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The Ukrainian Parliament vote to ban freedom of expression in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons

Written declaration No. 533

This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

On 2 October Ukraine's Parliament supported, at first reading, a draft law which would impose a wide-ranging ban on the exercise of freedom of expression in support of LGBT people. 289 MPs voted in favour, one abstained and none opposed.

Draft Law No. 8711 proposes to ban:

- any production, printing, publication or distribution of products “promoting” homosexuality;
- the use of media, TV or radio broadcasting for homosexuality “promotion”;
- the import, production or distribution of creative writings, cinematography or video materials “promoting” homosexuality.

Such activities would be subject variously to fines or prison sentences of up to five years.

This proposal is a direct attack on a highly vulnerable minority. It can only increase the violence and discrimination to which they are subject. Its adoption would constitute a flagrant violation of Ukraine's obligations under United Nations and Council of Europe treaty obligations.

We call upon:

- Ukraine's Parliamentary Assembly delegation to work urgently to convince their colleagues to respect European values;
- Ukraine's Parliament to consider the profound consequences of introducing such a law, and to reject it on second reading;
- The Committee of Ministers to engage urgently with the Ukrainian authorities, with a view to persuading Ukraine to uphold its treaty obligations.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed ¹:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden
ABLINGER Sonja, Austria
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden
AL-ASTAL Najat, Palestine
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia
BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland
BINLEY Brian, United Kingdom
BOURZAI Bernadette, France
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg
CEDERBRATT Mikael, Sweden
DERVOZ Ismeta, Bosnia and Herzegovina
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco
GIANNAKAKI Maria, Greece
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland
HÄGG Carina, Sweden
HAUGLI Håkon, Norway
HAUPERT Norbert, Luxembourg
HUNKO Andrej, Germany
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark
JÓNSSON Birkir Jón, Iceland
KOX Tiny, Netherlands
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland
MOGHERINI REBESANI Federica, Italy
MUTSCH Lydia, Luxembourg
NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein
NEUGEBAUER Fritz, Austria
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden
SZABÓ Vilmos, Hungary
TOMLINSON John E., United Kingdom
WERNER Katrin, Germany
WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway

Total = 37

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