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Homophobic and transphobic legislative proposals in Lithuanian Parliament

Written declaration No. 558

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.

The Lithuanian parliament is to consider four homophobic or transphobic legislative initiatives in its autumn session: a total ban on gender reassignment, prohibition of same-sex adoption, an amendment to the Criminal Code by which “criticisms of homosexuality” would not constitute hate speech, and the introduction of administrative liability for the “denigration of constitutional moral values and of constitutional fundamentals of family life, as well as organisation of public events contravening public morality”.

In addition, the parliament is to consider an amendment to the Law on Public Meetings, under which the organisers of public assemblies would have to cover all expenses in relation to ensuring safety and public order. This would render the organisation of Pride marches virtually impossible, given violent opposition by homophobic groups, and the consequent extensive and costly security requirements.

Taken together, these initiatives constitute both a serious attack on the exercise of fundamental rights by a vulnerable minority and a general incitement to discrimination. As such, they have no place in a parliament which respects the principles of democracy and human rights.

We call upon Lithuania's members to this Assembly to oppose these measures strongly, and on the Lithuanian Parliament to reject them comprehensively.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BLANCO Delia, Spain, SOC
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
BOROWSKI Marek, Poland, SOC
GARÐARSSON Karl, Iceland, ALDE
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
GUZOWSKA Iwona, Poland, EPP/CD
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
IWIŃSKI Tadeusz, Poland, SOC
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JÓNASSON Ögmundur, Iceland, UEL
KARLSSON Ulrika, Sweden, EPP/CD
KONRÁÐSDÓTTIR Unnur Brá, Iceland, EDG
LE BORGNI' Pierre-Yves, France, SOC
MICHEL Jean-Pierre, France, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL

Total = 20

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