

CONFERENCE REPORT



HOMOPHOBIA IN THE STADIUM

European Institutions Against
Discrimination in Sports



HOMOPHOBIA IN THE STADIUM: CONFERENCE REPORT

Publisher and Copyright: European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF)

Editors: Jon Landa, Andrej Pišl

Printed: 2012 in Budapest, Hungary, 200 copies.

Funded by: European Commission

This publication is free of charge.

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More information: www.eglsf.info and www.footballforequality.org

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Introduction

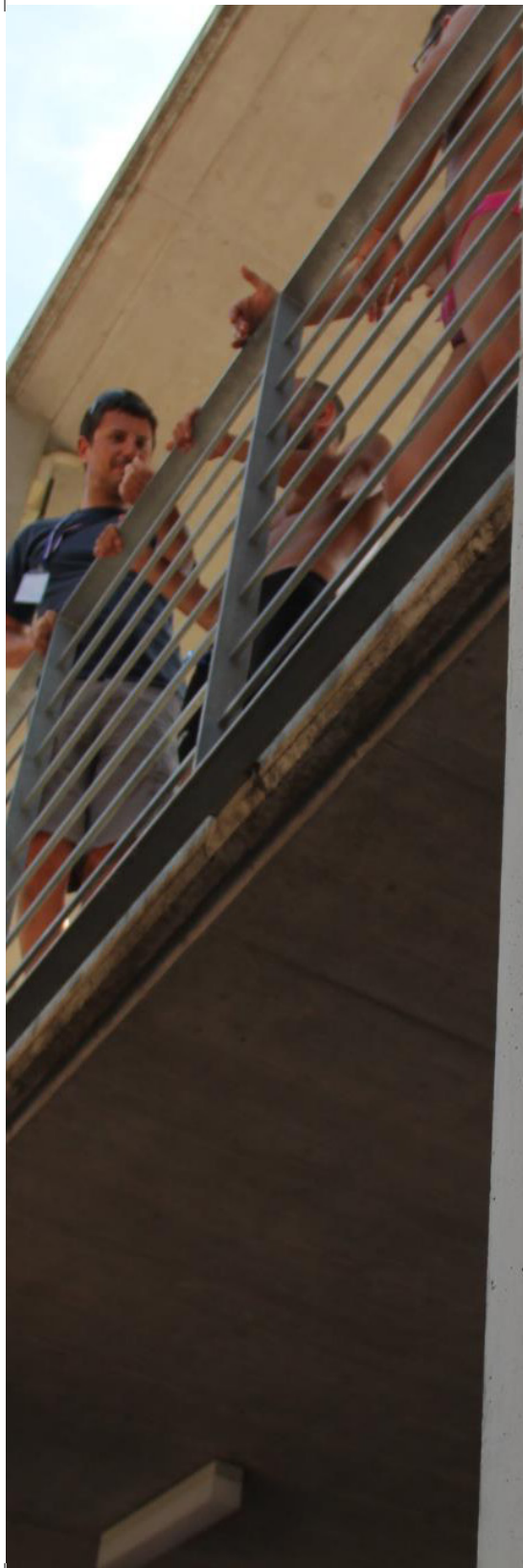
The conference “Homophobia in the Stadium – European institutions Against Discriminations in Sport”, organised on June 30, 2012 in Budapest, Hungary, was aimed to present different approaches from (inter)national regional and local governing bodies on tackling homophobia in sports throughout Europe. Which ones are successful, why are they successful? Can they be copied to other nations?

Experts and representatives from European institutions and NGOs spoke on how to fight against discriminations when doing sport, as well as showing practices already taken in order to tackle homophobia. And all of this took place under the umbrella of the first EuroGames ever held in Central and Eastern Europe and in cooperation with the Football for Equality II project, focused on this area, also supported by FARE Network and partially funded by the European Commission (DG Justice) under the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme.

www.footballforequality.org



The action is partly funded by the European Commission (DG Justice) under the Fundamental Rights and Citizenship Programme.



