



**Doc. 14935**  
28 June 2019

## **The Turkish authorities must take action to ensure the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is effectively enjoyed by LGBTI persons as equal members of society**

**Written declaration No. 684**

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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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We, the undersigned, declare the following:

The bans of Pride events in Izmir and Antalya issued respectively by Izmir Governorate on 14 June 2019 and the day after by Antalya governorate signal Turkish authorities' failure to fulfil their positive obligation to guarantee both public security and the freedom of assembly. In other cities, such events are also at imminent risk of being banned, including in Istanbul, where Pride is at risk for the fifth year in a row.

Izmir and Antalya Governorates banned Pride events, the most recent in a series of similar government actions in Turkey in recent years, advancing concerns about public safety, national security, public order, protection of general morality or rights and freedoms of others, as well as based on the need to prevent possible violence and terrorism. As the European Court of Human Rights has repeatedly stressed, although a demonstration may annoy or cause offence to persons opposed to the ideas or claims it seeks to promote, this cannot serve as an admissible ground for prohibiting a peaceful gathering.

We call upon the Turkish authorities to ensure that the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is effectively enjoyed by LGBTI persons as equal members of society.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
ÅSEBOL Ann-Britt, Sweden, EPP/CD  
BOSCHI Maria Elena, Italy, SOC  
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL  
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR  
BURES Doris, Austria, SOC  
CHRISTENSEN Jette, Norway, SOC  
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC  
COAKER Vernon, United Kingdom, SOC  
CREASY Stella, United Kingdom, SOC  
DÜNDAR Pero, Turkey, UEL  
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC  
FILATOV Tarja, Finland, SOC  
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, ALDE  
GJERMENI Eglantina, Albania, SOC  
GOLUBEVA Marija, Latvia, ALDE  
GORROTXATEGUI Miren, Spain, UEL  
GURMAI Zita, Hungary, SOC  
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL  
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL  
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL  
LÓPEZ Pere, Andorra, SOC  
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD  
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL  
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL  
SARAMO Jussi, Finland, UEL  
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE  
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE  
TOMIĆ Violeta, Slovenia, UEL  
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC

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Total = 31

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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