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Threats to the freedom of expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania

Written declaration No. 504

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.

There is now serious danger to the right to freedom of expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania.

In Russia two regional assemblies (Arkhangelsk and Ryazan) have adopted legislation prohibiting "propaganda of homosexuality", while in two others (St Petersburg and Kostroma) similar legislation has been tabled. There are reports that similar initiatives are under discussion for Moscow and even for the Russian Federation as a whole.

In Ukraine MPs have tabled a proposal designed "to strengthen protection from homosexual propaganda". It would introduce criminal penalties ranging from a fine to five years' imprisonment.

In Lithuania a bill before parliament would penalise "the public denigration of constitutional moral values and the principles of family and the organisation of events contradicting social morality".

If implemented, these proposals could silence human rights defenders working for the rights of LGBT people. They conflict with the obligations of Ukraine, Russia and Lithuania under international human rights law. We call upon their governments and the members of their delegations to the Parliamentary Assembly to take strong action to oppose them.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
ALBAYRAK Nebahat, Netherlands, SOC
ÁRNASON Mördur, Iceland, SOC
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, NR
BOCQUET Eric, France, UEL
BOURZAI Bernadette, France, SOC
CARLONI Anna Maria, Italy, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola, von, Germany, SOC
ERR Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
JOHANSSON Mats, Sweden, EPP/CD
KLEVER Reinette, Netherlands, NR
LOKLINDT Lone, Denmark, ALDE
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MARCENARO Pietro, Italy, SOC
MOGHERINI REBESANI Federica, Italy, SOC
NIEUWENHUIZEN Cora, van, Netherlands, ALDE
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PIETERS Danny, Belgium, NR
REISSMANN Mette, Denmark, SOC
SANNEN Ludo, Belgium, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 31

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group