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Lithuanian Parliament moves to criminalise the freedom of expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons

Written declaration No. 432

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

This written declaration commits only the members who have signed it

We, the undersigned members of the Assembly,

Note with deep concern that the Lithuanian Parliament:

- has adopted a law that bans material that “agitates” for homosexual and bisexual relations from schools or public places and media where they could be viewed by children (the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information), overruling a presidential veto;
- is now debating amendments to the Penal and Administrative Codes which would punish the “promotion of homosexual relations in public places” with community work, a fine or imprisonment;

Express shock that, if adopted, these amendments would potentially criminalise almost any public expression or portrayal of, or information about, homosexuality;

Emphasise that these provisions violate the European Convention on Human Rights;

Call upon the Lithuanian authorities to:

- respect their obligations not to discriminate on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- reject the proposed amendments to the Penal and Administrative Codes;
- repeal the Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
ASPHJELL Jorodd, Norway
BEMELMANS-VIDEC Marie-Louise, Netherlands, EPP/CD
BJØRNSTAD Vidar, Norway
CARLONI Anna Maria, Italy, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway
CLWYD Ann, United Kingdom
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
FOSS Per-Kristian, Norway
FRAHM Pernille, Denmark, UEL
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GJUL Gunn Karin, Norway
GUȚU Ana, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
HÄGG Carina, Sweden
JACOBSEN Bjørn, Norway
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JOHANSSON Morgan, Sweden
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC
KELEŞ Birgen, Turkey, SOC
KESKIN Hakki, Germany
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KOZMA József, Hungary
LAAKSO Jaakko, Finland, UEL
LECOQ Jean-Paul, France, UEL
LEMPENS Paul, Netherlands
LINDEN René, van der, Netherlands
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
McINTOSH Andrew, United Kingdom
MELONI Assunta, San Marino, ALDE
MONFILS Philippe, Belgium
MÓSESDÓTTIR Lilja, Iceland, UEL
MUTTONEN Christine, Austria, SOC
O'HARA Edward, United Kingdom
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands
POULSEN Jørgen, Denmark, ALDE
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
RIHTER Andreja, Slovenia, SOC
SARIKAS Fidias, Cyprus, SOC
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
STUMP Doris, Switzerland, SOC
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC
WILLIAMS Betty, United Kingdom
WODARG Wolfgang, Germany

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left

YAZDANFAR Maryam, Sweden

Total = 55