Your Vote Can Protect Human Rights

Since 1999, the EU has had the power to act in cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation. Since then, it has adopted legislation and measures to extend legal and social protection for LGBTI people in EU countries. Below are some important milestones in our ongoing fight for justice and equality.

2000 The Employment Equality Directive prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the workplace.

2004 The EU Free Movement Directive gives the right to move freely within Member States, including registered partners of citizens.

2011 The Asylum Qualification Directive grants asylum on the basis of 'membership to a particular social group', including sexual orientation.

2012 The Victims' Rights Directive establishes minimum standards on the protection of victims regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity.

2013 The EU Council adopted guidelines to promote and protect the human rights of LGBTI persons abroad.

2020 The EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 states that the EU must be at the forefront of efforts to better protect LGBTIQ people and commits to a number of initiatives, mainstreaming LGBTI rights to the work of the EC.

2021 EU launches legal procedures against Hungary over a law prohibiting access to content that shows diversity in sexual orientation and expression.

2021 The EU Commission introduced a procedure to block EU funds from going to 'LGBT-free zones' in Poland.

2021 The CJEU ruled that if one EU country recognises the child's parental relationship, then all EU countries should do the same.

2023 The EU Commission together with member states publishes a guidance note on the collection and use of data for LGBTIQ equality.