



ADOPTION EQUALITY FOR ALL COUPLES IN AUSTRIA

The Network of European LGBT Families Associations (NELFA) welcomes the recent ruling by the Austrian Constitutional Court to extend full adoption rights to same-sex couples, equal to those currently enjoyed by different-sex couples.

Maria Von Känel, NELFA President said: *"This is a great day for Equality in Austria and Europe. Until now, same-sex partners could adopt a child only if one of them was the child's biological parent. With the ruling of the Constitutional Court, all couples will be able to access parenthood through adoption under the same rules and provisions. Moreover, the recognition implicit in this ruling, that same-sex couples are an important parenting resource for children in need of adoption, also affords greater visibility and legitimacy to Rainbow Families."*

Rita Marascalchi, NELFA Board Member based in Austria, said: *"I am very happy to note Austria's steady and fast progress towards full equality. This is very important news for all Austrian Rainbow Families. As Chief Judge Gerhar Holzinger stated, there is no objective argument to have different rules applied to couples based solely on one's sexual orientation. We all know that sexual orientation is not a measure of good parenting. It is love, care, responsibility, commitment, that are measures of good parenting."*

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 23,000 members. NELFA is a member of ILGA-Europe and Transgender Europe.

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International Family Equality Day (IFED)

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

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