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## Lithuania – proposal to prohibit gender reassignment surgery

### Written declaration No. 493

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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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The current session of the Lithuanian Parliament is to consider a proposal to ban gender reassignment surgery.

The bill put forward by Antanas Matulas MP, Chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Health Affairs, would prohibit doctors and surgeons from performing gender reassignment operations.

The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights considers the right to sexual self-determination as one of the aspects of the right to respect for one's private life guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention and requires Contracting States to provide for the possibility to undergo surgery leading to full gender-reassignment.

Moreover, Lithuania, in agreeing the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, accepted its obligations with regard to these principles.

This proposal is an egregious attack on the fundamental rights of a highly vulnerable minority, who are in any event at risk of violence and discrimination on a regular basis.

We call upon the Lithuanian government and members of Lithuania's delegation to the Assembly to work to ensure rejection of this proposal.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC  
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL  
ÁRNASON Möður, Iceland, SOC  
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC  
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC  
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC  
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD  
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland, SOC  
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC  
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC  
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC  
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC  
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC  
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC  
POLLESTAD Geir, Norway, ALDE  
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC  
SARIKAS Fidias, Cyprus, SOC  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
STUMP Doris, Switzerland, SOC  
TOMIĆ Boško, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC  
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

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Total = 21

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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