



**Doc. 13323**

02 October 2013

## **The need for measures to counter transphobic and homophobic violence and discrimination in Turkey**

**Written declaration No. 555**

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This written declaration commits only those who have signed it

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Transgender Europe's monitoring of murders of transgender persons over the period from 2008 – 2012 shows that Turkey consistently has much the highest reported number of such cases in Europe.

A recent report on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Turkey documents 6 cases where transgender persons and 5 cases where lesbian, gay or bisexual persons lost their lives because of hate motivated killings in 2012.

These murders are but the most extreme form of the discrimination experienced by LGBT people in many parts of Turkish society. Moreover, all too often homophobic and transphobic attitudes within law enforcement agencies mean that the response of the authorities to such acts of discrimination is inadequate.

This situation can only be improved by an extensive government led programme of, inter alia, awareness raising among the general public, law reform (including particularly the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in anti-hate crime and anti-discrimination measures), and the training of police and judiciary.

We call upon the Turkish government to implement such a programme, using the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity as the framework.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

Signed <sup>1</sup>:

GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC  
CKETOFT Tina, Sweden, ALDE  
ANDREOLI Paride, San Marino, SOC  
BLANCO Delia, Spain, SOC  
BONET PEROT Sílvia Eloïsa, Andorra, SOC  
CEDERBRATT Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD  
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC  
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC  
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC  
GARÐARSON Karl, Iceland, ALDE  
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC  
HÄGG Carina, Sweden, SOC  
JÁUREGUI Ramón, Spain, SOC  
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC  
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE  
JÓNASSON Ögmundur, Iceland, UEL  
KONRÁÐSDÓTTIR Unnur Brá, Iceland, EDG  
LE BORGN' Pierre-Yves, France, SOC  
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE  
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC  
MYLLER Riitta, Finland, SOC  
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC  
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD  
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC  
TRETTEBERGSTUEN Anette, Norway, SOC  
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL  
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

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Total = 27

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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