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05 October 2011

## **The report of the Human Rights Commissioner on discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in Europe**

**Written declaration No. 491**

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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.

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We warmly welcome the publication in June by the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights of the most extensive study ever undertaken on homophobia, transphobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in the 47 member states.

We note with concern the Commissioner's summary of his findings:

*"Millions of people in Europe are discriminated, stigmatised and even victims of violence because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. They cannot fully enjoy their universal human rights. There is an urgent need for all European governments to remedy this situation and take policy and legislative measures to combat homophobia and transphobia",*

We call upon member states' governments and delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly to study his findings and to use them as a start point for implementing both his recommendations and those contained in the Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

We further call upon the Committee of Ministers to put in place effective processes for monitoring the implementation of these recommendations.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE  
ÁRNASON Mörður, Iceland, SOC  
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC  
BRAZ Félix, Luxembourg, NR  
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR  
CLAPPISON James, United Kingdom, EDG  
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC  
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL  
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC  
HARANGOZÓ Gábor, Hungary, SOC  
JOHANSSON Mats, Sweden, EPP/CD  
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC  
MIHALOVICS Péter, Hungary, EPP/CD  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC  
REILLY Kathryn, Ireland, UEL  
RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC  
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC  
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC  
STRÄSSER Christoph, Germany, SOC  
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC  
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC

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Total = 23

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democrat Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialist Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group