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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2026)

Equality and non-discrimination are founding values and fundamental rights enshrined in the EU Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (CFREU)¹ and the European Pillar of Social Rights. The new lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) equality strategy is about ensuring that all people, including LGBTIQ+ people, are treated equally and not discriminated against in Europe. It builds on the current Strategy² which has been in place since 2020.

The Commission firmly believes there is no contradiction between protecting the fundamental rights of children and those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people and remains fully committed to both.

The Commission fully respects the competences of Member States, and it is for them to determine the conditions under which legal gender recognition is granted.

The protection and promotion of the rights of the child is a core EU objective. Article 24 of the CFREU provides that children may express their views freely. Such views shall be taken into consideration on matters which concern them in accordance with their age and maturity.

The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child³ promotes a rights-based, participatory approach, ensuring that every child enjoys the same rights and be able to live free of discrimination, recrimination or intimidation of any kind. Furthermore, the Commission Recommendation on integrated child protection systems⁴ calls on Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that children are always treated without any discrimination and in a manner which protects their dignity, taking into account their personality, interests and special needs, and involving all actors, including children and families as primary carers.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

² https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/5100c375-87e8-40e3-85b5-1adc5f556d6d_en?filename=lgbtiq_strategy_2020-2025_en.pdf.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52021DC0142>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reco/2024/1238/oj/eng>.