



COUNCIL  
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL  
DE L'EUROPE

# Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

[www.commissionner.coe.int](http://www.commissionner.coe.int)

# **The Commissioner**

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- **Independent and impartial**
- **Non-judicial**
- **Furthering the Council of Europe's institutional framework for the safeguard and promotion of Human Rights**

# **Democratically Elected**

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- Elected by the Parliamentary Assembly;
- Commissioner reports to CM and PACE;
- Elected in 1999, Mr. Alvaro Gil-Robles was the first Commissioner; Mr. Thomas Hammarberg took over in 2006.

# The Commissioner's main functions

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Resolution (99)50 on the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, requires the Commissioner :

- To promote education in, and awareness of, human rights in member States;
- To encourage the establishment of national « human rights » structures where such structures do not exist and co-operate actively with those which already exist;
- To identify possible shortcomings in the law and practice of member States with regard to HR's compliance;
- To promote the effective observance of HR instruments and help member States in their efforts to remedy possible shortcomings.

# The Commissioner's activities

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## 1. Country work

- i. Human Rights assessment reports**
- ii. Ongoing dialogue with governments**
- iii. Focused reports**

## 2. Thematic work

- i. Immigrants, refugees, asylum**
- ii. Roma/Sinti**
- iii. Racism**
- iv. Persons with disabilities**
- v. Children's rights**
- vi. LGBT**

# LGBT Monitoring Project

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- 1. To advise the Commissioner on LGBT human rights in Council of Europe member states**
- 2. To draft Viewpoints and Issue Papers on LGBT related topics**
- 3. To supervise the *Comparative study on the situation concerning homophobia, transphobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in the Council of Europe member states***

# LGBT Monitoring Project

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4. To conduct specialised missions
5. To represent the Commissioner in Expert Committees (DH-LGBT preparing a Recommendation for all 47 member states)

etcetera...

# Results, outcomes, impact

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- **Viewpoints**
  - **Yogyakarta Principles**
  - **Human rights and Gender Identity**
  - **Freedom of Assembly (Gay Pride)**
- **LGBT specific sections in the Commissioner's country assessment reports (*useful for lobby domestically*)**
- **Expert meeting "Human Rights situation of Transgender People and Discrimination based on Gender Identity" (*basis for forthcoming Issue Paper*)**



# Results, outcomes, impact

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- ‘Silent diplomacy’
- Launch of big study into homophobia and transphobia in all 47 Council of Europe member states (*starting this autumn*)
- Strong presence in the intergovernmental working group DH-LGBT to prepare Recommendation
- Work with Ombudspersons and NHRIs

# Contact details

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