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Lithuania – proposal to prohibit gender reassignment surgery

Written declaration¹ No. 493

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 current session of the Lithuanian Parliament is to consider a proposal to ban gender reassignment surgery.

The bill put forward by Antanas Matulas MP, Chairman of the Parliament's Committee on Health Affairs, would prohibit doctors and surgeons from performing gender reassignment operations.

The case-law of the European Court of Human Rights considers the right to sexual self-determination as one of the aspects of the right to respect for one's private life guaranteed by Article 8 of the Convention and requires Contracting States to provide for the possibility to undergo surgery leading to full gender-reassignment.

Moreover, Lithuania, in agreeing the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, accepted its obligations with regard to these principles.

This proposal is an egregious attack on the fundamental rights of a highly vulnerable minority, who are in any event at risk of violence and discrimination on a regular basis.

We call upon the Lithuanian government and members of Lithuania's delegation to the Assembly to work to ensure rejection of this proposal.

Signed (see overleaf)

1. Written Declaration first published on 5 October 2011 with 21 signatures.



Signed²:

TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL
ÁRNASON Möður, Iceland, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
JOHN-CALAME Francine, Switzerland
KYRIAKIDOU Athina, Cyprus, SOC
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC
POLLESTAD Geir, Norway, ALDE
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SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
STUMP Doris, Switzerland
TOMIĆ Boško, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 22

2. 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