

# **Minutes of the meeting of the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy**

## **Steering Committee**

### **Thematic Focus: Safe and supported**

**11 March 2021**

**10:30 – 12:30**

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Present:

Minister Roderic O'Gorman, (Chair) DCEDIY

Eoin Wilson, DCEDIY

Eileen Leahy, DCEDIY

Eimear O'Brien, DCEDIY

Janet Lacey, DCEDIY

Meadhbh Costello, IBEC

David Joyce, IBEC

Jean O'Mahony, IHREC

Cameon Keighron, (AMACH! LGBT+)

Eamonn Waters, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Joseph Doyle, HSE

Gillian Binchy, Failteireland

Gearoid Browne, Department of Finance

Moninne Griffith, Belongto

Sinead Carson, Department of Health

Gaelle Izabelle, Department of Agriculture

Padraig McMahon, Department of Agriculture

Mark Gately, Department of Transport

Cillian Flynn, GOSHH

Gerard Keown, Department of Foreign Affairs

Zbyszek Zalinski, RTE

Antoinette Doran, Department of Justice  
Joan Maher, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media  
David Dillon, Department of Social Protection  
Catherine Linehan, IPO, Department of Justice  
Breda Farrell, Department of Transport  
Darragh Brennan, Department of Justice  
Paula Fagan, LGBT Ireland  
Jordan Harel, Outwest  
Gillian Treacy, Department of health  
Jed Dowling, Dublin Pride  
Padraic Sweeney, Department of Rural and Community Development  
Vanessa Lacey, TENI  
Kate Moynihan, LINC  
Nicola Brassil, Department of Foreign Affairs  
Paula Kelliher, Department of Defence  
Caroline Moran, Department of Defence  
Ailsa Spindler, Gay Project  
Margaret Malone, National Transport Authority  
Gillian Collins Defence Forces  
Stephen O'Hare - HIV Ireland  
Bill Foley, Outlook

Secretariat:

Alex Bassett, DCEDIY  
Jennifer Stanbridge, DCEDIY  
David Noctor, DCEDIY

## **1. Welcome and introduction**

Minister O’Gorman welcomed everyone to the fourth meeting of the LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy Committee. He particularly welcomed committee members and alternates joining for the first time.

It was noted that advance questions were received in respect of the presentations and that the aim of this was to focus discussions.

At the last meeting views on the structure of the meetings were sought – there were many responses and these were much appreciated.

One key point of learning was that more specific details could be provided

In relation to the timeframe for implementation – there were concerns raised about ability to meet commitments in the Strategy. Given this and the Pandemic, it was proposed to extend the Strategy until the end of 2022. There were no objections.

Minister briefed the committee on the Paid Domestic Violence Leave consultations being run by DCEDIY.

## **2. Agreement of draft agenda**

Draft Agenda was agreed.

## **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the third meeting of the Committee on 18 November 2020 were agreed.

#### **4. Thematic Focus: Safe and Supported Pillar**

##### **(a) Legislating for hate speech and hate crime in Ireland**

Darragh Brennan, Department of Justice, gave the following presentation:

*Legislating for Hate Speech and Hate Crime in Ireland  
Report on the Public Consultation 2020*

Observations from committee members included the following points:

- Helpfulness of the Scottish model in this area
- Timeframe for implementation of the legislation
- Degree of consultation with different groups
- Social Media
- Importance of having national legislation because social media are for profit orgs.
- Conversion therapy

The Minister noted that his Department was engaging with D/Health on conversion therapy and updates would be provided through this forum. He also suggested that the Committee to write to Minister Martin outlining concerns raised.

##### **(b) LGBTI rights at international level**

Gerard Keown, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, gave the following presentation:

*Update on DFA's commitments under the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy  
Report on the Public Consultation 2020*

The Minister noted that he met with the Polish ambassador about the concerns of LGBTI+ people in Poland including LGBTI+ free zones and the language and political dialogue being used by prominent Polish politicians. The Minister shared the LGBTI+ Youth Strategy with colleagues.

It was noted that while the focus was on Poland, Hungary was on a par in respect of LGBTI+ rights.

### **(c) LGBTI within the International Protection Process and Direct Provision System**

Paraic O'Carroll and Catherine Linehan, International Protection Office gave a presentation on the functions and operation of the IPO and an update on commitments under the Strategy.

The Minister noted that he had made a significant announcement recently on a white paper on ending Direct Provision.

Paula Fagan had submitted an advance question in respect of Training – seeking confirmation that that the DSSH model is being used and whether training was mandatory.

Catherine Linehan advised that while she could only speak for the IPO, the DSSH model was being used and that it was mandatory.

The Minister noted that the white paper doesn't deal with processes that were outlined in the IPO presentation. However, in public consultations, engagement was made with LGBTI+ people in the system and there will be a specific pathways for LGBTI+ individuals, will receive support from caseworkers with experience in these issues.

There was a query raised in relation to plans to roll out vulnerability assessments as it seems not everyone gets one.

In January a pilot project commenced on vulnerability assessments and now all new arrivals are receiving these. While the project is still in the pilot phase, new social workers are being hired. Applicants will be in the centre for four months so there will be opportunity to determine vulnerability present in week four for instance, that wasn't there in week one.

#### **(d) LGBTI+ people can travel in safety and confidence**

Margaret Malone, National Transport Authority gave a presentation on the Implementation of Public Transport Actions in the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy.

Note: Presentations were circulated to the Committee after the meeting.

### **5. Recommendations on meeting structure**

Jennifer Stanbridge (DCEDIY) advised that 13 recommendations had been received on foot of the Minister's invitation to submit suggestions on meetings. All of the recommendations had been considered, actioned where appropriate, or flagged for further discussion.

Recommendations that had been actioned include:

- Early circulation of meeting papers
- Extension of meeting length
- Securing of the relevant policy officials to address the committee
- Forwarding of advance questions to officials

- Limiting of meeting size
- Invitation to NGOs to report on progress of activities

Recommendations flagged for further discussion include:

- Proposed triangulation framework
- Focus on actions and strategic goals that are measurable including research into areas of the programme that are not currently measured
- Conducting of a National Survey
- Instituting of a 'rolling strategy' process - in the final year of a strategic period, work is put into developing a new strategic plan for the next

The issue of the establishment of sub committees was raised.

## **6. AOB**

The Minister advised the Committee that he has engaged with Minister Donnelly on the transgender healthcare issue including questions relating to recruitment for a paediatric endocrinologist, CAMHS consultant on gender identity, and a multidisciplinary team needed for consultants and adults. He will provide updates at the next meeting.

Vanessa Lacey (TENI) spoke to waiting list and stress for families that TENI supports. Would the HSE be able to offer a presentation on healthcare for transgender young people? The Secretariat undertook to follow this point up with the HSE.

The Minister noted that he had launched the LGBTI+ Youth Leadership Programme on 5 March.

Cillian Flynn (GOSHH) asked if the traffic light needed to be adjusted in light of the extension of strategy.

The Minister closed the meeting and noted that the date and time of the next meeting would be advised as soon as possible.