

Why did the European Commission publish proposals in 2022 to strengthen 'Standards on Equality Bodies'?

The European Commission published two proposals on standards for equality bodies to ensure that all members of society across the Member States enjoy a common minimum level of protection against discrimination.

These standards ensure that equality bodies are consolidated by:

- Stronger guarantees for their **independence**
- Adequate **powers** to achieve their objectives of full equality
- Wider **mandates** for a more comprehensive protection against discrimination
- Adequate **resources** to promote equality and fight discrimination, including assisting victims
- Higher standards to ensure full **accessibility** to all



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Standards on Equality Bodies



What are equality bodies?

Equality bodies are independent institutions set up across Europe and in other parts of the world to promote equality and tackle discrimination.



Their role is:

- defined in EU Directives on the right of equal treatment of individuals in society
- distinct from national governments and civil society organisations

Why do we need equality bodies?

Equality bodies ensure that equality rights are respected and translated into practice for all members of society.



Equality bodies are:

- Authoritative voices on matters of equality and non-discrimination in society
- At the heart of the national infrastructure for equality, cooperating with all relevant entities and stakeholders
- A first point of contact for victims of discrimination, having an extensive understanding of how discrimination affects people.

How can the NCPE, as an equality body, help to safeguard equality in Malta?

The NCPE:

- Investigates cases of discrimination
- Raises awareness for a culture that values equality and diversity
- Provides information on equality rights and responsibilities
- Develops recommendations on the various Government policies and operational tools
- Carries out research studies and publishes reports on equality issues
- Collaborates with different stakeholders to foster non-discriminatory practices



Which grounds of discrimination are covered by the NCPE?

The NCPE works to safeguard equality on the grounds of:

- Sex, family responsibilities, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief, racial or ethnic origin, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in employment, education as well as banks and financial institutions;
- Racial or ethnic origin and gender in the access to and supply of goods and services;
- Freedom of movement for workers in the EU.