

Intersex European Forum  
Douarnenez  
29 and 30 June 2015



The intersex european forum is organized by the Douarnenez Film Festival

# Présentation

*It is crucial that all initiatives aiming to amend, correct and develop national policies on health, education and social issues to ensure the recognition of Intersex people, should be developed with intersex people.*

*These policies are usually carried out by ministries, which according to the States, are: The Ministries of Health, Social Affairs, National Education and Vocational Training, Justice, Youth, Women's Rights and / or Gender equality ...*

**This international forum follows in the wake of LGBTI, feminists and human rights thoughts and struggles, and equality policies.**

It addresses all political actors (politicians, parliamentarians, ministries), health actors (Ethics Committees, psychologists and psychiatrists, physicians and surgeons, endocrinologists, gynecologists, educators, child and maternal protection, early childhood centers, ...), education staff (teachers, school psychologists, school doctors, nurses, ...), Justice and Law people (jurists, lawyers, legislators ...), patient groups, parents of Intersex children and associations of civil society acting on LGBTI, feminists and equal right issues.

After years of advocacy, lobbying, demonstrations, alerts, mobilization, research and publications carried out by Intersex people and their allies around the world, several states and governments are gradually becoming aware of the need to change their legislative instruments and recognize the damage done to Intersex people.

National ethics committees are questioned, practices are challenged, the UN and the Council of Europe release damning reports and produce recommendations for the recognition of new rights for Intersex people:

- ONU Report
- Report of the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe

In Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg, Australia, Argentina, Canada, France, governments and parliamentarians, acting differently in different countries, are beginning to question the circumstances of Intersex people and to produce texts and recommendations. This has not yet stopped old practices, nor has succeeded in ensuring rights, informed or modified texts. Far from it, The event is coming from Malta!

Since April 1, 2015, this country, whose Constitution states Catholicism as the official religion, has become the first country in the world to adopt a law (GIGESC: Gender Identity, Gender Expression Characteristics and Sex Act) aimed at protecting the rights of trans people, intersex and gender-fluid people, especially the right to self-determination of one's identity.

*All citizens of Malta are entitled to the recognition of their gender identity; the free development of the person according to their gender identity; be treated in*

*accordance with their gender identity and, in particular, be identified accordingly in identity documents; and bodily integrity and physical autonomy.*

**This Forum will close an international residence that will gather Intersex people from around the world for several days. It will address issues of rights, health, education, culture, militant experiences, struggles, the violence suffered, as well as legal, educational, social and cultural transformations that need implementing.**

The world is changing.  
Little and slowly,  
but it is moving.

## Monday, 29th June

**10 am** Welcoming the guests

**11 am Vincent Guillot** : Presentation of Forum national and international issues, presentation of the 2 days program and introduction of speakers.

**Vincent Guillot** (France), countrywo/man sociologist, is a transgender and intersex activist, founder of the intersex movement through the human and feminist rights in Europe, dedicated to link the categories of sex/gender, race and class. He also is a social worker and trainer on gender and sexual questions, and was a former presenter of the radio broadcast, "Body freaks, off-the-wall bodies" on RL. He has published may articles on intersex questions, especially : Intersex : Not allowed to tell what we were never told we were...

**11:15 am** : Opening of Forum by **Nils Muiznieks**, Commissioner for human rights at European Council. Speach from **Lauri Sivonen**, council member for human rights. About european issue for intersex people and recommendation from human rights commissioner.

**Mr. Nils Muiznieks** (Latvia) is the commissioner for Human Rights, an independent, non-judicial institution of the council of Europe. He has been president of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)..

**Lauri Sivonen** (Finland) is adviser to the commissioner of Human Rights at the council of Europe. His area of expertise covers questions on equality, non-discrimination, thanks to numbers of communications about human rights applications.

**Monday 12:00 am : Lunch**

**2:00 pm: Vincent Guillot** (France): *Intersex people: who is it?*

Emerging minorities VS pathology. From torture and corrective treatments to self-determination supporting process: major changes in state of mind and medical-forensic system. Contentious medical practices inventory, and their consequences for physical, psychological, social and familial integrity.