**HOMOPHOBIA
IN THE STADIUM**
European Institutions Against
Discrimination in Sports

Saturday, 30th June, 2012 | EuroGames Village @ Dürer
14th district, Ajtósi Dürer sor 19-21 | Budapest

ORGANIZED BY
 European Union

IN COOPERATION WITH
Football for Equality
Building Communities and Success with
a Focus on Gender and Lesbian Rights

Moderating

*Jon Landa, European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF),
board member*

I have been taking part in lgbtq sports for the last nine years. After the very first day, I have been asked about the nature of this kind of teams. At the beginning, I used to reply “I don’t mind why, I just want to meet people like me”. Then, a Colombian guy joined my volleyball team. I had also been a regular volleyball player, paying my studies with a sports grant, but he was a spectacular player. Why did he want to play with us, a group of beginners and some former “stars”?

He explained to us that he was fed up with hidden insults, subliminal actions like throwing the soap in the shower so that he had to bend over to pick it up (this is very common in Spain when talking about gay men), and he felt a lack of respect since a “faggot” was the best player and the team captain.

So I started replying to that question about the reason for this kind of teams: “Policemen, firemen, students, housewives get together for playing sports, among others, why do they do it? Because they enjoy playing together. And it’s the same for us, but we also have a mission”.

The Conference was officially opened by Armelle Maze and Lou Manders, EGLSF Co-Presidents.



Keynote presentation

Tackling homophobia in and through sport: the role of the Council of Europe

Sonia Parayre, Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sports (EPAS) from the Council of Europe




Sonia Parayre works at the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport of the Council of Europe. The EGLSF works directly together with Ms Parayre several projects. Her main task within the area is the promotion of diversity and combating discrimination in and through sport.



The conference addressed hotly debated issues and it is a very positive political signal that public authorities from several countries of the region are taking part in it. The CoE is also the first political organization to adopt a recommendation to member states on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. This is an important achievement, being the first legal instrument in the world dealing specifically with one of the most long-lasting and difficult forms of discrimination to combat.

The former NBA basketball player, John Amaechi recently said that stereotypes and discriminatory speech about LGBT in sport have a lower threshold than those about black people. That is exactly what I am used to see in the Roma context. Phrases such as “I’m not a racist, I treat black people as human beings and not as Gypsies” or ‘She’s good in sports, she must be a Lesbian’ are still too frequent. That is why the CoE deals with discrimination in general and homophobia in sports in particular.

The Recommendation (2010) 5 draws on existing standards in international legal instruments, in particular the European Convention of Human Rights,

A decorative graphic at the top of the page features five vertical brush strokes in red, blue, green, yellow, and orange. To the right of these strokes is a large, detailed soccer ball with black and white panels.

and will advance the enjoyment of all human rights by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. It includes a chapter on sport that says: “Sport activities and facilities should be open to all without discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity; in particular, effective measures should be taken to prevent, counteract and punish the use of discriminatory insults with reference to sexual orientation or gender identity during and in connection with sports events”.

Turning now to sport, why is it important that EPAS/the Council of Europe deal with homophobia in sport? Because sport is an important part of the life of the vast majority of European citizens (at all age, in different structures/clubs or individually) and it is a fantastic opportunity to get to know the other and overcome barriers and prejudices.

As mentioned in the explanatory memorandum that accompanies the LGBT recommendation, and I quote: “Sport can play a key role in social integration and in the promotion of tolerance and respect for diversity in society. Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are often at a disadvantage when it comes to participation in sports activities both in regular sports organizations and at school. Homophobia, transphobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity in sports, both among participants and in their relations with spectators, are, like racism and other forms of discrimination, unacceptable and should be combated.”

For decades the Council of Europe has been active in promoting diversity and fighting discrimination in sport. And in this case sport is a powerful tool to promote these ideals.

More info: www.coe.int/t/dg4/lgbt/coelgbtissues/lgbtissuessports_EN.asp

Conference Contributions

The diversity work of EGLSF within the world of football

Tanja Walther-Ahrens, former football player, teacher and scientist



For almost 10 years she was on the board of the Berliner Women and Lesbian Sports Club „Seitenwechsel e.V.“. For almost 5 years she was the representative to UEFA/FARE (Football Against Racism in Europe) for the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation (EGLSF). She is initiator of the “Evenings against Homophobia” in German football and in 2008 she received the Tolerantia-Prize together with Philip Lahm and Dr. Theo Zwanziger.


