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Kyrgyzstan should abandon the bill criminalising “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations” and adopt measures to combat discrimination against LGBTI people

Written declaration¹ No. 595

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 2015, aggressive groups broke into a private meeting in Bishkek celebrating the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia, injuring a participant. Police, called to the scene, forcefully took the LGBTI people to a police station, where they were threatened and insulted, and held for more than five hours without access to water, food, medicines or a toilet. Some were asked to reveal their genitalia.

A 2014 report by Human Rights Watch documented extensive abuse of gay men by Kyrgyz police, including cases of arbitrary arrest, rape, beating, extortion, and a lack of accountability for these crimes.

Adoption by the Kyrgyz Parliament of a blatantly discriminatory law which would criminalise so-called “propaganda of non-traditional sexual relations” is reported to be imminent. This would serve only to intensify discrimination and violence against LGBTI people.

These developments raise grave concerns regarding Kyrgyzstan's commitment to “Partner for democracy” status. We call on the Kyrgyz Parliament to drop the proposed law, on the law-enforcement authorities to conduct thorough investigations into the behaviour of the police, and on the government to implement measures to tackle homophobic and transphobic behaviour in the police force and in society more generally.

Signed (see overleaf)

1. Written declaration first published on 24 June 2015 with 22 signatures.



Signed²:

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
DOKLE Namik, Albania, SOC
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
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STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
TAKTAKISHVILI Chiora, Georgia, ALDE
VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC

Total = 24

2. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group