoespurple.org

Guide: <https://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/nl/documentatie/transgender-en-intersexe-personen-op-de-werkvloer>

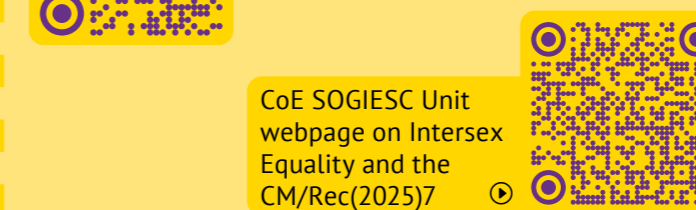
Leaflet: <https://igvm-iefh.belgium.be/fr/documentation/accueillir-la-diversite-comprendre-les-personnes-intersexes>

“EUROPE GOES PURPLE” CAMPAIGN

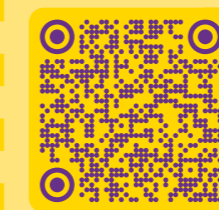
Each QR code provides immediate access to targeted information about the campaign and the Recommendation CM/Rec(2025)7. Scan with any smartphone camera to visit our campaign website or explore our specialised resources. You also find all relevant links directly on the **campaign website** or the **CoE SOGIESC Unit page**.



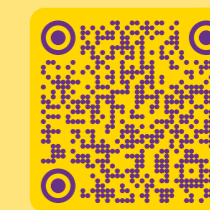
📄 Campaign website



📄 CoE SOGIESC Unit webpage on Intersex Equality and the CM/Rec(2025)7



📄 Recording of the CM/Rec launch event



📄 Social media assets of the campaign



A JOINT CAMPAIGN BY
SOGIESC Unit of the Council of Europe and OII Europe

