

NELFA GUIDELINES

ON ADOPTION AND FOSTER PARENTING

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1. NELFA defends the right of all LGBTIQ* community to access on a non-discrimination basis to any kind of parenting possibilities, including adoption and foster care.
2. NELFA considers that adoption and foster parenting must be possible for all kinds of families, individuals and couples – provided all objective prerequisites are met, but regardless of gender identity, expression or sexual orientation. The benchmark should be always the best interest of the child.
3. NELFA defends the right of a child to be raised in a stable and legally secured relationship to its biological and/or non-biological parents and/or nearest carer taker.
4. NELFA supports an automatic co-parent recognition upon statement by any of the parents (for example when a married LGBTIQ* couple decides to use Assisted Reproductive Techniques to give birth to a child). Whenever this is not (yet) available, a second-parent adoption process should be feasible – however without bureaucratic hurdles and adapted to fit the needs of the parents and the child concerned.
5. NELFA encourages national governments to provide adoption and foster care laws or regulations that are in strict compliance with the utmost human rights standards, and that reflect the overwhelming positive findings of scientific research on LGBTIQ* parenting.
6. NELFA supports legislation that provides specifically for the general possibility of (joint) adoption and foster care for LGBTIQ* people, also to avoid possible uncertainties of decision makers concerned and to diminish the number of rejections ex ante.
7. NELFA supports all kind of training or formation for civil servants and other service personnel concerning LGBTIQ* families to increase the inclusion of diverse, non-

traditional family models, to give adequate advice to all parties involved in an adoption or foster care process and to ensure that children are given the maximum care and service to find a new family.

8. NELFA encourages adoption and foster care responsible to welcome LGBTIQ* parent candidates equally and without any prejudice, considering their parenting competences and capacities and helping them adequately along their future tasks.
9. NELFA calls on the national governments within the European Union to ensure the free movement of LGBTIQ* family members, and to recognise particularly adoption certificates and foster care contracts, duly issued in any other Member State. LGBTIQ* parents and their children should be always treated equally.
10. NELFA wishes that the EU institutions (inter alia) take action whenever Member States don't follow the requirements of the Fundamental Rights Charter (especially non-discrimination on the ground of... sexual orientation), breach EU law or act consciously against decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and recommendations and resolutions of the Council of Europe, including adoption and foster care.