



**Doc. 15388**

01 October 2021

## **The Georgian authorities must take action to protect LGBTI people from violence and discrimination**

**Written declaration No. 730**

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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:

LGBTI people in Georgia continue to face bias, stigma, discrimination in political, social and economic life, as well as experience violent hate incidents and crimes and hate speech. The Covid-19 pandemic has further increased the vulnerability of LGBTI people by amplifying prior injustices and obstacles.

Moreover, discourses attempting to de-legitimise LGBTI identities have increased and derogatory language and speech are utilised by organised hate groups and far right movements as weapons to create a hostile environment for LGBTI people. On 5 July, organisers were forced to cancel the Tbilisi Pride march after far-right demonstrators stormed LGBTI organisations' offices and violently attacked journalists. The far-right demonstrators went largely unchecked by authorities. The authorities' response demonstrates a resounding State failure to ensure the protection of human rights and constitutes a violation of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights.

We remind the Georgian authorities about their duty and responsibility to protect the Constitutional rights and freedoms and human rights of all citizens, and call on Georgian authorities to bring to justice those who commit violence against others peacefully exercising their rights. The Georgian authorities also have the responsibility to do their utmost to protect journalists and citizens exercising their constitutional rights.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC  
BACELAR DE VASCONCELOS Pedro, Portugal, SOC  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC  
BILALLI ZENDELI Arta, North Macedonia, SOC  
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC  
BUSTINDUY María Luisa, Spain, SOC  
CEGONHO Pedro, Portugal, SOC  
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC  
FERNÁNDEZ María, Spain, SOC  
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC  
GLASOVAC Sabina, Croatia, SOC  
GONÇALVES Carlos Alberto, Portugal, EPP/CD  
GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio, Spain, SOC  
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC  
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC  
LEITE RAMOS Luís, Portugal, EPP/CD  
LOVOCHKINA Yuliya, Ukraine, SOC  
MARIE Didier, France, SOC  
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, SOC  
MEIRELLES Isabel, Portugal, EPP/CD  
MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, SOC  
MOUTQUIN Simon, Belgium, SOC  
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC  
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC

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Total = 26

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group