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# Armenia must act to prevent discrimination against LGBTI people

**Written declaration No. 787**

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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:

The Armenian Government is drafting a law proposal, the "Law on Ensuring Equality", which presents a significant opportunity to enshrine explicit protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics into law. The recent European Commission against Racism and Intolerance report on Armenia notes that intolerance towards LGBTI people remains predominant in Armenia. Recognising the law's pivotal role in defining the protection grounds and framework in Armenia, the lack of explicit protection for LGBTI people in the initial draft by the Ministry of Justice would be a serious missed opportunity.

We appeal to the Armenian Government and Parliament to ensure the protection of the rights of LGBTI people in the final law. Emphasising the importance of upholding equality, human dignity, and non-discrimination, we propose the following recommendations:

– explicit inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression and sex characteristics, as protection grounds in Article 4 of the law;

– inclusion of a provision in Article 8, allowing human rights organisations to bring claims related to the protection of public interest;

– establish an independent equality body, empowered by the Parliament, to oversee and address discrimination cases.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

*Signed*[1]*:*

BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
CEPURĪTIS Edmunds, Latvia, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
FABRICIUS Camilla, Denmark, SOC
FRESKO-ROLFO Béatrice, Monaco, ALDE
GIRAUD Joël, France, ALDE
GJONAJ Etilda, Albania, SOC
GURMAI Zita, Hungary, SOC
HAATAINEN Tuula, Finland, SOC
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MUGOŠA Boris, Montenegro, SOC
PASQUIER-CIULLA Christine, Monaco, EPP/CD
PILLER CARRARD Valérie, Switzerland, SOC
POLAT Filiz, Germany, SOC
SUKIČ Nataša, Slovenia, UEL
TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya, Germany, SOC
VERDUCCI Francesco, Italy, SOC

Total = 20

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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