**Country:** Finland

**Comittee:** Comission On The Status of Women

**Topic:** Recognition and Visibility of Transgender Women

Trans women have been subjected to psychological and physical violence in many countries since the past, and there have been societies where they have not been accepted. When we look at Finland's political history, we see that efforts have been made to increase the visibility of Trans Women and some of them have been successful. the establishment of the first LGBT rights organization in 1969 proves that the steps taken started early. in 1981, homosexuality was removed from the status of a national disease. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientations was banned by SETA immediately after the Trans Support Center. SETA is an organization established to ensure equality in society, and we can say that they have achieved this by looking at recent history and the future. The "Registered partnership" charter was approved in 2001. Except for the rights to adopt children and accept the spouse's surname, the legislation is similar to the ones that regulates marriage. After that, the discrimination law was adopted, and thus, major step has been taken.

ILGA-Europe is an organization that supports LGBT people and advocates for human rights, has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and participatory status at the Council of Europe. If we look at the report presented by ILGA in 2019, Finland's legislation on LGBT people is one of the most advanced legislation in Europe. In addition, if we look at the data of the opinion polls conducted by the European commission in 2019, we can see that a significant majority of Finnish people support same-sex marriage, they think that trans people should have equal rights.

Trans people are subject to discrimination in all areas of society. Although we have come a long way to do this, more work will be done as Finland to increase their visibility all over the world. By revising trans laws, more opportunities should be offered in the field of medical support. The treatments that are mandatory for trans people should be carried out in better conditions, and the trainings given to various professional groups, especially health professionals, should be increased. The periods when violent and hateful expressions are increase are the same as the periods when the visibility of trans people is grow. For this reason, we must increase participation in LGBT actions. In addition, we will improve ILGA's field of work to create more awareness.

In most countries, incorrect information in the media and textbooks about sexual orientation and what gender identity is triggers prejudices. LGBT individuals have been identified as a threat to the public, religion, and and family concepts many times. For this reason, many LGBT people hide their sexual identity for fear of being subjected to physical and psychological violence. In order to prevent them, the freedom of expression of trans women in Finland is guaranteed, and only controlled in accordance with human rights. Finland provides the necessary trainings to the police as well as to the Health authorities in order to eliminate discrimination and raise awareness. According to the UNHCR, about 42 countries grant asylum to individuals who are afraid of discrimination on the basis of their sexual identity, and Finland is one of them.