Since the very beginning, EGLSF has aimed to fight against all forms of discrimination in sport, especially homophobia, in all the possible environments: in the stadium, on the pitch, in the changing room. That is why the Federation is advocating and lobbying for tolerance, acceptance, and understanding by players, coaches and officials.

The “Fußball ist alles (Football is everything)” campaign aims to sensibilise officials and media for homophobic topics in football. Three events have been held until now (Berlin 2007, Cologne 2008, Stuttgart 2009), including keynote speeches, panel discussions and the signing of the declaration “Fighting Discrimination in Football”.

This declaration is addressed to all forms of discrimination: incorporates anti-discrimination paragraphs in stadium and club statutes, seeking for acting on the target, support of the diversity within football and especially making discrimination public.

Last but not least, the campaign is being continued in cooperation with Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE), queer football fanclubs all over Europe, the German Football Federation (DFB) and UEFA, among others.

More information: www.eglsf.info



Declaration
"Fighting Discrimination in Football"

We support this declaration and conclude to transfer these objectives in our club and organisation:

- **bringing up all forms of discrimination**
Anybody admitted to fight discrimination must first acknowledge the fact that there are other forms of discrimination in football besides racism. These include discrimination of challenged persons, anti-Semitism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism and xenophobia. He or she must also acknowledge that any form of discrimination is always emitted by people involved in the football world such as fans, players, coaches, assistants, referees, etc.
- **incorporate anti-discrimination paragraphs in stadium and club statutes**
Hostilities in football concern everybody, not just women, homosexuals or persons of different faith. For this reason, not just anti-racism, but anti-discrimination paragraphs will be incorporated in stadium and club statutes. These sections will state that nobody may be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, skin colour, gender, challenge or faith.
- **acting on target**
Simply introducing this paragraph will not suffice. In order to make the public aware of the new provisions, their introduction should be supplemented by PR activities such as panel discussions, press handed out at stadiums, and comments by players. Activities should also include educating security guards, coaches, referees, assistants and youth teams on a regular basis in order to guard against prejudice and eliminate its foundations.
- **support the diversity of football**
Diversity in football should be presented as a matter of course, e.g. by covering women's football on a regular basis or by reporting on the many ways in which gays and lesbians, women, ethnic minorities etc. are involved in football. By actively working together with gays and lesbians, migrants, women's football clubs, female fan clubs, etc. we can take sides against discrimination and reduce existing prejudice step by step.
- **making discrimination public**
Discriminatory behaviour or wearing provocative symbols will be registered and documented in order to make it available for analysis. This will be helpful for finding solutions and/or for issuing sanctions against the wrongdoer or the institution in question. Therefore every club and organisation should implement an anti-discrimination representative.

Club/Organisation: _____ Date: _____
Signature: _____





The Justin Campaign and Football v Homophobia

Megan Worthing-Davies, Director of FvH

Megan Worthing-Davies has been working for Amnesty International helping teachers to do Human Rights work in schools. She is the director for the Justin Campaign and she runs the Football Vs Homophobia project, as well as co-leading the Pride in Sports project of EGLSF.



Football v Homophobia was born because homophobia is still found throughout football, LGBT people perceive football as unwelcoming and LGBT issues at the bottom of the 'equality' pyramid.

FvH is an external and internal communications tool, as well as a partnership model which is focused for best practices and giving information. Despite focusing on FvH's Week of action (19th February), FvH aims to empower people to take action to make football a welcoming and inclusive place for LGB&T people.



Until now, we can see outcomes, such as:

- An end to any kind of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic abuse within the game
- An Improvement in LGBT perceptions of safety, interest, inclusion
- LGBT people represented throughout football



Support:

- 'How-to' guides
- Case studies
- LGBT contacts (gay football teams, LGBT youth groups)

As a part of the project, FvH works on The Justin Campaign, named after Justin Fashanu, a black British, openly gay, million-pound footballer who took his own life 2nd May, 1998. The campaign was launched by Jason Hall on 2nd May, 2008, but FvH launched it in 2009; after that, it was adopted by the FA in 2010.

