



**Doc. 12912**  
25 April 2012

## **Freedom of expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in Ukraine threatened**

**Written declaration No. 513**

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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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A bill threatening freedom of expression entitled "Prohibition of propaganda of homosexuality aimed at children" has been tabled in Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. It would prohibit such "propaganda" during demonstrations, in the media and in schools, with fines up to 700 times the minimum monthly wage or prison sentences of up to 5 years.

Objective information is no danger to children. In *Alexeyev v. Russia* the European Court of Human Rights commented: "There is no scientific evidence or sociological data at the Court's disposal suggesting that the mere mention of homosexuality, or open public debate about sexual minorities' social status, would adversely affect children..."

Furthermore, Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 recommends to member States that, "appropriate measures should be taken ... to promote tolerance and respect in schools ... This should include providing objective information with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity ..."

The bill tabled in Ukraine is an incitement to discrimination. It has no rightful place in a Council of Europe member State. We call upon the members of the Verkhovna Rada to reject it.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC  
ALASTAL Najat, Palestinian National Council  
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL  
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC  
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC  
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC  
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC  
BOROWSKI Marek, Poland, NR  
BOSWELL Tim, United Kingdom, EDG  
BREMER Tor, Norway, SOC  
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC  
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC  
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC  
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC  
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC  
GAJDŮŠKOVÁ Alena, Czech Republic, SOC  
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD  
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD  
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC  
HUOVINEN Susanna, Finland, SOC  
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC  
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC  
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC  
MIRAKOVSKA Sonja, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC  
REISSMANN Mette, Denmark, SOC  
RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC  
SANNEN Ludo, Belgium, SOC  
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD  
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC  
WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway, EDG

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Total = 34

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1. 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