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## **New laws on Parenting Rights and Gender Recognition would put Ireland in top tier of European countries for LGBTI People**

*Annual map of legal status of LGBTI people in Europe shows Ireland slipping and the fight still on for basic legal rights across much of Europe.*

The annual European Rainbow Map showing the legal situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people shows that Ireland is 17<sup>th</sup> in Europe, dropping from 14<sup>th</sup> in last year's Map. Ireland has been passed out by Denmark, France and Albania.

The annual map, published today by ILGA – Europe (the International Lesbian and Gay Association-Europe) shows the legal status of LGBTI people in the 49 countries of Europe.

**“While Ireland has made very significant legal progress over the last 20 years for LGB people, other countries are moving at a quicker pace than Ireland towards equality.** It is clear from the analysis in the Rainbow Map that we still have some way to go to provide full legal protection and equality for LGBTI people in Ireland, in particular for transgender people.” said **Kieran Rose, GLEN Chair.**

**“Two of the critically important areas** highlighted by ILGA-Europe where Ireland needs to make progress are the **legal recognition and support of lesbian and gay families and gender recognition legislation.** There is an immediate need for enactment of laws to address these issues, building on the commitments in the current Programme for Government” said Rose.

**“There is a strong momentum for further progress in Ireland.** The Constitutional Convention last month voted overwhelmingly to provide for marriage for lesbian and gay couples in the Constitution and for the Government to enact measures to recognise and support lesbian and gay headed families” said Rose.

At a European level the ILGA-Europe Map shows that while many countries are making progress to towards legal equality for LGBTI people, some other countries are introducing restrictive and discriminatory provisions such as laws restricting freedom of assembly and expression for LGBTI people and organisations.

**“In many countries, LGBTI people continue to struggle for the fundamental civil and political rights that most of us living in democratic societies take for granted”** said ILGA-Europe co-chair Martin Christensen.

“Ireland plays an important role in supporting progress towards achieving equality and legal protections for LGBT people internationally. Using our positive experience of achieving social and political change for LGBT people in Ireland, in our role as members of the EU, the Council of Europe, the UN Human Rights Council and other bodies, **Ireland has a critically important opportunity to expand its work on LGBTI rights to achieve equality and human rights protections for LGBTI people internationally**” concluded Rose.

**Ends**

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Twitter feed on map launch: **#rainboweurope**

### **Editors Note**

1. ILGA-Europe is the European Region of ILGA, the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association and works for equality and human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans & intersex people in Europe: [www.ilga-europe.org](http://www.ilga-europe.org)
2. The ILGA-Europe Rainbow Map is available [here](#).
3. The ILGA-Europe Rainbow Index from which the Map is compiled is available [here](#).
4. Ireland’s Country ‘Score Sheet’ is available [here](#).
5. ILGA-Europe’s *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex people in Europe* which accompanies the Rainbow Map is available [here](#).
6. ILGA-Europe’s Press Release, full size maps to download and country ‘Score Sheets’ for all 49 Countries are available [here](#).

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***GLEN: delivering equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual people in marriage, at home, at school, at work and in the wider community.***

