



Brussels, 18 December 2016

## NELFA PRESS RELEASE:

### **The freedom of movement is a fundamental right for rainbow families too – The European Parliament recently adopted a corresponding report**

The Network of European LGBTIQ\* Families Associations, NELFA, welcomes the new comprehensive report on fundamental rights, recently issued by the European Parliament. The document assesses what must still be done to reach standards laid down in the Charter of Fundamental Rights, including the consideration of the situation of LGBTIQ\* people and their families.

The report calls for action in the field of free movement between Member States, including for same-sex couples and their children. Furthermore, the Parliament encourages the Commission to be more decisive and to react more quickly when responding to injustice, both legally and politically.

You find the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2hpP13k>

NELFA's President Maria von Känel, says, *“We can only endorse this report! The freedom of movement is an essential pillar of the Treaty on European Union and - as stated - a fundamental right also of rainbow families! The report calls for full mutual recognition of the effects and free circulation of all civil status documents of all individuals, couples and families across the EU. But LGBTIQ\* parents and their children still face significant obstacles to obtain mandatory certificates pertaining to marriage, partnerships, birth or adoption. Therefore we request that the Commission takes urgent action.”*

Luís Amorim, Vice-President of NELFA, adds, *“Many rainbow families struggle for years with the recognition and registration of their documents when moving from one EU Member State to another. These parents and children have to withstand suspicion, mistrust or even open hatred while running from one authority to another, while waiting for court decisions. This is an attack on fundamental rights and contradicts the principle of serving the best interests of a child.”*

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 32 organisations in 19 European countries with more than 26,500 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe. Website: <http://www.nelfa.org>

Download our new leaflet: [http://nelfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/NelfaLeafletUpdate2016-02\\_www.pdf](http://nelfa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/NelfaLeafletUpdate2016-02_www.pdf)

Get involved in the International Family Equality Day (IFED): [www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org](http://www.internationalfamilyequalityday.org)

Download our recent NELFA Newsletter: <http://bit.ly/2fGzMDs>

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