



The Formentera Department of Social Welfare is pleased to present SAI (Servei d'Atenció Integral), a comprehensive care service for lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual and intersex islanders and their families who face, have faced or are at risk of facing discrimination or violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Social welfare chief Rafael Ramírez described the aim of the new service as offering “a professional, appropriate, fast, local and coordinated response to discrimination”. “As politicians, it must be our unwavering commitment to guarantee equal access to opportunities”, Ramírez affirmed.

According to the councillor, the history of LGTBI persecution means “institutions must make support universal, particularly to people in situations of vulnerability”. He stressed the importance of “taking action to stop discrimination when it occurs, and preventing it from occurring in the first place”.

“We want SAI to be accessible to members of the LGTBI community who lack of knowledge or lack of personal empowerment might otherwise have meant avoided visibility or self-identification”, Ramírez insisted.

### **Appointments at no charge**

The free service is supported by staff with specific training in diversity and gender, non-discrimination and civil rights. Individuals who connect with SAI Formentera can expect confidentiality, active listening, respect and empathy, not to mention specialised social, psychological and legal guidance, with professionals crafting plans to fit each beneficiary's individual needs.

Islanders interested in scheduling an appointment should call 971 321 271 from 9am to 2pm. The first visit will serve to evaluate the situation and put together the appropriate response. Queries can be sent to [sailgtbi@conselldeformentera.cat](mailto:sailgtbi@conselldeformentera.cat).

On 17 May, the Consell de Formentera took part in an array of initiatives, adorning a bench and pedestrian crossings with the colours of the LGTBI flag and releasing a video featuring members of the LGTBI community. The island's government will also issue a proclamation to mark International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia during the May plenary assembly.

**25 May 2021****Communications Department****Consell de Formentera**