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Armenian authorities fail to condemn incitement to hatred against LGBT people

Written declaration No. 584

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 17 May 2014 the Armenian newspaper 'Iravunk' published an article on its website entitled "They serve the interests of international homo-addiction [sic] lobbying: the blacklist of the country's and nation's enemies". It attacked "homosexual lobbyists" for trying to "aggressively enforce their moral dogma on our country". Demanding "zero tolerance", it identified 60 people, calling for them to be ostracised, denied employment and access to the media, and excluded from participation "in the upbringing of younger generations".

The chair of the 'Iravunk' board, Hayk Babukhanyan, is an MP for Armenia's governing political faction, the Republican Party.

The authorities have failed to condemn this incitement to hatred and discrimination. On the contrary, on 25 October Mr Babukhanyan was awarded a medal of honour by the President of Armenia. A law suit against "Iravunk" for defamation was dismissed six days later.

We call upon:

- Armenia's delegates to this Assembly, particularly those from the Republican Party, to impress upon colleagues the need to refrain from incitement to hatred and discrimination;
- The Armenian authorities to condemn such incitement unreservedly and to put in place measures to implement the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ADAM Claude, Luxembourg, SOC
ANDREOLI Paride, San Marino, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HAIDER Monica, Sweden, SOC
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
LE BORGN' Pierre-Yves, France, SOC
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
MENDONÇA Ana Catarina, Portugal, SOC
MORIN Marie-Claude, Canada
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
ROSEIRA Maria de Belém, Portugal, SOC
SCHEMBRI Deborah, Malta, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC

Total = 21

1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left