**2:30 pm: Théo Benoist** (France): *A short story of the intersex rights movement.*

**Théo Benoist** is currently studying the sociology of gender at University Paris 8 for his MSc thesis. He is a specialist of the hermaphrodite and intersex history. He is also committed in intersex rights movement and works as a trainer to future social workers for gender and sexuality issues.

**3:15 pm: Philippe Reigné** (France): *Intersex people in the European and French law.*  
Followed by a personal testimony

**Philippe Reigné**, holder of an agrégation of Law, is a tenured university professor at the "Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers" since 1998. He is a member of direction committee of the "Institut Émile du Chatelet". References: "Legal concept of sex", "Sex, gender, and people".

\*SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION

**4:15 pm: Ginette Ntumbi Tukelebawu** (Democratic Republic of Congo): *Strategies and challenges for medico-social intersexuality care in Sub-Saharan Africa: comparison with the European reality.*

Followed by a personal testimony

Obscurantist by culture heritage, Western medicine has been questioning itself only recently, but seems to operate a move in its practices. So with that, forced gender determination of intersex infants is still the rule in the West. In Sub-Saharan Africa, intersexuality is not even questioned by the academic medicine. This talk will attempt to show a panel of medical practices on intersex children in these two different contexts.

**G. Ntumbi Tubelebawu** was born in 1975 at Mawanga, Katanga, in the DRC. PhD student, she is a doctor in training in endocrinology at the Lubumbashi University.

**5 pm: Daniela Truffer** (Swiss): *The Swiss paradigm and its exemplary approach: a model for other countries?*

In 2012, the Swiss national Commission of Ethics has made a legislative review for juridical intervention on intersex children. Since then, the Committee on the Rights of the Child of the United Nations has described in 2015 a list of “harmful practices” applied by national institutions. These recognitions are both the first of this kind in the world. Nevertheless, these recommendations are still only texts that do not find concrete application in the facts. So far, genital mutilations still occur in.

**Daniela Truffer** is an active participant of support groups XY-Frauen in Germany and Intersex.ch in Swiss since 2000.

She testified on genital mutilations in front of the Swiss national Commission of Ethics and the German Council of Ethics. Since 2009, she contributed to the increase of human rights awareness at the United Nations and in several other human rights organizations, among which: the CRC, CAT, OHCHR, CRPD, CEDAW, HRC, HRCtee, WHO, COE, and the Special rapporteur on torture, and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

**5:45 pm: Synthesis of the day: Christèle Fraïssé (France)**

**Christèle Fraïssé** is lecturer in social psychology at the University of Brittany (UBO). She leads her research at the Cognition and Communication department of the Psychology Research Center CRPCC. Her work focuses on how homophobia and heterosexism are linked with the collective representation of male and female genders. Dr. Fraïssé investigates the process of gender-related construction of individuals. Especially, she adopts a socially based way of thinking, by considering individuals' choices as results of society's approved standards, and areas of freedom available in our society.

**7:30 pm: Dinner**

**9:15 pm:** Film screening: *Intersexion*, directed by **Grant LaHood** (New-Zealand). With special guest **Mani Bruce Mitchell** (New-Zealand), main character performer.

The first question any new parent asks... “Is it a boy or a girl?” What if it's neither? 1 in 2,000 babies is born with genitalia so ambiguous that the doctors cannot easily answer this question.

In this groundbreaking documentary, intersex individuals reveal the secrets of their unconventional lives – and how they have navigated their way through this strictly male/female world, when they fit somewhere in between.

# Tuesday, 30th June

**9:30 am: Erik Schneider** (Luxembourg): *Intersex self-determination facing psychiatry and pathologising process*

**Erik Schneider** is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist; he lives and works in Luxembourg. He co-founded the NGO “Intersex & Transgender Luembourg” (ITGL). Through this NGO, he develops awareness actions and training courses for educational and social staff, and for political officials. He has been requested at the European level for his expertise on trans and intersex issues, and he produced a report for the Council of Europe: “Are the rights of intersex and trans child observed in Europe?”

