

A Family Like Any Other

Conference on legal protection for same-sex families in Bulgaria in relation to the EU law and the application of the ECHR rulings

French institute, Slaveykov square, Sofia
29 May 2024

AGENDA

09:30-10:00 Registration and welcome coffee

10:00-10:15 Welcome notes

- Luc Lévy, Director of the Institut Français de Bulgarie
- Simeon Vasilev, Chairman, GLAS Foundation - welcome note
- Simon van der Burg, Ambassador of Netherlands to Bulgaria
- Stoyan Madin, Bulgarian Lawyers for Human Rights

10:15-10:30 Keynote: **Ambassadors for Change: The Diplomatic Role in LGBT+ Advocacy.** Insights from Jean-Marc Berthon, Ambassador for the Rights of LGBT+ Persons, France

10:30-12:00 Panel 1: RAINBOW FAMILIES AND THE RIGHT TO FAMILY FOR ALL

The panel will discuss the issue of necessary changes in Bulgarian legislation in order to respect Bulgaria's obligations under the ECHR and EU law to ensure effective protection of the rights of same-sex couples.

- Lina Papadopoulou, Professor of constitutional law and holder of a Jean Monnet Chair for European Constitutional Law and Culture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUn), Greece;
- Professor Edoardo Stoppioni, Professor of Public International law at the Faculty of Law, political sciences and administration of the University of Strasbourg;
- Yonko Grozev, Judge at the European Court of Human Rights (2015-2024);
- Velina Todorova, professor of Family Law at the Faculty of Law of Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv

Moderator: Hristo Hristev, Associated professor of European Union Law at the Faculty of Law of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"

12:00-12:15 Coffee break

12:15-13:45 Panel 2: PRACTICAL OBSTACLES AND LEGAL DEFICITS REGARDING THE LACK OF RECOGNITION OF SAME SEX FAMILIES.

- Maria Petrova, Medical law lawyer, Sofia Bar Association;
- Maria Sharkova. Lawyer, Plovdiv Bar Association;
- Yavor Tashev, Notary;
- Nevena Kovacheva, Partner in the Tax department and the People Advisory Services Leader for EY Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Albania, and Kosovo;
- Ivan Dimitrov, Global Compliance Officer at Cargotec, Lecturer at UNWE

Moderator: Emiliyan Arnaudov, Managing Partner at Popov, Arnaudov and Partners Law firm

13:45 - 14:30 - Lunch

Registration:



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