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Concerns about reports of crackdown on members of the LGBTI community in Azerbaijan

Written declaration No. 671

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.

Reports are emerging of the arrest of at least 14 people perceived by the police as trans or gay sex workers on 1 April in Baku. Allegations include police use of the internet to entrap individuals, forced medical examinations and illegal detention.

This is not the first such crackdown. In 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly expressed concern about reports of the mass arrest of 80 members of the LGBTI community in Baku and allegations of ill-treatment by the police. Those responsible have not been brought to justice.

We are disturbed about what appears to be targeted harassment of a vulnerable group for some of whom, in a very hostile environment, sex work is a means of survival. Azerbaijan is assessed by ILGA-Europe as having the worst record on LGBTI rights of any Council of Europe member State.

We call upon the Azerbaijani authorities to bring these detentions to an immediate halt, conduct full investigations into the actions of the police, and implement procedures to ensure that they do not act in a discriminatory or arbitrary manner. We further urge the authorities to implement fully the Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec2010(5) on "Measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity".

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BOSCHI Maria Elena, Italy, SOC
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR
BUSHATI Ervin, Albania, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
CORLĂŢEAN Titus, Romania, SOC
COWEN Barry, Ireland, ALDE
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
HAJDUKOVIĆ Domagoj, Croatia, SOC
HJEMDAL Silje, Norway, EC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JURATOVIC Josip, Germany, SOC
KASIMATI Nina, Greece, UEL
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
LAMBERT Jérôme, France, SOC
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MIKKO Marianne, Estonia, SOC
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SKOUFA Elissavet, Greece, UEL
SOCOTAR Gheorghe-Dinu, Romania, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
TOMIĆ Violeta, Slovenia, UEL
TROY Robert, Ireland, ALDE
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC
WOLD Morten, Norway, EC

Total = 41

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
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