

# 10 MARCH 2021

## 16:00 - 17:30 P.M.

### PROMISING PRACTICES ON UPHOLDING EQUALITY AND PROTECTING AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND HATE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On the occasion of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and the Permanent Representation of Germany to the Council of Europe are organizing a side event on "*Promising practices on upholding equality and protecting those groups against discrimination and hate during the COVID-19 pandemic*" that are exposed to discrimination on the grounds of "race", color, language, religion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, sexual orientation or gender identity or to multiple and intersectional discrimination on those and any other ground.

*The first part* of this side event will deal with the different ways in which persons are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: Do they have equal access to healthcare? Can their children participate in distance and online education? Do they and their families live in housing conditions that allow for respecting hygiene rules and social distancing? Do they have access to the necessary basic public services and benefits including social aid? And do they have equal access to information on the COVID-19 pandemic?

*The second part* will focus on the measures that Council of Europe member states have taken to uphold equality and protect vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on responses to a questionnaire and a study, the CDADI has put together a compilation of promising and good practices in those fields. The aim of the compilation and of this side event is to inspire state and non-state actors to develop and implement improved measures for upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the ongoing pandemic.

*Building on this work*, the CDADI developed draft Guidelines for adoption by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the COVID-19 and similar crises in the future. These draft Guidelines, which have been submitted to the Committee of Ministers for adoption, and the results of this side event will give further impetus to member states and other stakeholders to protect vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic, invest into a sustainable recovery of those groups from this pandemic and to improve the authorities' preparedness for protecting vulnerable groups during any future crises.

# Promising practices on upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the COVID-19 pandemic\*

Wednesday 10 March 2021 – by Videoconference

## AGENDA

### 16:00 - Opening and Welcoming words

- Triantafillos LOUKARELIS (Italy), Chair of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI), Director of the National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office (UNAR)

### 16:05 –Examples of challenges for vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Ghyslain VEDEUX, Vice-Chair of the European Network Against Racism (ENAR): Challenges for ethnic minority groups during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Jonathan LEE, Advocacy & Communications Manager, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC): Challenges for Roma and Travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Evelyn PARADIS, Executive Director of the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe): Challenges for LGBTI persons during the COVID-19 pandemic

### 16:30 - Responses and the way forward

- Gjulten MUSTAFOVA (North Macedonia), member of the CDADI: Overview about promising and good practices in Council of Europe member states
- Mark KAMPERHOFF, Head of EU division, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior citizens, Women and Youth, Germany: Overview about measures taken in Germany
- Tena ŠIMONVIĆ EINWALTER, Chair of European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET), Office of the Ombudswoman, Croatia, Deputy Ombudswoman: Overview of the responses by equality bodies to the COVID-19 pandemic

### 16:55 - Interactive discussion with panelists.

### 17:25 - Closing

- Rolf MAFAEL, President of the Ministers' Deputies, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Germany to the Council of Europe

\* The side event focuses on persons and groups who are exposed to discrimination on the grounds of “race”, colour, language, religion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, sexual orientation or gender identity or to multiple and intersectional discrimination on those and any other ground.