

**Commission:** Court of Justice

**Issue:** How to eradicate gender, homophobic, xenophobic, racist and anti-Semitic conflicts on a European scale?

**Author:** Finland

Finland has been a member of the European Union since 1995. Finland's current government, led by Prime Minister Petteri Orpo of the National Coalition Party, was formed following general elections in April 2023. It is based on a coalition of right-wing and far-right parties, notably the Party of the Finns. The coalition was formed on 20 June 2023, marking the start of the 39th legislative term of the Finnish Parliament. This government focuses on issues such as social welfare, gender equality and environmental sustainability. The country is therefore generally regarded as progressive. In a European context where issues of gender, sexual orientation, race and religion still give rise to tension and conflict, Finland faces a major challenge: how to eradicate these forms of discrimination on a continental scale? While Europe strives to promote human rights and democratic values, discriminatory attitudes and behaviour persist in many countries, jeopardising social cohesion and respect for fundamental rights.

The issues raised by conflicts between gender, homophobia, xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism are in fact interconnected. In Finland, as in many European countries, these conflicts are manifestations of discrimination that is deeply rooted in society. These problems compromise not only social cohesion, but also the fundamental rights and dignity of individuals. As far as gender is concerned, although Finland is often seen as an example of progress in gender equality, inequalities persist in various areas such as employment, salaries and political representation. Gender stereotypes and gender-based discrimination continue to limit opportunities for many people. Homophobia also remains a challenge, despite the progress made in recognising the rights of LGBTQ+ people in Finland. Discriminatory attitudes and homophobic violence persist, affecting the safety and well-being of individuals. Xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism, meanwhile, are complex and interconnected problems, increasingly present due to fear of foreigners. Hate speech, racist acts and attacks on ethnic and religious minorities therefore represent a threat to Finland's social cohesion and cultural diversity.

As a member of the European Parliament, our country seeks to ensure maximum equality for the citizens of my country, but also for all EU citizens, without any kind of discrimination. Moreover, these worrying issues concern Finland insofar as they compromise democratic values, human rights and the well-being of its citizens. To contribute to the eradication of these conflicts at European level, Finland must actively engage in the promotion of inclusive policies, education and awareness-raising, as well as in cooperation with other European countries and the EU institutions to strengthen anti-discrimination measures and promote diversity and equality.

Finland, as a progressive Nordic nation, is generally in favour of close cooperation with the European Union in addressing these common challenges. Finland emphasises the importance of European solidarity, democracy and human rights in solving transnational problems, promoting inclusive policies and engaging in international cooperation.

In conclusion, Finland faces significant challenges related to gender conflict, homophobia,

xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism, which undermine social cohesion and the fundamental rights of its citizens. Although the country has made progress in promoting gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights and has adopted policies to combat discrimination, much remains to be done to eradicate these forms of discrimination on a European scale.