

## Transgender Europe (TGEU) Self Representation

Transgender Europe (TGEU) is a European network of trans and other organisations that support or work for the rights of transgender/transsexual/gender variant people, and like-minded individuals. The mission of TGEU is to support and strengthen the international trans movement and to be a powerful lobby and advocacy organisation for trans rights in Europe and beyond. TGEU was founded by the 120 participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Transgender Council in Vienna in 2005. The actual chair and steering committee were elected during the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Transgender Council in 2008 in Berlin, in which more than 200 representatives from 38 countries participated.

### Transgender Europe (TGEU)

- believes that the acknowledgment and acceptance of gender diversity is an integral part of a modern European society
- works for the empowerment and self determination all trans people\*
- works to increase the visibility and acceptance of all trans people
- works to ensure that all trans people in Europe are afforded:
  - acknowledgement, respect and equality for the trans self
  - acknowledgement, respect and equality of the gender diversity of the trans community
  - acknowledgement, respect of trans people's human rights including legal equality
  - acknowledgement, respect and equality of trans people as European citizens.
- works to combat the unlawful discrimination and unequal treatment experienced by trans people
- opposes the continued exoticisation of trans people and the persistent pathologisation of gender variance as a mental disorder.

### To achieve these goals TGEU

- supported the Transgender EuroStudy in 2008
- organized the Second European Transgender Council in May 2008 in Berlin
- organized trans activist trainings in different parts of Europe (Manchester 2008, Budapest 2009)
- briefed the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe in human rights questions related to trans
- is (re)presenting trans people and trans issues in form of speeches, workshops, panels or roundtables at international and national conferences

\* Trans people (as used above) includes those people who have a gender identity which is different to the gender assigned at birth and those people who wish to portray their gender identity in a different way to the gender assigned at birth. It includes those people who feel they have to, or prefer or choose to, whether by clothing, accessories, cosmetics or body modification, present themselves differently to the expectations of the gender role assigned to them at birth. This includes, among many others, transsexual and transgender people, transvestites, cross dressers, no gender, multigender, genderqueer people, including intersex and gender variant people who relate to or identify as any of the above.