

EN

E-002576/2022

Answer given by Ms Gabriel
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.9.2022)

The Commission is committed to promoting and protecting the European values, which are enshrined in the Treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU¹. They include prohibiting any discrimination based, among others, on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief (Article 21); and ensuring the respect of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity (Article 22). Women's rights and gender equality are a priority for the Commission, and the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 spells out the key actions in this area.

In the 2021 State of the Union address², the President of the Commission stated that '*Europe needs all of its youth*'. Accordingly, the 2022 European Year of Youth aims to address everybody, is for everybody, and needs everybody to succeed.

The purpose of the European Year of Youth campaign³, which the Honourable Member refers to, is to promote inclusion, diversity and unity in the EU. It does not promote any particular religion or clothing associated with it. Moreover, inclusion is one of the nine topics of the European Year of Youth. On the Voice Platform⁴, the topic of inclusion has the most voice recordings by young Europeans, which clearly shows its importance for European youth.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2000:364:FULL&from=EN>

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_21_4701

³ <https://youth.europa.eu/year-of-youth>

⁴ <https://youthvoices.eu/#/>