

## 7. The EU exerts international pressure

Countries wishing to join the EU must respect human rights unconditionally<sup>14</sup>. Until now six countries have therefore repealed LGBTI discriminatory criminal legislation. EU diplomats are subject to binding guidelines to promote LGBTI rights worldwide<sup>13</sup>. The European Parliament exerts diplomatic and economic pressure on countries that restrict LGBTI rights<sup>15</sup>.

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**Pulse of Europe e.V. – Pride Campaign**  
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1 EU Treaty of Amsterdam (1997), EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000)  
2 EU Qualification Directive Asylum (2011), EU Equal Treatment Directive (2006/54/EC)  
3 EU Equality Framework Directive (Directive 2000/78/EG)

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Both the **EU** and European Member States have made great progress towards full equality for LGBTI.

Any attempt to weaken the **EU** and its influence is a threat to LGBTI rights.

We want to strengthen these rights and wave our flag for the **EU!**

Learn more about our current activities:  
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4 e.g. the German Allgemeine Gleichbehandlungsgesetz (2006) or the UK Equality Act (2010)  
5 European Parliament resolution of 1 March 2018 on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2016 (2017/2125(INI))  
6 Judgment of the ECJ (Fourth Chamber) of 7 November 2013 (C-19/9/12)  
7 Judgment of the ECJ (Third Chamber) of 25 January 2018 (C-473/16)  
8 Judgment of the ECJ of 30 April 1996 (C-13/94)  
9 Judgment of the ECJ (Grand Chamber) of 1 April 2008 (C-267/06)  
9 Judgment of the ECJ (Grand Chamber) of 10 May 2011 (C-147/08)  
10 Judgment of the ECJ of 7 January 2004 (C-117/01)  
10 Judgment of the ECJ (First Chamber) of 27 April 2006 (C-423/04)  
11 EU Free Movement Directive, Article 2 and Article 3 (2004/38/EC)  
12 EU List of actions to advance LGBTI equality (2016)  
13 EU Guidelines to promote and protect the enjoyment of all human rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) Persons (11153/13)  
14 EU Copenhagen Criteria (1993)  
15 e.g. European Parliament resolution on Brunei (2019/2692(RSP))

**7 REASONS WHY  
THE EU IS IMPORTANT FOR LGBTI**

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## 1. The EU sets international standards

The EU was the first international organisation to explicitly recognise sexual orientation and gender identity<sup>2</sup> as grounds of discrimination in law – where other international organisations such as the UNO still struggle today. This explicit recognition by the EU is important in confirming that LGBTI rights are fundamental human rights!

## 3. The EU protects against violence and persecution

By an overwhelming majority the European Parliament adopted a resolution banning conversion therapies<sup>5</sup>, which the member states are obliged to implement. The European Court of Justice has recognised the persecution of homosexuals as grounds for asylum<sup>6</sup> and prohibited degrading examinations in asylum proceedings<sup>7</sup>.

## 5. The EU cares for partners and relatives

When same-sex couples, who have registered their partnership or married in the EU, travel, work or live abroad in the EU, their relationship is recognised in all Member States thanks to the free movement of persons<sup>11</sup>. They enjoy the same rights abroad in the EU as heterosexual partners and relatives.

The EU has been a driver of equality

for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and

inter people over decades.

## 2. The EU fights discrimination

LGBTI people are protected against workplace discrimination through an EU initiative<sup>3</sup>, which also affects other areas of LGBTI life. The EU has initiated national equality laws in many member states, which in some cases even went beyond the EU directive in terms of protection against discrimination on national levels<sup>4</sup>.

## 4. The EU guarantees legal protection

Protection against discrimination on grounds of sex, sexual orientation or identity is binding on all Member States<sup>8</sup> and is guaranteed by the European Court of Justice. The Court has, for example, enforced equal social benefits and pensions for same-sex<sup>9</sup> and transgender partners<sup>10</sup> as well as for heterosexual couples.

## 6. The EU encourages solidarity

The EU directly promotes the acceptance of LGBTI people in the Member States<sup>12</sup>. In addition, the Council of the European Union has developed a set of far-reaching guidelines on decriminalisation and against discrimination of LGBTI and on protection and support for LGBTI and human rights activists<sup>13</sup>.