



International Conference

BREAKING THE BARRIERS: IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF ANTI-LGBT HATE CRIMES

September 20 and 21, 2018

Sofia, Bulgaria

SEND YOUR PROPOSAL FOR PARTICIPATION BY JULY 23, 2018



University of Brescia (Italy), **Lambda Warsaw** (Poland) and **GLAS Foundation** (Bulgaria), together with partners from 10 European countries, are excited to announce the international conference ***Breaking the barriers: Improving access to justice for victims of anti-LGBT hate crime***, organized within the framework of the EU-funded project *Come Forward*.

Violence targeting lesbians, gay men, bisexual, trans and intersex people remain a problem across Europe. Victimization surveys and police statistics show that members of the LGBT community are victimized more often than members of the general population; that victims tend to not report attacks; and that hate crime can harm people in a particularly damaging way. Despite that, legal protection from bias crimes on the continent is patchy and many victims lack access to justice.

Hate crime is a problem that cannot be contained to one academic discipline or policy area. The only way to effectively combat it is by bringing together key stakeholders: community organizations, support services, international and national policy makers and scholars. Together, these interdisciplinary groups can help each other understand and acknowledge the problem, discuss solutions and share promising practices. They can help counter hate crime and break the barriers that victims encounter when reporting and seeking support.

Conference themes

The conference will focus on the following themes:

- Hate crime legislation on the books and in practice
- Training of hate crime professionals
- Community outreach and reporting of hate crime
- Recording hate crime
- Support services for hate crime victims
- Rights of hate crime victims

The list is not intended to be exhaustive. Contributors should feel free to examine any other relevant aspect of anti-LGBT hate crime law, policy, research, training, practice or advocacy.

Contribute to the conference programme!

Proposals accepted by Monday, July 23, 2018.

The conference will be an opportunity to present and learn about developments in hate crime research, policy, training and advocacy. It will cover a range of subjects and theoretical perspectives.

You can contribute to the programme by sending proposals for:

- discussion sessions
- problem-solving and capacity-building workshops





- seminars and seminar papers
- consultations
- non-formal parts of the programme.

To submit your proposal for participation, complete the form with the requested information on **by Monday, July 23, 2018** (midnight CET). Please note that **organizers do not cover any costs associated to speakers, experts or otherwise**. You are thus responsible for covering any costs associated with workshops, consultations, presentations or other contributions. This is also the case for conference registration costs, travel and hotel costs. For more information, contact simeon@glasfoundation.bg.

Proposals and suggestions will be taken into account by organizers when developing the programme. As a high number of inputs is anticipated, organizers may not be able to accommodate all proposals and suggestions made. We aim to provide feedback to all proposals received **by the 6th of August at the latest**.

Please find below further information about how you can make proposals or suggestions!

Discussion sessions

There should be no more than five participants. Please include as an attachment:

- Session title.
- Name, affiliation and biography (100 words) of session leader(s) and chair.
- Proposed participants (including a statement as to whether they have agreed to participate), their affiliation and biography (100 words).
- Outline of the session's format (including number of people) and subject matter (200 words).

Problem-solving and capacity-building workshops

Please include as an attachment:

- Workshop title.
- Name, affiliation and biography (100 words) of workshop leader(s) and facilitator(s).
- Proposed participants (including a statement as to whether they have agreed to participate), their affiliation and biography (100 words).
- Outline of the workshop's format (including number of people) and subject matter (200 words).

Seminars

Seminar paper

This should take the form of a traditional conference paper. Please include as an attachment:

- Title of paper.
- Abstract of paper (200 words).



Seminar panel

There should be no more than three-four papers per panel. Please include as an attachment:

- Title of panel.
- Name, affiliation and biography (100 words) of seminar panel leader(s) and chair.
- Proposed participants (including a statement as to whether they have agreed to participate), their affiliation and biography (100 words).
- Proposed titles of papers.
- Abstracts of papers (200 words).

Consultations

Short one-on-one consultations may be offered to participants by organizations and individuals with expertise in a range of topics related to anti-LGBT hate crimes. Submissions should be no longer than 200 words. Please include as an attachment:

- The area of expertise (100 words)
- Related experience (100 words).

Non-formal parts

We are looking for ideas and suggestions on how to make the conference a success besides the formal programme. We welcome creative suggestions, but please be aware that we only have limited capacity to host ideas. Please include as an attachment:

- Title of the activity
- Outline of the activity's format (including number of people) and subject matter (200 words).

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE YOUR PROPOSALS OR SUGGESTIONS!](#)

Language

The conference will be held in English and Bulgarian. Plenary session will have simultaneous interpretation. Discussion sessions, workshops and seminar panels may be held in English or Bulgarian, with limited opportunities for translation.



Publication of conference proceedings

Authors of selected papers will be invited to submit them for publication in conference proceedings (in English). The planned deadline for the submission of the first draft is October 31, 2018. The publication of the proceedings is planned for January 2019. The expected length of texts is 6,500-7,500 words for academic papers and 3,000-5,000 for practice-based papers.

The publication will be edited by [Dr Giacomo Viggiani](#) (Lecturer of Law at University of Brescia) and [Dr Piotr Godzisz](#) (Research, Policy and Advocacy Officer at Lambda Warsaw).

About the project

The project [Come Forward: Empowering and Supporting Victims of Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes](#) is implemented over two years between 2016 and 2018. It is developed by a consortium encompassing [22 partners](#) from 10 European countries. It aims at:

- increasing the number of dedicated front-line reporting centres by building capacity of civil society and official partners on local and national levels,
- improving the access to specialised support by building capacity of victim support service providers,
- sharing good practices,
- strengthening cross-border and multi-agency partnerships, and
- raising awareness and empowering victims.

Over 1000 professionals from across Europe will be trained within the framework of the project by the end of 2018 with the use of a specially prepared training curriculum.

The project is co-funded by the European Commission's REC programme (JUST-REC-DISC-AG-2016-04-764731).

