

# **Position Paper**

**Country :** Republic of Estonia

**Committee:** UNHRC

**TOPIC :** Rights of LGBTQIA+ community and special

**Emphasis on spreading of homophobic beliefs**

Among the countries which after World War II were controlled by the former Soviet Union, independent Republic of Estonia is now considered to be one of the most liberal when it comes to the rights of LGBTQIA+ Community. According to ILGA-Europe's 2023 rainbow index, Estonia ranks 25<sup>th</sup> among 49 countries in Europe on LGBTQIA rights legislation. This is higher than the neighboring countries of Lithuania , Latvia and Russia. The Estonian Parliament recently passed a law legalizing same – sex marriage. This makes our country the second Central European country and the first Baltic State to do so.

According to a recent LGBTQIA+ public opinion survey by the Estonian Human rights center the attitudes of Estonian people towards LGBT+ are becoming more positive over the last year's Survey. More than half of the population believe that a same sex partner should be able to adopt their partner's child. Today 53% of people support marriage equality. Even when we would look into history, Estonia has taken Revolutionary steps into normalizing acceptance for the LGBTQIA community. Since 1992 Right to change gender is prevalent along with no sterilization or surgery required since 1997. Cohabitation agreement is legal since 2016 and same sex marriage is going to be legal from 2024.

The Republic of Estonia strongly believes in equality for all and opportunities for all and would stand strong for the welfare of the queer community. Every individual has the right to live with dignity and self respect. Islamic countries and Countries of Africa have denied inclusion of queer people as a part of their society which has led to financial, educational, professional and societal problems. No discrimination would be tolerated and Estonia is continuously working on spreading awareness for the need of acceptance and protection against malicious violence towards LGBTQIA+ Community.

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