



**Doc. 13410**

30 January 2014

## **Turkey's proposals for hate crimes legislation must include sexual orientation and gender identity**

**Written declaration No. 565**

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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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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<sup>1</sup>:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE  
AMEUR Mohammed, Morocco  
ARIB Khadija, Netherlands, SOC  
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC  
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC  
BERTUZZI Teresa, Italy, NR  
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC  
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC  
BLANCO Delia, Spain, SOC  
BOUTIN-SWEET Marjolaine, Canada  
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC  
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC  
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, EPP/CD  
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece, SOC  
GUTIÉRREZ Antonio, Spain, SOC  
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC  
HÄRSTEDT Kent, Sweden, SOC  
HENRY Olivier, Belgium, SOC  
HETTO-GAASCH Françoise, Luxembourg, EPP/CD  
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC  
LESKAJ Valentina, Albania, SOC  
MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC  
MARJANOVIĆ Vesna, Serbia, SOC  
MATTILA Pirkko, Finland, NR  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC  
QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD  
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC  
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

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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