



EAPN contribution to the European Commission consultation on the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy post-2025

Tackling the poverty and marginalisation of LGBTIQ+ people

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This document outlines EAPN's recommendations on the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy post-2025 in the context of the online public consultation carried on by the European Commission. Most of these recommendations are taken from EAPN's position paper [Towards the Eradication of Poverty - EAPN vision and recommendations for the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy](#).

CONTEXT

LGBTIQ+ people are disproportionately impacted by poverty, as well as on discrimination based on the intersection between their gender identity, sexual orientation and socio-economic status. Indeed, the intersectional nature of poverty stems from overlapping forms of oppression rooted in patriarchy, capitalism, racism, colonialism, ableism and cisheteronormativity.

[According to ILGA Europe](#), 1 in 5 LGBTIQ+ people in the EU experience or experienced homelessness, rising to 1 in 3 for trans people. In the same way, the EL*C report [Making the Invisible Visible: an analysis of older lesbians lived experiences on older lesbians](#) show a significant prevalence of precarious employment and risk of poverty and homelessness of older lesbians.

Particularly affected are LGBTIQ+ individuals who are also racialised, homeless, Roma, undocumented or in detention. These groups are among the “missing poor” – those whose compounding marginalisation makes them even more invisible and harder to reach through mainstream support systems.

So far, the intersection between poverty and LGBTIQ+ equality has been overlooked by the European Union. At a time when the European Commission is about to both renew the LGBTIQ+ equality strategy post-2025 and launch the first-ever EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, we believe now is the time to eventually tackling the poverty and marginalisation.

EAPN RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Aligning the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy with the Union of Equality frameworks, including the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy post-2025.** This alignment would ensure that measures to combat poverty are inclusive,

address the specific needs of LGBTIQ people, and tackle the structural discrimination that deepens their socio-economic marginalisation.

- **Initiating the design of a EU Directive on Minimum Income with minimum standards on the coverage, accessibility, adequacy and enabling characteristics.** Minimum Income Schemes are essential components to guarantee minimum standards living and quality of life for all, including LGBTIQ+ people, provide income protection and offer a route out of poverty for those most in needs.
- Maintaining the issue of the **gender pension gap** as one of the priorities of the Union of Equality frameworks and the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- **Encouraging member states to invest in essential services**, such as education, healthcare and mental health, as well as social protection systems, notably by exempting social investments for the national deficit calculation.
- Mandating the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to **conduct EU-wide research on the intersectional aspects of poverty, including related to LGBTIQ+ equality.**
- Ensuring that the **Social Scoreboard includes indicators reflecting the intersectional aspects of poverty**, included related to LGBTIQ+ equality.

About EAPN – European Anti-Poverty Network

The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) is the largest European network of national, regional, and local networks, bringing together anti-poverty NGOs and grassroots groups as well as European organisations active in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. Together, we defend the rights of people experiencing poverty and ensure their active participation in the EU decision-making process.



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