



## **NELFA DEEPLY REGRETS FINNISH LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VOTE REJECTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

Brussels, 26 June 2014

The Network of European LGBT Families Associations (NELFA) deeply regrets the results of the vote of the Legal Affairs Committee of the Finnish Parliament rejecting the introduction of marriage equality legislation for same-sex couples in Finland.

Maria von Känel, NELFA's President said: *"We are extremely disappointed with the result of this vote. It further isolates Finland among its more progressive Nordic partners. This vote represents the unwillingness of some legislators to recognise the legitimate right of same-sex couples to see their love legally recognised. It also puts into question whether some conservative members of Parliament really have children's best interests at heart, since by rejecting this law they are denying the right of many children to full legal protection"*.

Juha Jämsä, Director of the Finnish Rainbow Families Association (Sateenkaariperheet – Regnbågsfamiljer), a member of NELFA, added: *"Rainbow families in Finland are stunned by the vote in the Legal Affairs Committee. Although this vote will not determine the outcome of the decisive vote in Parliament in the autumn, it sends a bad political signal. The Finnish LGBT movement, and their allies, remains alert and will re-double its efforts to ensure the passing of marriage equality legislation in Finland in the near future"*.

### **To learn more about Rainbow Families in Finland:**

<http://www.sateenkaariperheet.fi/index.php>

### **To learn more about the Finnish Citizens' Initiative for Marriage Equality**

<http://www.tahdon2013.fi/in-english/why-a-citizens-initiative/>

### **About NELFA:**

NELFA is the European platform of LGBT families associations, bringing together LGBT parents and parents-to-be from all over Europe. NELFA currently represents 23 organisations in 15 European countries with more than 10.000 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe.

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Our new Leaflet: <http://www.nelfa.org/index.php/nelfa-aisbl-leaflet>

<https://www.facebook.com/InternationalFamilyEqualityDay>

[www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org](http://www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org)

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