

EN

E-002218/2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib

on behalf of the European Commission

(31.7.2026)

The Commission is fully committed to promote and build a Union of Equality and has adopted the LGBTIQ+¹ Equality Strategy 2026-2030² and the Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life 2021-2030³.

Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and association and the right to non-discrimination are fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁴. They also constitute the essential foundations of European democracy and are foundational values enshrined in the Treaties⁵.

The definition and application of rules governing the holding of demonstrations is a matter that pertains to the Member States⁶. The Charter applies to Member States when they are implementing EU law, in line with its Article 51(1). Outside the implementation of EU law, it is for Member States, including their judicial authorities, to ensure that fundamental rights are effectively respected and protected, in accordance with their national legislation and international human rights obligations.

With regard to Council Directive 2000/43/EC⁷, it offers protection against discrimination on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin in certain well-defined fields, namely employment and vocational training, social protection, social advantages, education and access to and supply of goods and services, including housing. The Directive does not cover the organisation of public events which remains a national competence.

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

² LGBTIQ+ Equality Strategy 2026-2030, COM(2025) 725 final. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0725>.

³ EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021-2030), COM/2021/615 final. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52021DC0615>.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/char_2012/oj/eng.

⁵ Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.

⁶ Article 72 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union states that Member States are responsible for maintaining law and order and safeguarding internal security.

⁷ Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2000/43/oj/eng>.