



Brussels, 13.12.2022

The Commission's legislative proposal on mutual recognition of parenthood and the closure of NELFA's campaign on free movement for rainbow families.

Dear Ms Dalli,

I am writing to you on behalf of [NELFA](#), the Network of European LGBTIQ* Families Associations. We would like to contact you directly after we've taken good note of the legislative proposal on mutual recognition of parenthood in the EU.

After a long time of presenting - often tragic - individual stories, court cases, explaining existing legal gaps and possible solutions, we are grateful to see that all these efforts weren't pointless. In the contrary: we acknowledge with benevolence that the proposal would help to ensure children's rights in cross-border situations, to avoid longer periods of statelessness and other serious legal limbo effects for minors with LGBTIQ* parents – including the loss of familial ties, social benefits, parental obligations, and other heavy burdens.

You might remember NELFA's campaign on free movement for rainbow families in the EU, organised via the human rights advocacy platform [All Out](#). It is entitled "[If you are a parent in one country, you are a parent in every country](#)" – to highlight the iconic statement of EU Commission's President Ursula von der Leyen during her State of the Union address in September 2020. Meanwhile, we were able to collect nearly 45,000 signatures to call on the Commission for a legislative proposal. And we state today: this has happened. Consequently, we close the campaign and deliver the signatures to you in Brussels.

At first, we want to thank you and your colleagues for your engagement to guarantee that fundamental rights of EU citizens, including children with LGBTIQ* parents, are respected. In addition, we also want to encourage you to continue. We all know that the proposal itself won't change the current situation. It will be the implementation of harmonised rules in the different Member States enabling the full recognition and protection of our children. We trust in the institutions of the European Union to safeguard these very basic human rights.

Sincere regards,

Eleni Maravelia

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NELFA President

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About NELFA:

NELFA is the European platform of LGBTIQ* families associations, bringing together LGBTIQ* parents and parents-to-be from all over Europe. NELFA currently represents 44 organisations in 33 European countries with more than 20,000 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe, Transgender Europe and COFACE Families Europe. Website: <http://www.nelfa.org>. Leaflet: <http://bit.ly/2rJW0us>. Newsletter: <http://bit.ly/2jgZNJc>.