**10:15 am: Mani Bruce Mitchell**, New-Zealand, **Hiker Chiu**, Taīwan, **Janik Bastien**, Quebec: *Being an intersex person in the world: situations in Oceania, Asia and Northern America.*

**Janik Bastien Charlebois** is a professor at the department of sociology, University of Quebec, Montreal. She is a member of the research team “Culture of testimony”, associated researcher at the research chair on homophobia, and member of the Institute of research on feminist studies at the UQAM. She defends the position of a militant research work, and she is committed to it as an activist intersex person struggling with forced hormonotherapy and surgery policies.

**Mani Bruce Mitchell** is a militant intersex person. She was born in 1953 and is an activist since 1996, especially on education and information on gender issues for intersex people.

**Hiker Chiu** is a PhD student in human sexuality at the Shute University. He endured severe persecution which is the rule in the Taīwanese society. The discovery of the OII (International Organization of Intersex people), broke his isolated situation. Since he found out the existence of the OII (International Organization of Intersex people), his isolated situation has ended, and he built a website for intersex people in Chinese.

**11:15 Mauro Cabral** (Argentina): *Restorative justice.*

**Mauro Cabral** has been a trans and intersex activist since 1995. He is a social theorician, co-director of the GATE (Global Action for Trans' Equality). This group of activists emerged with the need for an international lobbying for the rights of intersex people, especially towards the United Nations and other national and international organizations. Nations and United Nations request his expertise for the development of policies on human rights of intersex persons. He is one of the developers of *The Jogjakarta Principles*.

**12:15 - Lunch**

**2:00 pm: Natasha Jimenez Mata** (Costa Rica): *Intersex people in Latin America; Position of intersex people within Ilga.*

**Natasha Jimenez Mata** is a trans and intersex activist in Costa-Rica. As a feminist, she contributed to publications such as *Interdiction*, and *For whom is the revolution if we do not have the right to dance?* She was elected in 2014 as a management board member of the ILGA, an international federation of 1100 organizations from 110 countries that campaigned since 1978 for the rights of homosexual, trans.

**2:50 pm: Dan Christian Gathas** (Germany): *Comparative study of intersex people in 12 countries*  
Portrait of the numerous levels of stigmatization of intersex people.

**Dan Christian Gathas** (PhD) is a journalist and personal coach. He is a member of the trans and intersex community of Berlin since 2002.

Here he presents his report, which is considered as the first international comparative analysis of the human rights of intersex people. This report received the support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, New-Zealand, Serbia, South-Africa, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

**3:45 pm:** Round-table discussion and participative talk with official guests of the Forum, Intersex persons of the residence, politician officials and the audience.

*Excessive legalization or social dialogue: what about now? How to go into action, and for which laws?*

**5:30 pm: closing of the day with:**

**Gaëlle Abilly (Franch)** is in charge of Female/Male equality issues at the regional council of Brittany, and she is a member of the Council for Equality.

**6:00 pm: Synthesis of the Forum by Janik Bastien** (Quebec)

## Practical Information

Intersex European Forum – Douarnenez 2015 is open to any and all of June 29 to 30, free entry, limited places available.

All interventions are translated into French.

For further information, please contact :

Solenn Caroff ([scaroff@festival-douarnenez.com](mailto:scaroff@festival-douarnenez.com) / 06 45 18 22 41)

Eric Premel ([eric.premel@wanadoo.fr](mailto:eric.premel@wanadoo.fr) / 06 15 79 93 08)

The Forum takes place in the hall of the Hotel de France in Douarnenez.

Possibility of lunch on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 at the Hotel de France, mandatory reservation with Solenn Caroff.

Douarnenez Film Festival, [festival-douarnenez.com](http://festival-douarnenez.com)

13, rue Michel Le Nobletz - BP206 - 29172 Douarnenez cedex