The aim is to expand in football and wider society values the contributions made by all people regardless of their gender and sexuality. According to Worthing-Davies, about their mission, "The Justin Campaign challenges discrimination and prejudice against LGBT people in order to create welcoming and inclusive football environments".

More information: www.footballvhomophobia.com

Euro Pride House, Pride Sports in Central and Eastern Europe

Lou Englefield, director of Pride Sports (UK)



Louise Englefield is a Director of the UK LGBT Sports Development & Equality Organisation, Pride Sports. Pride Sports was founded in 2006 and was the first, and still one of only two organisations in the UK working to challenge homophobia in sport and improve access to sport for all LGBT people. Englefield has written several handbooks and articles as well as led workshops and conferences about fighting and tackling homophobia, transphobia and biphobia in sports. As former Co-President of the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, Louise continues to volunteer for the organisation on a range of campaigns and projects.

Euro Pride House

The Pride House concept was developed by Dean Nelson at the Vancouver Winter Olympics in 2010. The idea was to create a hospitality house, like some of the other National Houses which are found at the Olympic Games.

Working on the basis that the LGBT community is a global community, and not a community of place, Pride House Vancouver welcomed LGBT people, their friends and allies from throughout the World. Pride House 2010 took place at two sites, one in Vancouver, one in Whistler. The aim of the Pride House concept is to provide a place of celebration and education in relation to LGBT people's participation in sport.

Taking inspiration from the Vancouver/Whistler concept, the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation secured funding through the Football for Equality II project to deliver the first ever Pride House at an international football tournament, UEFA's Euro 2012. Pride House was therefore established in a community space in Warsaw on 8 June 2012.

Euro Pride House was a space for all fans, players and football supporters during the Championships. Its focus was on the LGBT community but

it was open to anyone who wanted to challenge homophobia in football. Throughout June Euro Pride House screened matches, hosted a table football tournament and played host to a range of debates and networking events.

Following a violent attack on Svyatoslav Sheremet, LGBT Campaigner in Ukraine, at the first ever gay parade in Kiev during May 2012 concerns over the safety of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered people in Ukraine as well as those attending Euro 2012 in Ukraine in June became evident. EGLSF therefore launched two campaigns from Pride House during the tournament. These were 'Wear a Rainbow at Euro 2012' and 'YOUR Euro Pride House'.



Wear A Rainbow at Euro 2012

'Wear a Rainbow at Euro 2012' was a campaign to show solidarity, mainly with LGBT in Ukraine during the Euros. Anyone interested in challenging violence against LGBT in Europe could wear a silicone rainbow wristband to show support.

Wristbands were available at Euro Pride House in Warsaw and from various venues in Ukraine and those not in Ukraine and Poland could also join in with this simple act of solidarity.

YOUR Euro Pride House

The YOUR Euro Pride House campaign also enabled other European LGBT people to engage in Euro Pride House. Obviously many LGBT players, fans & activists watched Euro 2012 matches in their own countries, and did not make the trip to Poland or Ukraine. This campaign enabled fans, wherever they were in Europe, to be a part of Euro Pride House,



by printing out the Euro Pride House logo from the Facebook page and posting a photo of themselves and their friends/team mates celebrating Euro 2012 wherever they were in Europe.

