



**Doc. 14870**  
10 April 2019

## Concerns about reports of crackdown on members of the LGBTI community in Azerbaijan

**Written declaration No. 671**

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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.

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Reports are emerging of the arrest of at least 14 people perceived by the police as trans or gay sex workers on 1 April in Baku. Allegations include police use of the internet to entrap individuals, forced medical examinations and illegal detention.

This is not the first such crackdown. In 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly expressed concern about reports of the mass arrest of 80 members of the LGBTI community in Baku and allegations of ill-treatment by the police. Those responsible have not been brought to justice.

We are disturbed about what appears to be targeted harassment of a vulnerable group for some of whom, in a very hostile environment, sex work is a means of survival. Azerbaijan is assessed by ILGA-Europe as having the worst record on LGBTI rights of any Council of Europe member State.

We call upon the Azerbaijani authorities to bring these detentions to an immediate halt, conduct full investigations into the actions of the police, and implement procedures to ensure that they do not act in a discriminatory or arbitrary manner. We further urge the authorities to implement fully the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec2010(5) on "Measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity".

*Signed (see overleaf)*



Signed<sup>1</sup>:

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC  
ÅBERG Borianana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC  
BOSCHI Maria Elena, Italy, SOC  
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL  
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR  
BUSHATI Ervin, Albania, SOC  
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC  
CORLĂȚEAN Titus, Romania, SOC  
COWEN Barry, Ireland, ALDE  
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC  
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC  
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL  
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC  
HJEMDAL Silje, Norway, EC  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
JURATOVIC Josip, Germany, SOC  
KASIMATI Nina, Greece, UEL  
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL  
LAMBERT Jérôme, France, SOC  
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL  
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC  
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL  
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL  
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL  
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SKOUFA Elissavet, Greece, UEL  
SOCOTAR Gheorghe-Dinu, Romania, SOC  
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC  
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC  
TOMIĆ Violeta, Slovenia, UEL  
TROY Robert, Ireland, ALDE  
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC  
WOLD Morten, Norway, EC

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Total = 41

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC: European Conservatives Group  
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