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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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The banning of the Belgrade Pride march

Written declaration[1] No. 492

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 banning of last Sunday's Belgrade Pride march by the National Security Council in the face of threats of violence from extremist groups is a grave setback for the cause of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Serbia.

We call upon the Serbian authorities to take all necessary measures to ensure that the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons to freedom of assembly and expression is safeguarded in future; and to ensure that it is those who threaten or practice violence that are penalised, rather than those seeking to exercise their legitimate rights.

We further call upon the Serbian authorities to put in place wide-ranging measures to tackle the high levels of homophobia and transphobia in Serbian society, in accordance with Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 to member states on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, and Resolution 1728 (2010) of the Parliamentary Assembly on Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Signed (see overleaf)

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

Signed[2]*:*

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
ÁRNASON Mörður, Iceland, SOC
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
BRAZ Félix, Luxembourg, NR
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR
CLAPPISON James, United Kingdom, EDG
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HARANGOZÓ Gábor, Hungary, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MIHALOVICS Péter, Hungary, EPP/CD
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC
REILLY Kathryn, Ireland, UEL
RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
STRÄSSER Christoph, Germany, SOC
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC

Total = 22

2. 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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group