



SOFIA PRIDE HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM 2023

International Conference



Friday
16 June 2023



House of Europe
SOFIA, BULGARIA

Sofia Pride Human Rights Forum 2023 is first of its kind and will be co-hosted by Bilitis and GLAS foundations, the Embassy of Sweden in Sofia on the occasion of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the LGBTI Intergroup at the European Parliament.

The aim of the Forum is to create space for discussion around two topics of great importance to the LGBTI community in Bulgaria - hate, freedom and security, and the rights of rainbow families. Unfortunately, Bulgaria's legislation still lags behind in advancing on those two milestone issues and we hope that through this high-level forum we will further our advocacy efforts. We hope that the Forum will serve as a networking space for political leaders and politicians from Bulgaria and across Europe, representatives from the government and different institutions, the diplomatic community, the NGO sector, LGBTI activists from Bulgaria and abroad.



bilitis

GLAS



Embassy of Sweden



The European Parliament's
Intergroup on LGBTI Rights

B | S | T

The Black Sea Trust
for Regional Cooperation



AGENDA

9:00-9:30

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

9:30-10:00

WELCOME AND OFFICIAL OPENING

Lilly Dragoeva, Executive Director, Bilitis Foundation
Simeon Vasilev, Chairman, GLAS Foundation

OPENING ADDRESS

Katarina Rangnitt, Ambassador of Sweden to Bulgaria
Karin Karlsbro MEP, Renew Europe (Sweden), Member of the LGBTI Intergroup at the European Parliament
Kristine Garina, President, European Pride Organisers Association
Helena Dalli, European Commissioner on Equality (video message)

10:00-10:15

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Prof. Velina Todorova, Lawyer, Member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2017-2021, 2021-2025)

10:15-11:15

PANEL DISCUSSION 1: HATE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY OF LGBTI PEOPLE IN BULGARIA

The aim of the panel discussion will be to discuss hate speech and hate crimes against LGBTI people in Bulgaria and Sweden, the existing legislative framework and what needs to be improved, and what does sense of safety and freedom mean for LGBTI people, activists and spaces.

- **Martina Lindberg**, Swedish Police Authority's national coordinator and specialist on hate crimes
- **Radoslav Stoyanov**, LGBTI activist, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee
- **Sava Petrov**, Prosecutor, Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation
- **Sylvia Petkova**, Criminal and human rights lawyer

Moderator: **Lilly Dragoeva**, Bilitis Foundation



11:15-11:45

NETWORKING BRUNCH

11:45-12:45

PANEL DISCUSSION 2: RAINBOW FAMILIES AND THE RIGHT TO FAMILY FOR ALL

The aim of the panel discussion will be to discuss the lived experiences and legal challenges that rainbow families in Bulgaria face, to what extent the rights of rainbow families in the EU are protected and what legislative changes need to take place.

- **Ashod Derandonyan**, deaf activist, LGBTI parent
- **Ilina Moutafchieva** MP, Parliamentary group "We Continue the Change - Democratic Bulgaria", National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria
- **Pierre Karleskind** MEP, Renew Europe (France), Vice-President of the LGBTI Intergroup

Moderator: **Simeon Vasilev**, GLAS Foundation

12:45-13:00

CLOSING SESSION

Lilly Dragoeva, Executive Director, Bilitis Foundation
Simeon Vasilev, Chairman, GLAS Foundation