

EN

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Answer given by Ms Lahbib
on behalf of the European Commission
(15.6.2026)

The LGBTIQ+¹ equality strategy does not encourage minors to socially or medically transition. Healthcare policy remains the competence of Member States, who define healthcare policies and clinical practice, based on scientific evidence and national legal frameworks.

As set out in previous replies², the Commission considers that protecting children's fundamental rights and those of LGBTIQ+ people are complementary. Equality and non-discrimination are core EU values, enshrined in the EU Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³ and the European Pillar of Social Rights. The LGBTIQ+ equality strategy⁴ aims to ensure protection against discrimination for all. Protecting children's rights is also a core EU objective. Under Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the child's best interests must be a primary consideration in all actions concerning them, and children have the right to express their views in line with their age and maturity⁵.

The EU's comprehensive approach to mental health⁶ supports vulnerable groups, such as children and young people. This includes initiatives like an EU-funded prevention toolkit, to support policymakers in addressing children's mental and physical health⁷.

EU funding objectives are set in programmes adopted by the Council and Parliament. Implementation occurs through work programmes approved by Member States and open calls for proposals. Grants are awarded competitively to top-ranked proposals that best meet programme goals. They may be suspended, terminated, reduced or recovered, if eligibility requirements are infringed. Beneficiaries may be excluded from future EU funding if misconduct, such as incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence, affect or risk affecting their performance of legal commitments.

¹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2025-004175-ASW_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004108_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004040_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004172_EN.html.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/b4952371-4308-47ad-b995-02c539b75dda_en?filename=JUST_template_comingsoon_standard.pdf.

⁵ In line with Article 12 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/public-health/european-health-union/comprehensive-approach-mental-health_en.

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/items/863796/en>.