

Intersexion



Miriam van der Have

Miriam is the Co-Chair of Organisation Intersex International Europe (OII Europe) and the Executive Director of the Dutch Intersex Network Foundation (NNID). She has 14 years of experience in intersex activism. Miriam is also a photographer and a documentary filmmaker. She recently made a documentary on four intersex women. She has worked as a journalist and a publisher, and has extensive experience working with the media as a human rights defender. Miriam lives with her partner Saskia and their two daughters of 19 and 22 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.



Sophie Aujean

Sophie is the Senior Policy and Programmes Officer at ILGA-Europe since 2011, contributing to securing effective legal protection against discrimination in access to education and health services for LGBTI people. She coordinates the work of the organization specifically on the human rights of trans and intersex people. She had previously worked as Programme manager within the Directorate General for Enlargement of the European Commission, organizing events training civil society organisations from Western Balkans and Turkey on the EU acquis communautaire in the areas of human rights and environment. She also has been working for Amnesty International Belgium for 12 years as Tunisia, Syria and Lebanon coordinator (volunteer work).



Dima Yared

Dima Yared is a human rights officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional office for Europe (ROE) in Brussels. Prior to joining the Brussels office, she worked in OHCHR headquarters in Geneva where she was assisting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Previously, she worked on the Universal Periodical Review as well as within the Rule of Law section at OHCHR, and at an NGO engaging armed non-state actors on the involvement of children in armed conflict.



Carlos Jimenez

Carlos Jimenez is a Desk Officer for Spain and Andorra at the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels. Mr. Jimenez started his career at the United Nations in 1984 and has since worked at UN offices in New York, Madrid and Geneva. He studied journalism at the School of Communications of American University in Washington and was a correspondent at EFE, Spanish News Agency.

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Free & Equal is an unprecedented United Nations global public education campaign for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) equality.

A project of the United Nations Human Rights Office, Free & Equal raises awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination, and promotes greater respect for the rights of LGBTI people everywhere.

The campaign engages millions of people around the world in conversations to help promote the fair treatment of LGBT people and generate support for measures to protect their rights.

Do you know how much discrimination really costs?

Rates of poverty, homelessness, depression and suicide have been found to be far higher among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people than in the general population. But it's not just LGBT people who pay the price. We all do. Every LGBT child thrown out of home and forced to miss out on education is a loss for society. Every LGBT worker denied their rights is a lost opportunity to build a fairer and more productive economy.

These losses are entirely self-inflicted. With different laws and policies in place and a different mind-set, we could and would achieve a more free and equal world – that is more prosperous too!

You, your friends and other individuals can make a difference too!

- Speak out when you see any form of discrimination or violence against intersex people.
- Remember that intersex people may have any sexual orientation and gender identity.

“If people can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite...”

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

“Why is that that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?”

Ernest Gaines, novelist

“It is an outrage that in our modern world so many countries continue to criminalize people simply for loving another human being of the same sex... Laws rooted in 19th century prejudices are fueling 21st century hate”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

“I have no doubt that in the future, the laws that criminalize human love and commitment will look the way the apartheid laws do to us now, so obviously wrong”

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace-Prize Laureate

“LGBT people are not asking for anything out of the ordinary. We're just asking for the same rights that everyone else has.”
Ricky Martin, musician, writer, actor, Free & Equal campaign equality champion

