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Freedom of expression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons in Ukraine threatened

Written declaration No. 513

This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

A bill threatening freedom of expression entitled "Prohibition of propaganda of homosexuality aimed at children" has been tabled in Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. It would prohibit such "propaganda" during demonstrations, in the media and in schools, with fines up to 700 times the minimum monthly wage or prison sentences of up to 5 years.

Objective information is no danger to children. In *Alexeyev v. Russia* the European Court of Human Rights commented: "There is no scientific evidence or sociological data at the Court's disposal suggesting that the mere mention of homosexuality, or open public debate about sexual minorities' social status, would adversely affect children…"

Furthermore, Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 recommends to member States that, "appropriate measures should be taken … to promote tolerance and respect in schools … This should include providing objective information with respect to sexual orientation and gender identity …"

The bill tabled in Ukraine is an incitement to discrimination. It has no rightful place in a Council of Europe member State. We call upon the members of the Verkhovna Rada to reject it.

Signed (see overleaf)

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Signed [1]:

HAUGLI Håkon, Norway, SOC
ALASTAL Najat, Palestinian National Council
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BIEDROŃ Robert, Poland, SOC
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC
BOROWSKI Marek, Poland, SOC
BOSWELL Tim, United Kingdom, EDG
BREMER Tor, Norway, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC
FLEGO Gvozden Srećko, Croatia, SOC
GAJDŮŠKOVÁ Alena, Czech Republic, SOC
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD
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HUOVINEN Susanna, Finland, SOC
LECOQ Jean-Paul, France, UEL
MAELEN Dirk, Van der, Belgium, SOC
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MIRAKOVSKA Sonja, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC
REISSMANN Mette, Denmark, SOC
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SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
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VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
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WOLDSETH Karin S., Norway, EDG

Total = 35

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