More info: www.europridehouse.eu

Presentation of the project 'Taboophobia in Sports'

ENGSO Youth (European Non-Governmental Sports Organizations, Youth section) session participants

A total of 23 under 20 participants, representatives from different European associations, participated in the study session supported by the Council of Europe entitled "Taboophobia in Sports - Developing a youth campaign to challenge homophobia". The aim was to explore sport as both a player in perpetuated homophobia and an opportunity to play together and

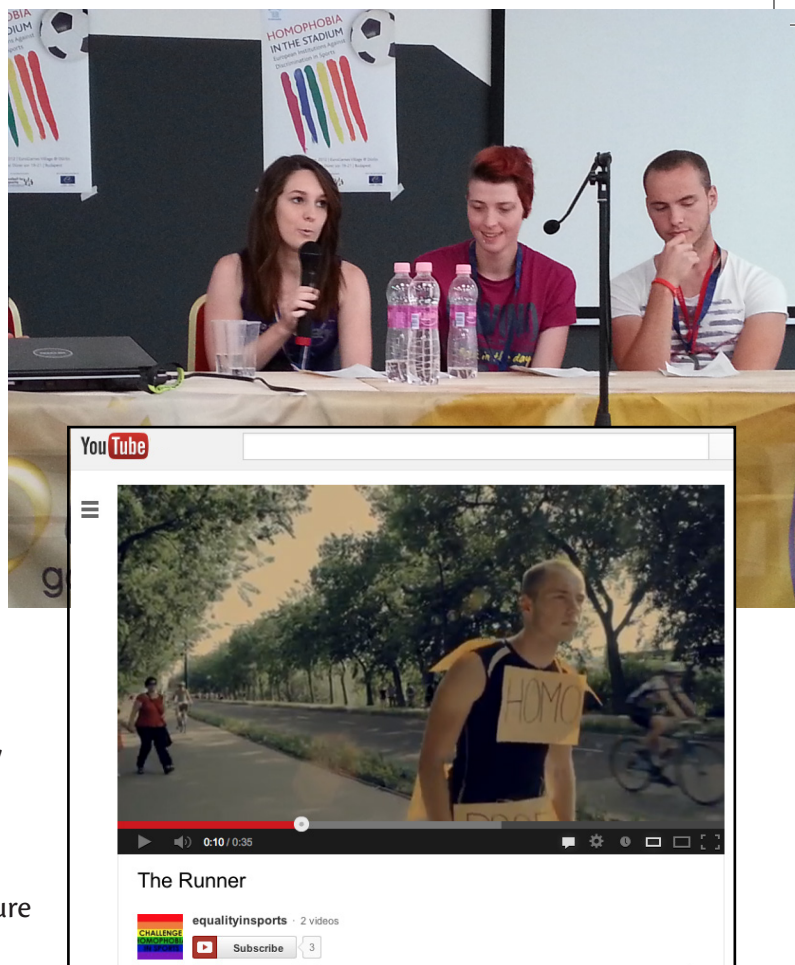


encourage youth to step away from this current dichotomy through a campaign or tool. The study session was held between 24th of June and 1st of July 2012 in Budapest, parallel to the EuroGames. EGLSF was kindly invited to visit the ENGSO Youth Study Session, giving an overview of the past activities and results and introducing future programs.

At the conference, the participants had the opportunity to show their project's result, the short film 'The runner' and the site Equality in Sports, as well as to participate in the debates of the conference.

Short film 'The runner': www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SxGd3RkZng

More info: www.fb.com/equalityinsports



Responsibilities for diversity and inclusion in sport

Uffe Elbæk, Minister of Culture and Sports of the Kingdom of Denmark

In the first half of 2012 Denmark held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. We were very happy to welcome the Danish Minister for Culture, Uffe Elbæk at the EuroGames 2012 in Budapest and have him as a speaker at our event, especially since his attendance was the last official business in the Presidency before it was passed on to Cyprus.

eu2012.dk

DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION 2012



Uffe Elbæk, among many other titles, is a journalist and columnist for a number of Danish newspapers and magazines. He has published books on cultural topics, is a member of numerous committees and a former CEO of the World Outgames. The LGBT rights and especially in connection with sport, always played important role in his life.

His contribution touched on various different aspects of activism and sport, coming also from his personal experiences, and the experiences of the Budapest EuroGames organisers. In the debate that followed, one of the outcomes was that the responsibilities for diversity and inclusion in sport lie not only on various institutions but perhaps more importantly on individuals themselves.





www.eglsf.info
www.footballforequality.org



Football for Equality



**Tackling Homophobia and Racism with
a Focus on Central and Eastern Europe**



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