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The need for measures to counter transphobic and homophobic violence and discrimination in Turkey

Written declaration No. 555

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.

Transgender Europe's monitoring of murders of transgender persons over the period from 2008 – 2012 shows that Turkey consistently has much the highest reported number of such cases in Europe.

A recent report on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Turkey documents 6 cases where transgender persons and 5 cases where lesbian, gay or bisexual persons lost their lives because of hate motivated killings in 2012.

These murders are but the most extreme form of the discrimination experienced by LGBT people in many parts of Turkish society. Moreover, all too often homophobic and transphobic attitudes within law enforcement agencies mean that the response of the authorities to such acts of discrimination is inadequate.

This situation can only be improved by an extensive government led programme of, inter alia, awareness raising among the general public, 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.

We 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)



Signed¹:

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Total = 29

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