Eduxo.eu
European Network for Democracy and Equality

IDAHOBIT POSITION STATEMENT

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism And Transphobia

On IDAHOBIT, Eduxo.eu – European Network for Democracy and Equality, as a feminist, youth-led and LGBTIQA+ organisation, stands with queer communities across the world. We reaffirm that rights are never truly secure unless they are defended, enforced, and continuously extended.

While the European Union (EU) often presents itself as a global leader on human rights, the reality for many LGBTIQA+ people remains marked by inequality, insecurity, and legal fragmentation. According to the latest (2026) Rainbow Map by ILGA-Europe, equality and protection across Europe continue to depend heavily on geography. Spain now leads the ranking with over 85% in legal and policy protections, demonstrating what sustained political commitment and comprehensive equality legislation can achieve. Yet at the same time, 7 EU countries still provide no explicit legal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or sex characteristics. Furthermore, 18 countries still fail to provide any legal recognition or protection for same-sex couples. This is a structural failure of equality within the European project itself. Fundamental rights cannot depend on postal codes, borders, or changing political majorities.

The same contradiction is visible in the debate surrounding conversion practices. This week the European Commission responded to the successful European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) calling for an EU-wide ban on conversion practices, acknowledging that such practices are harmful and incompatible with fundamental rights. This recognition matters. But recognition alone is not protection. Recommendations and political statements remain non-binding, leaving millions vulnerable to continued abuse, institutional silence, and unequal protection across Member States. At present, only a limited number of EU countries have adopted full or partial bans on conversion practices, while many others still lack any specific legislation. This legal vacuum allows practices condemned by medical, psychological, and human rights organisations worldwide to continue under different forms, often targeting young people and vulnerable individuals.

Conversion practices constitute a direct attack on identity, autonomy, bodily integrity, and human dignity. Major international bodies, including the United Nations Independent Expert on SOGI and the World Health Organisation (WHO), have repeatedly highlighted the severe psychological harm caused by these practices, including depression, anxiety, trauma, and increased suicide risk. The EU already has sufficient evidence, public support, and political momentum to act decisively. What remains missing is the political courage to transform that momentum into binding and enforceable protection for everyone, everywhere. **For Eduxo.eu, IDAHOBIT must therefore be a call to move from visibility to accountability, from declarations to legislation, and from fragmented protections to genuine equality.**

We need:

1. Stronger and harmonised anti-discrimination laws across the EU
2. A binding EU-wide ban on conversion practices
3. Effective enforcement mechanisms and access to justice
4. Sustainable funding for civil society and grassroots organisations, including core operating grants.
5. Policies that recognise LGBTIQA+ equality as a democratic standard with consequences for inaction.

If Europe is serious about defending fundamental rights, democracy, and human dignity, it cannot continue tolerating a patchwork system where safety and recognition depend on where someone lives.

This IDAHOBIT, Eduxo.eu calls for more than awareness. We call for action. We call for binding protection. We call for accountability. We call for Europe to match its values with law. **We call for change, now.**

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