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Draft law to restrict access to abortion in Lithuania

Written declaration No. 645

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.

We, the undersigned members of the Parliamentary Assembly, are strongly concerned about the introduction in the Lithuanian Parliament of a draft law that would strongly restrict women's access to legal abortion leaving only two options for accessing the procedure: when women's life and health are in danger and in cases of rape.

If adopted, this law would put Lithuania among countries with the strictest laws on abortion in Europe and seriously affect many women and families particularly those poor and uneducated ones.

Academic studies, UN Reports and WHO have on numerous occasions proved that legal barriers to abortion services do not decrease the rate of abortion, but increase the risk of maternal mortality. The rate of abortions can only be reduced by improving the access to contraceptives, providing comprehensive information on family planning, and introducing better policies reconciling family and work.

By adopting the draft law, Lithuania will violate numerous international treaties and agreements to which Lithuania is a signatory.

All individuals are entitled to the highest attainable standard of health, which the State must ensure. We trust that Lithuania will continue guaranteeing this standard to its population.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

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ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
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BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
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BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BUSHATI Ervin, Albania, NR
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CEPEDA José, Spain, SOC
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COMTE Raphaël, Switzerland, ALDE
D'AMBROSIO Vanessa, San Marino, SOC
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
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FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

Total = 53