



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Italy
Title:	Scandal involving UNAR
Date:	8 March 2017
Expert:	Chiara, Favilli
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	UNAR's Financing activities and Responsibilities of its Director
Ground of discrimination:	Sexual orientation
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Other (Equality body)
Applicable law:	Directive 2000/78/EC and Legislative decree 216/2003

Content

Policy development: The Director of UNAR – the Italian Equality body – has resigned after a scandal erupted because of an investigation carried out by a very popular television broadcasting. The journalists showed that UNAR had funded an LGBT organisation, which only appeared to be of a 'cultural' nature, formally devoted to activities against homophobia. In reality, the organisation was running at least three 'hot' centres, offering sex-related activities, including dark rooms for sexual encounters. In line with the style of this investigative TV show, the journalists approached the (then) director of UNAR unannounced, in front of the building where the body is housed, and interviewed him. The former director, taken by surprise, provided very unsatisfactory answers, showing poor knowledge of the rules regulating the register held by UNAR where associations applying for funds shall be enrolled. Moreover, he said that he could not know what the associations were doing in reality, since UNAR makes checks only based on papers, without monitoring the real activities of those centres. However, the journalists discovered that the director was himself a member of this association; the reply also in this case was embarrassing.

Key points of analysis: After the scandal and the resignation of the Director, several politicians, in particular belonging to right-wing parties, presented recurrent criticisms against UNAR, regarding its activity outside the scope of racial discrimination and its benefit for the country.

Internet link source: MPs Questions to the Government:
<http://www.camera.it/leg17/410?idSeduta=0748&tipo=stenografico>;
<http://aic.camera.it/aic/scheda.html?numero=4/15664&ramo=CAMERA&leg=17>.