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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Homophobic speech by members of Moldova's parliament and intimidation of LGBT human rights defenders

Written declaration No. 474

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.

In Moldova a proposal for anti discrimination legislation which includes protection on the grounds of sexual orientation has been withdrawn following opposition in recent weeks by members of parliament. This opposition has all too often been expressed in language marked by homophobia and intolerance, for example, characterising homosexuals as a danger to society, as trying to impose their "abnormal" practices on others, and as a danger to the survival of the family unit.

During this time two human rights defenders working for the rights of LGBT people have experienced intimidation at the hands of members of the public, with violent behavior and attacks on property.

We call upon all Moldovan members of parliament to accept, in accordance with Recommendation No. R(97) 20 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on "hate speech", that they have a particular responsibility to refrain from statements which are likely to produce the effect of legitimising, spreading or promoting discrimination or hatred based on intolerance, and to recognize particularly that such speech can endanger the safety and well-being of others.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
ÁRNASON Mörður, Iceland, SOC
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BREMER Tor, Norway, SOC
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola, von, Germany, SOC
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
FRAHM Pernille, Denmark, UEL
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
HOOD Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JOHANSSON Mats, Sweden, EPP/CD
LAAKSO Jaakko, Finland
LOTMAN Aleksei, Estonia
MARLAND-MILITELLO Muriel, France, EPP/CD
MIĆUNOVIĆ Dragoljub, Serbia, SOC
NYLUND WATZ Ingela, Sweden
O'SULLIVAN Maureen, Ireland, UEL
PRESCOTT John, United Kingdom, SOC
RIHTER Andreja, Slovenia, SOC
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC
SANNEN Ludo, Belgium, SOC
STRÄSSER Christoph, Germany, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom, SOC
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL

Total = 37

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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