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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Turkey's proposals for hate crimes legislation must include sexual orientation and gender identity

Written declaration No. 565

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.

Written Declaration No. 555 "The need for measures to counter transphobic and homophobic violence and discrimination in Turkey" drew attention to the high levels of hate-related murders of, and discrimination against, LGBTI people in Turkey.

The murder of 17-year-old Roşin Çiçek, and the trial of his father and two uncles for allegedly killing him because of his homosexuality, tragically highlight these concerns.

Against this background, it is shocking that the Turkish government's December proposals for criminalising certain bias-motivated actions fail to include sexual orientation or gender identity among the list of discrimination grounds.

We emphasise again that an extensive government led programme of awareness raising, law reform (including particularly the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in anti-hate crime and anti-discrimination measures), and the training of police and judiciary, are essential, if these serious human rights violations against LGBTI people are to be brought to an end.

We again call upon the Turkish government to implement such a programme, using the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity as the framework.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
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BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
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GUTIÉRREZ Antonio, Spain, SOC
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HÄRSTEDT Kent, Sweden, SOC
HENRY Olivier, Belgium, SOC
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MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
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SEARA Laura, Spain, SOC
SPADONI Maria Edera, Italy, NR
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
SZABÓ Vilmos, Hungary, SOC
VALEN Snorre Serigstad, Norway, UEL
VASILI Petrit, Albania, SOC
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC
XHAÇKA Olta, Albania, SOC

Total = 36

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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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group