



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

### FLASH REPORT

<b>Country:</b>	Belgium
<b>Title:</b>	Unia and the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men sign a cooperation protocol
<b>Date:</b>	24 May 2019
<b>Expert:</b>	Emmanuelle Bribosia and Isabelle Rorive
<b><u>Context</u></b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Cooperation between the equality bodies
<b>Grounds of discrimination:</b>	All grounds
<b>Field of application:</b>	All fields
<b>Source:</b>	Policy development
<b>Applicable law:</b>	N/A

### **Content**

**Policy development:** Unia and the Institute for Equality between Women and Men (IEFH) signed a protocol on 20 March 2019. The aim of this protocol is to formalise the collaboration between these two Belgian institutions to fight against discrimination.

The Cooperation Protocol between Unia and the Institute for Equality of Women and Men aims at promoting mutual information, fostering and organising collaboration between these two institutions, as the IEFH is competent for gender discrimination, and Unia deals with other grounds of discrimination (colour, descent, national origin, nationality, age, sexual orientation, civil status, birth, wealth/income (*fortune*, in French), religious or philosophical belief, actual or future state of health, disability, physical characteristic, political opinion, trade union opinion, genetic characteristics and social origin - not sex and language).

With this protocol, these institutions undertake to strengthen their collaboration, particularly through the organisation of joint meetings and joint initiatives. They also undertake to inform the other institution when processing reports that fall within its remit. It is worth highlighting that it could be seen as a step to overcome the institutional obstacles to tackling situations of multiple discrimination, involving "gender" + another ground of discrimination. Until now, there has been no joint strategic litigation of both bodies to tackle multiple or intersectional discriminations.

This protocol formalises a cooperation that has existed for years and wishes to stimulate increased and valued exchanges.

**Key points of analysis:** This cooperation agreement should foster a more comprehensive approach towards multiple or intersectional discrimination.

### **Internet link source:**

<https://www.unia.be/fr/publications-et-statistiques/publications/protocole-daccord-relatif-a-la-collaboration-entre-linstitut-pour-legalite>.