



Doc. 15121

26 June 2020

Combating rising hate against LGBTI people in Europe

Motion for a resolution

tabled by the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

Recent years have seen marked increases in hate speech, violence, and hate crime against LGBTI people, communities, and organisations across many member States of the Council of Europe. Alarming, a significant proportion of hate speech, vilification and scapegoating of LGBTI people has come from political figures and leadership, including from government representatives and religious leaders.

There is a proven link between political hate speech and increased incidences of violence against marginalised communities. Reports from several member States have exposed practices of politicians and political leaders blaming LGBTI people for events or trends perceived as negative in their countries; establishing so-called “LGBT-free zones”; limiting or prohibiting access to funding for LGBTI organisations; restricting access to legal gender recognition; scaremongering and spreading misinformation. The COVID-19 crisis has moreover exacerbated a number of these trends.

The Parliamentary Assembly, as guarantor of the European Convention on Human Rights – and more particularly of its Article 14 on the prohibition of discrimination – must shed light on these facts. It should therefore prepare a report on the growing number of attacks against LGBTI persons coming notably from State actors, and make comprehensive recommendations to States aimed at putting an end to all legislation and practices that may legitimise discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.

