

**Commission:** Court of Justice

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

**Author:** Latvia

The Republic of Latvia, located in the Baltic region of Europe, is a country with a complex history marked by periods of invasion and occupation by various powers. Latvia reintegrated into the European sphere of influence starting from the 1990s. It joined the European Union and NATO from 2004. Latvia is also a member of the eurozone, the UN, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Council of Europe, the Schengen Area, and the OECD. With a population of approximately 1.82 million inhabitants, Latvia is a parliamentary republic with Riga as its capital. The current government is led by President Edgars Rinkēvičs and Prime Minister Evika Siliņa. The ruling party, "Unity," is liberal-conservative and pro-European. Latvia will participate in the European Court of Justice for the EU 2030 zero violence objective: "How to eradicate gender-based, homophobic, xenophobic, racist, and antisemitic conflicts on a European scale?"

The issue of eradicating violence and discrimination is of paramount importance to Latvia, which faces several challenges. Minorities face numerous difficulties, including the high social marginalization of the Roma community, issues encountered by LGBT individuals, and hate incidents targeting different minorities perpetrated by xenophobic, racist, or antisemitic individuals. This issue has gained significant attention since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, as the president has declared readiness to welcome Ukrainian refugees and suspended the issuance of Latvian visas to Russian citizens. It is therefore important that citizens welcome other communities and refrain from making derogatory remarks against different communities.

Latvia acknowledges that gender-based, homophobic, racist, and antisemitic conflicts persist throughout Europe and compromise the security and well-being of individuals. These forms of violence have a detrimental impact and compromise democratic values and fundamental rights. Latvia is committed to promoting gender equality, diversity, and respect for minorities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, migrants, ethnic, and religious minorities. Latvia supports a collaborative approach with European countries to share best practices, strengthen anti-discrimination legislation, and promote tolerance and inclusion.

Latvia has already taken measures to address these challenges, including supporting the training of law enforcement agencies in identifying and investigating hate crimes, encouraging cooperation between authorities and civil society organizations, and promoting public awareness of human rights and tolerance. Additionally, relaxed rules for granting Latvian citizenship to children born to "non-citizens" have been drafted to promote social inclusion.

Latvia fully supports initiatives aimed at strengthening human rights, promoting tolerance, and ensuring equality for all citizens. Despite progress, some issues remain concerning, such as the absence of political counter-discourse in response to racist, homophobic, or transphobic hate speech, the marginalization of the Roma community, and the situation of LGBT individuals. The ECRI notes that Latvian criminal, civil, and administrative law is not yet fully compliant with ECRI General Policy Recommendation No. 7 on national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination. Thus, through new laws and regulations, Latvia aims to develop and create more inclusion for minorities.

In conclusion, the Republic of Latvia, despite facing persistent challenges related to violence and discrimination, remains steadfastly committed to promoting human rights, tolerance, and equality for

all its citizens. Through its complex history and progressive integration into the European sphere, Latvia recognizes the crucial importance of combating gender-based, homophobic, xenophobic, racist, and antisemitic conflicts on a European scale. Latvia also acknowledges the specific challenges faced by certain communities, such as the marginalization of Roma, difficulties encountered by LGBT individuals, and acts of hate targeting different minorities. In this context, Latvia is committed to intensifying its efforts to promote gender equality, diversity, and respect for the rights of all minorities, supporting a collaborative approach with other European countries. Despite progress made, gaps persist, particularly in responding to hate speech and fully complying with international standards in combating racism and discrimination. However, Latvia remains determined to overcome these challenges by continuing to support initiatives aimed at strengthening human rights and promoting tolerance throughout society.