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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Lviv Equality Festival broken up by right-wing extremists with tacit support of city authorities and local police

Written declaration No. 606

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.

An attempt by LGBTI groups to hold an Equality Festival in Lviv in March was broken up by right-wing extremists with the tacit support of city authorities and the local police.

The organisers initially faced threats of violence following hostile statements by religious leaders and local politicians, but the mayor and the police ignored requests for help. Public events were banned by the authorities. During an unsuccessful appeal to the city court, a hostile mob was allowed to intimidate the organisers. With no guarantee of protection, venues booked for other events were withdrawn.

The Festival ended with 60 participants trapped in a hotel by a mob of 200 extremists. Lviv police refused to intervene, one calling the organisers "provocateurs". After appealing to Kiev, Special Forces police arrived four hours later. Then police said there was a bomb threat and the participants were evacuated in buses, under a hail of stones and firecrackers, to chants of "kill, kill, kill." No one was arrested.

Subsequently the Mayor of Lviv wrote that the Festival was "a carefully planned provocation".

We call upon the Ukrainian authorities to ensure the prosecution of those responsible and to take measures to guarantee that such events are never repeated.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ALLAVENA Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
BILLSTRÖM Tobias, Sweden, EPP/CD
BONET Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
GHASEMI Tina, Sweden, EPP/CD
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JORDANA Carles, Andorra, ALDE
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MATEU Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE
MUTTONEN Christine, Austria, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PASQUIER Bernard, Monaco, ALDE
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
RAWERT Mechthild, Germany, SOC
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHIEDER Andreas, Austria, SOC
SCHRIJVER Nico, Netherlands, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 29

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group