



**Doc. 14104**  
23 June 2016

## Freedom of expression and so-called “anti-gay propaganda laws”

### Written declaration No. 610

---

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 April 2016, a bill prohibiting “propaganda of homosexual relations to minors” was tabled in the Moldovan Parliament.

Similar bills have previously been presented in Moldova and in numerous Council of Europe member and partner States. Laws restricting the dissemination of information on issues of crucial importance to LGBTI people are already in force in the Russian Federation and Lithuania.

These laws have devastating effects. They both deny freedom of expression and deprive vulnerable, young LGBTI people of access to information and support that they desperately need.

Moreover, public debates surrounding such bills foment hate and create an environment in which balanced information is lost and LGBTI people face increasing discrimination.

We call for the immediate repeal of all existing such laws and the withdrawal of any such bills pending before parliaments at all levels.

We furthermore call on all political leaders to support the freedom of expression of LGBTI people, without discrimination, and systematically condemn all hate-motivated speech and offence targeting people on the grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
BILLSTRÖM Tobias, Sweden, EPP/CD  
BONET Sílvia Eloísa, Andorra, SOC  
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR  
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC  
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC  
JENSSEN Frank J., Norway, EPP/CD  
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL  
KARLSSON Niklas, Sweden, SOC  
KRONBICHLER Florian, Italy, SOC  
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE  
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC  
NISSINEN Johan, Sweden, NR  
NORDQVIST Rasmus, Denmark, UEL  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
SPADONI Maria Edera, Italy, NR  
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC  
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, NR  
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

---

Total = 20

---

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  
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group