The situation of LGBTIQ is desperate in many countries and constitutes a bone of contention in the human rights discourse. In an increasing number of states, homosexuals have the right to marry, to jointly adopt children as parents, and they are protected by anti-discrimination law. Transsexuals may freely decide upon their gender identity and change their sex, change their gender identity and also enjoy protection against discrimination, as increasingly do intersexuals. Queer and gender studies, though under attack, have become part of the curriculum at many universities. In contrast, LGBTIQ suffer from persecution in other states, e.g. they might face severe sentences of imprisonment even for cross-dressing and the imposition of death penalty for homosexual activities under buggery and sodomy law is possible in at least eight states.

The symposium will address the human rights situation of LGBTIQ from the international, European and national perspectives by bringing together legal experts and practitioners. The speeches will be held in English, the panel discussion will be held in German (no translation).

**Agenda**
A. **Welcome addresses**

*Alexander Van der Bellen*, Federal President, Republic of Austria, Vienna (by video-stream)

*Franz-Stefan Meissel*, Professor of Roman Law and Vice-Dean, Law Faculty, University of Vienna

*Manfred Nowak*, Founder, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights; Secretary General, Global Campus, Venice

*Michael Lysander Fremuth*, Scientific Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights; Professor of Fundamental and Human Rights, University of Vienna

B. **International and European perspectives**

1. **9:50 Keynote: Inclusion of LGBT persons in public spaces**


2. **10:30 Public International law and the rights of LGBTIQ**

   *Andreas R. Ziegler*, Professor of International Public Law, University of Lausanne

   — Coffee break —

3. **11:15 The situation of LGBTIQ in Europe**

   *Patrycja Pogodzińska*, Project Manager, EU Fundamental Rights Agency, Vienna

4. **12:00 Questions and discussion**

   — Lunch break —

C. **National perspectives in Europe**

1. **14:00 Austria**

   *Nikolaus Benke*, Professor of Roman Law; Vice-Chair, Committee on Gender and Agency, University of Vienna

2. **14:25 Germany**

   *Michael Lysander Fremuth*, Scientific Director, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights; Professor of Fundamental and Human Rights, University of Vienna

3. **14:50 Hungary and Eastern Europe**

   *Eszter Polgari*, Assistant Professor of Law, Central European University, Budapest

4. **15:15 Questions and discussion**

   — Coffee break —
D. **Theories of inequalities and discrimination**

16:00 **Theories of inequalities and discrimination**  
*Elisabeth Holzleithner*, Professor and Head of Department, Philosophy of Law, University of Vienna

16:30 Questions and discussion

E. **16:45 Panel discussion: Practitioners’ perspectives**

*Katharina Cziczatka*, Young*Star, Queer Business Women, Vienna  
*Eva Fels*, Chairwoman, TransX – Verein für TransGender-Personen, Vienna  
*Marty Huber*, Co-founder, Queer Base Asylum, Vienna  
*Anna Szutt*, Secretary General, Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI), Vienna  
*Wolfgang Wilhelm*, Leiter, Wiener Antidiskriminierungsstelle für gleichgeschlechtliche und transgender Lebensweisen (WAS), City of Vienna  
*Manfred Wondrak*, Former President, Austrian Gay Professionals

In cooperation with: Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) Law Project, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland

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