

# EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION

EQUALTOGETHER

TOGETHER, WE STAND AGAINST INTOLERANCE  
AND BIAS-MOTIVATED CRIMES



[www.equal.bg](http://www.equal.bg)

## CONFERENCE WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

Scaling up the Role of Civil Society of Vulnerable Communities in Bulgaria to Respond to Discrimination, Intolerance, Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (EQUALTOGETHER)

October 8, 2024

Boyana Residence, Sofia 1618, 16 Vitoshko Lale Street

Organized by the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

9:00 – 9:30

## Registration

9:30 – 11:00

## Introductory session

### Keynote speeches by

Anastasia Baskina

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Bertil Cottier

Chair of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Siobhán McInerney-Lankford

Head of Unit EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) – Equality, Roma and Social Rights

Yordanka Chobanova

Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Bulgaria

Ombudsman

of the Republic of Bulgaria

### Intervention by

H. E. Ms. Katarina Rangnitt

Ambassador of Sweden to Bulgaria

### Moderated by

Krassimir Kanev

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

11:00 – 11:30

## Coffee break & Accompanying event

11:30 – 13:00

**Session I – Social preconditions for manifestations of discrimination and intolerance. Avoidance (reluctance to communicate), segregation, and hate speech – how are these three phenomena related? Research results from the EQUALTOGETHER project. Sweden's experience in protection against intolerance.**

### Panelists

Boyan Zahariev

Open Society Institute – Sofia  
EQUALTOGETHER Project Steering Committee

John Stauffer

Civil Rights Defenders (CRD), Sweden

Venelin L. Stoychev

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
EQUALTOGETHER Project Steering Committee

**Intervention – Bulgaria in the Global Context – Comparisons to increase our sensitivity to discrimination, intolerance, hate speech, and hate crimes**

Yuliana Metodieva

Journalist  
MARGINALIA Online Platform

### Moderated by

Victor Lilov

Publisher

13:00 – 14:00

## **Lunch break & Accompanying event**

14:00 – 15:00

## **Session II – Legislative amendments and measures for systematic implementation of the current legislation on hate crime**

### **Panelists**

Krassimir Kanev

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

Jonko Grozev

Judge at the European Court of Human Rights (2015 -2024)

Bogdan Mlachkov

Ministry of Justice

Directorate for International Legal Cooperation and European Affairs

### **Intervention – The Global Context – Comparisons to increase our sensitivity to discrimination, intolerance, hate speech, and hate crimes**

Assoc. Prof. Alexey Pamporov

Sociologist

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

### **Moderated by**

Antoaneta Nenkova

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee

15:00 – 15:30

## **Coffee break & Accompanying event**

15:30 – 16:30

## **Session III – The new targets of prejudice. Educational desegregation. Prevention of evictions – necessary changes. Reporting hate incidents on the Equal.bg platform**

### **Panelists**

Ivo Indzhov

Media researcher

Denitsa Lyubenova

Deystvie LGBT organisation

Rumyan Rusinov

Political Scientist

EQUALTOGETHER Project Steering Committee

### **Intervention – The Global Context – Comparisons to increase our sensitivity to discrimination, intolerance, hate speech, and hate crimes**

Simona Veleva

Council for electronic media

### **Moderated by**

Venelin L. Stoychev

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

EQUALTOGETHER Project Steering Committee

16:30 – 17:30

## CONFERENCE CLOSURE – Transparency Vs Hate – EQUAL TOGETHER Performance & Visuals

Milena Dimitrova

Campaigns and Communications Expert



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**



B U L G A R I A N  
H E L S I N K I  
C O M M I T T E E

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