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Violations of the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people to freedom of expression and assembly continue unabated in Russia

Written declaration No. 541

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 25 January 2013 the State Duma supported, at first reading, a bill which would prohibit “propaganda of homosexuality among minors”. Ten Russian regions already have such laws. They are a direct attack on the freedom of expression of all LGBT persons, but particularly on the right of young LGBT people to information about sexual orientation and gender identity, a right that has been emphasized by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee of Ministers.

The right to freedom of assembly continues to be violated. In January protests against the State Duma bill in Voronezh and Moscow were attacked violently. Police present failed to provide protection. In March a rally in the Komi Republic was banned, and the event’s organiser attacked. In March also three St. Petersburg administrative districts and the City Administration rejected nine different sites proposed by activists for demonstrations.

We call upon:

- Russia’s MPs to reject the “propaganda of homosexuality” bill;
- The Russian authorities to uphold the right of LGBT people to freedom of expression and assembly and protect them from acts of violence and discrimination;
- The Committee of Ministers to redouble its efforts to persuade the Russian Federation to respect its treaty obligations.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
ANDREOLI Paride, San Marino, SOC
AUROI Danielle, France, SOC
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
BACKMAN Þuriður, Iceland, UEL
BARCIA DUEDRA Gerard, Andorra, SOC
BATAILLE Christian, France, SOC
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BLANCO Delia, Spain, SOC
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
DEBONO GRECH Joseph, Malta, SOC
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
KOLMAN Igor, Croatia, ALDE
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MAGHRADZE Guguli, Georgia, SOC
MARJANOVIĆ Vesna, Serbia, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MICHEL Jean-Pierre, France, SOC
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC
MYLLER Riitta, Finland, SOC
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC
REISSMANN Mette, Denmark, SOC
RIORDAN Linda, United Kingdom, SOC
SCHEMBRI Deborah, Malta, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHUSTER Marina, Germany, ALDE
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
TIRELI Nansi, Croatia, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
VORUZ Eric, Switzerland, SOC
VUKSANOVIĆ Draginja, Montenegro, SOC
WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway, EDG
ZAPPONE Katherine, Ireland, NR

Total = 47

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