



Doc. 15389

01 October 2021

Decriminalisation of same-sex relations in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan

Written declaration No. 731

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, declare the following:

In Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, voluntary sexual relations between two men are punishable by imprisonment under their Criminal Codes. Due to the widespread failure to understand the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity among the general public and law enforcement, this law negatively impacts all of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community in both countries.

The Central Asia Rule of Law Programme aims to improve the lives of citizens by reinforcing human rights, the Rule of law and democracy in accordance with European and other international standards. Criminalisation of the voluntary same-sex relations violates multiple human rights, including the right to private and family life and to freedom from discrimination. Repealing laws that criminalise same-sex relations and other laws used to punish LGBTI people is an important step towards protection of human lives and rights, in line with ensuring a common human rights system between Europe and Central Asia.

Therefore, we call upon the European Union and the Council of Europe to ensure that decriminalisation of same-sex relations in partner countries is a cornerstone of the common legal space between Europe and Central Asia, advancing human rights protections envisioned by the Central Asia Rule of Law Programme.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC
BACELAR DE VASCONCELOS Pedro, Portugal, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BILALLI ZENDELI Arta, North Macedonia, SOC
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
CEGONHO Pedro, Portugal, SOC
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
GONÇALVES Carlos Alberto, Portugal, EPP/CD
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LEITE RAMOS Luís, Portugal, EPP/CD
MARIE Didier, France, SOC
MEIRELLES Isabel, Portugal, EPP/CD
MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, NR
MONTEMAGGI Marica, San Marino, SOC
MOUTQUIN Simon, Belgium, SOC
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SENSI Filippo, Italy, SOC

Total = 20

1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group