

ONLINE DISCUSSION **Ageing with Pride: Healthcare for Older LGBTI people in Europe**

Date: 6 November 2023

Time: 09:00-13:35 CET

Location: Online Event

Link (viewers only): [Zoom](#)

If you would like to participate actively (ask the floor/chat), please [register here](#)

[Programme and documents](#)

Background

This online discussion on healthcare for older LGBTI people is part of the Council of Europe's annual thematic reviews on the implementation of Committee of Ministers Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2010\)5](#) to member States on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This year's review is examining gaps between Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 and national legislation, policies, implementation, and impact on healthcare access for LGBTI individuals. It aims to collect promising practices, learn from successful initiatives that have improved healthcare access for LGBTI communities across Europe, and formulate actionable steps to address identified gaps and enhance healthcare inclusivity. The review is focusing on four topics that address the healthcare needs of LGBTI people, as well as areas where LGBTI people experience significant barriers to health: [trans-specific healthcare \(TSHC\)](#), [healthcare for older people](#), [mental health](#), and [sexual and reproductive health and rights \(SRHR\)](#). The findings will contribute to a European-wide report on the topic scheduled to be published by the Council of Europe around May 2024.

Programme

This roundtable will delve into critical issues related to healthcare for older LGBTI people, shedding light on challenges and complexities faced by the community with the aim of fostering a better understanding and identify practical solutions.

09:00- Opening

09:15 *Presentation of the review and report and general overview of the situation*

- Evgenia Giakoumopoulou, Head of the SOGI Unit
- Alexandra Sawyer, University of Brighton, Council of Europe Consultant

09.15- Panel 1. Overall health situation of older LGBTI people, including socioeconomic barriers

10.15 *We shall explore what is known about the health situation of older LGBTI persons as well as the barriers in accessing health care that they may experience because of their SOGIESC.*

Moderator: Alexandra Sawyer, University of Brighton, Council of Europe Consultant

- Julia Leander, Ministry of Health, The Netherlands: Insightful practices from The Netherlands
- Nena Georgantzi, Human Rights Manager, AGE Platform Europe: Presentation of findings from research on FRA survey data concerning older LGBTI people with ILGA Europe and other insights
- Ilaria Todde, Policy Director, EL*C: EL*C research on older lesbians
- Luan Pertl, author of the expertise, Intersex Human Rights Defender: The experiences of ageing intersex persons in Berlin

10.15- Panel 2. Management of long-term health conditions

11.15 *Dementia services, palliative, and end of life care* We shall take a look at the experiences of older LGBTI people living with conditions such as cancer, dementia or other chronic or degenerative conditions and how they are supported particularly in the context of a lack of kinship networks or where being out as an LGBTI person is not an option. We will also discuss what health care providers can do to ensure that LGBTI people feel safe to access care and what inclusive care settings for older LGBTI people may look like.

Moderator: Ellsworth Camilleri, Senior Project Officer, SOGI Unit

- Nicolò Battisti, Chair of the LGBTQI+ workstream, European Cancer Organisation (Consultant Medical Oncologist in the Breast Unit of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in London, Clinical Lead of the Senior Adult Oncology Programme (SAOP). President of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG)): Cancer and LGBTI persons
- Alexander Sasha Kondakov, Researcher: LGBT+ people and Cancer in the WHO European Region: Current Situation in 12 Eastern European and Central Asian Countries
- Axel Vanderperre, UTOPIA_BXL: Older people with HIV and comorbidities
- Mara Pieri, Researcher, Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra: LGBTQ+ People with Chronic Illness, Chroniqueers in Southern Europe
- Phil Harper, Researcher, Birmingham Newman University: LGBTI people and Dementia

11.15- Break

11.30

11.30- Panel 3. Human rights violations in health contexts for older LGBTI people, including discrimination, violence, and harassment

12.30

We shall explore challenges to the respect of human rights of older LGBTI persons in health settings such as recognition of intimate partners as next of kin; discrimination faced in residential care and assisted living, long-term consequences of interventions on intersex people, training of health care and care practitioners. We will also explore what inclusive practices in care settings such as residential care facilities look like.

Moderator: Irene Amoroso, Policy Officer, OII-Europe

- Ana Cristina Santos, University of Coimbra: A general overview of the topic
- Adeline Berry, researcher at INIA/University of Huddersfield, project on needs and experiences of older intersex people: Complexities of senior healthcare abandonment faced by intersex older persons
- Willemjin van Kempen, TGEU: Advocacy in relation to transition

12.30- Panel 4. Community-based interventions and good practice

13.30 *We shall explore the diversity in care options that are possible and available, such as in-home care solutions, and what can be done to address the risk of loneliness or isolation such as befriending programmes that can provide support to older LGBTI people.*

*Moderator: Ilaria Todde, EL*C*

Presentation of services offered and issues encountered in providing these services:

- Eveline van de Putte, Roze50+
- Eva Perez Nanclares, Board member of Fundacion 26 diciembre, Older LGBTI people organisation in Spain
- Michaela Jirsova, Zivot 90, Czech org, working for older LGBT people
- Dimitra Kyrillou, PROUD Seniors, Greece

13.30- Panel 5. Closing

13.35 Summary of main takeaways and insights from each panel.

- Alexandra Sawyer, University of Brighton, Council of Europe Consultant

Target Audience

The event welcomes a diverse array of participants, including policymakers from national and regional governments, authorities and representatives actively engaged in healthcare policy and legislation, healthcare professionals encompassing administrators, public health experts, doctors, nurses, and mental health practitioners, as well as community healthcare workers, researchers, activists, and advocates. We extend our invitation to anyone with a vested interest in enhancing healthcare access and inclusivity for older LGBTI people in Europe.

Get Involved

If you have inquiries or would like to actively participate and share your best practices, please reach out to Ellsworth Camilleri at ellsworth.camilleri@coe.int. We welcome your engagement and contributions.

Other discussions in this series

[Advancing Healthcare Access for Trans People](#), 18 October 2023

[LGBTI Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#), 8 November 2023

[Advancing Healthcare Access for LGBTI People in Europe](#), 15 November 2023

[Elevating Mental Healthcare for LGBTI people](#), 1 December 2023