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The Ukrainian Parliament vote to ban freedom of expression in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons

Written declaration No. 533

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.

On 2 October Ukraine's Parliament supported, at first reading, a draft law which would impose a wide-ranging ban on the exercise of freedom of expression in support of LGBT people. 289 MPs voted in favour, one abstained and none opposed.

Draft Law No. 8711 proposes to ban:

- any production, printing, publication or distribution of products “promoting” homosexuality;
- the use of media, TV or radio broadcasting for homosexuality “promotion”;
- the import, production or distribution of creative writings, cinematography or video materials “promoting” homosexuality.

Such activities would be subject variously to fines or prison sentences of up to five years.

This proposal is a direct attack on a highly vulnerable minority. It can only increase the violence and discrimination to which they are subject. Its adoption would constitute a flagrant violation of Ukraine's obligations under United Nations and Council of Europe treaty obligations.

We call upon:

- Ukraine's Parliamentary Assembly delegation to work urgently to convince their colleagues to respect European values;
- Ukraine's Parliament to consider the profound consequences of introducing such a law, and to reject it on second reading;
- The Committee of Ministers to engage urgently with the Ukrainian authorities, with a view to persuading Ukraine to uphold its treaty obligations.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
ABLINGER Sonja, Austria, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
ALASTAL Najat, Palestinian National Council
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EDG
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
BINLEY Brian, United Kingdom, EDG
BOURZAI Bernadette, France, SOC
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
CEDERBRATT Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD
DERVOZ Ismeta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece, NR
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
HAUPERT Norbert, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JÓNSSON Birkir Jón, Iceland, ALDE
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MOGHERINI REBESANI Federica, Italy, SOC
MUTSCH Lydia, Luxembourg, SOC
NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
NEUGEBAUER Fritz, Austria, EPP/CD
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
SZABÓ Vilmos, Hungary, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL
WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway, EDG

Total = 36

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