

# FATIGUE

Politics or Policies? Confronting anti-gender narratives on family and gender by LGBT organizations in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia

17 November 2020

---

SLOBODANKA DEKIC, FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY IN BELGRADE



## *Politics or Policies? Confronting anti-gender narratives on family and gender by LGBT organizations in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia*

Same sex partnerships in post-Yugoslavia:

---

### **-Croatia:**

- legalization came in 2014, after the referendum organized by conservative, right-wing circles for adding the definition of marriage as union between man and woman in the Constitution (succeeded)
- In 2020, Constitutional Court allowed same-sex partners to adopt or foster children

### **-Serbia:**

- Possibility for legalizing same-sex partnerships with the new civic code, but “without kids”

### **-Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

- The draft law was developed by local CSOs, waiting for the formation of working group, comprised from CSO and relevant institutions

## Family in anti-gender discourse:

---

**Modern, civil, nuclear family model**, based on traditional values and natural division between man and woman.

**Grounded in** Catholic vision of the family: “little church enclosed within domestic walls” (Ginsborg, 2014:171); sociological theories on modern civic family (end of 19th, beginning of 20th century): Emil Durkhem and Talcot Parsons (see in Tomanovic, 2019)

**At risk from:** feminism; same-sex families; third gender.

*Family is sacred, private space; based on natural division between men and women, who share their responsibilities; these responsibilities are theirs, not the state; the main purpose of the family is to procreate and parents' responsibility is to secure best possible future for their children.*



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

# The importance of family responsibility

---

Family today presents the key institution that replaces social welfare, and provides social and economic security for its members (on account of its female members).

Derogation of social and economic rights and benefits, as one of the most important socialist legacy is being presented as “triumph” of individual rights against “totalitarianism”.

Protection of the nation-state is firmly attached to the pro-natalist strategies of strengthening white, heterosexual, Christian, middle –upper class families, as barriers of the key neoliberal values: **personal and family responsibility** which erases the state from social life.

# Alternative family model?

---



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

# Family politics in the “progressive” narrative:

---

- **Protection of human rights of women and LGBT persons**
- **Protection of reproductive rights for women**
- **Legalization of same-sex partnerships**
  - Marriage as a right: ECHR, 1950, Article 12; Charter of Fundamental Rights, 2000, Article 9
  - Families outside the politics
  - Is family a class determined issue?
  - Exclusionary model of “Modern family”



# Find the difference!

---



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)