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Homophobic violence openly condoned by certain Armenian members of Parliament

Written declaration No. 527

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.

On May 8 an LGBT friendly bar in Yerevan was firebombed. Two of the arsonists have been arrested.

Certain Armenian MPs have openly condoned the arson attack. One is reported to have stated that the attack was completely "right and justified", and to have claimed that those who support the rights of LGBT Armenians "are perverting our society, are defaming the Armenian national identity." Two others paid the bail of one of the arsonists. One of these MPs is reported to have asserted that the arsonists "acted in accordance with our society's values and national ideology", although adding that "it was wrong to cause material damage".

We call upon the Armenian authorities to publicly repudiate such statements, to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and to put in place measures to protect LGBT people from violence and discrimination and to counteract homophobic and transphobic attitudes in society, in accordance with the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE
ALONSO José Antonio, Spain, SOC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
AXELSSON Lennart, Sweden, SOC
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
ČRNAK MEGLIČ Andreja, Slovenia, SOC
DAVIES Geraint, United Kingdom, SOC
DAVIES Don, Canada
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
FISCHEROVÁ Jana, Czech Republic, EDG
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC
HÄRSTEDT Kent, Sweden, SOC
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
JÁUREGUI Ramón, Spain, SOC
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MOGHERINI REBESANI Federica, Italy, SOC
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PERNASKA Lajla, Albania, EPP/CD
RECORDON Luc, Switzerland, SOC
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
VUČKOVIĆ Nataša, Serbia, SOC
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 28

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left