

Draft

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
«LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS»**

October 4-5, 2008, Kiev, Ukraine

RESOLUTION

We, the participants in the International Conference, being representatives of lesbian and gay organisations, human rights defenders, scholars and teachers from 11 European countries – Belgium, Belarus, Great Britain, Hungary, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Switzerland and Ukraine –

Having considered at plenary sessions, and in detailed discussions:

- The fact that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantee the enjoyment of fundamental human rights by all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity;
- The extensive recognition of the human rights of lesbians and gays in European institutions and human rights law, including resolutions by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, legislation by the European Union, and judgments of the European Court of Human Rights;
- The Situation of lesbians and gays in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe taking account of the social, legal, political, and cultural context;
- The History of persecution of homosexuals by totalitarian regimes on the continent;
- The Work of Ukrainian non-governmental organisations and activists aimed at counteracting discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation, raising awareness, combating homophobia, and providing social and psychological support to the members of the lesbian and gay community,

recognise that:

- Homophobia and prejudiced attitudes towards lesbians and gays are wide-spread in Ukrainian society;
- Politicians from various parties resist the acknowledgment of the equal rights of homosexuals, and continue to make highly intolerant homophobic statements;
- There is no effective protection from discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation in employment or in other spheres of social life;

- Leaders of different religious organisations, as well as extremist groups have united in attacking the lesbian and gay community;
- Ukrainian lesbians and gays face many different forms of abuse and discrimination, whether by members of the general public, or by public servants, most notably the police;
- At the national level in Ukraine there are no public education campaigns aimed at increasing tolerance of homosexuals by public servants, young people, the police force, and other groups;
- The Ukrainian authorities prefer to ignore the problems listed above and take no measures to improve the situation.

In the light of the above we, the participants of the international conference "Lesbian and Gay Rights are Human Rights" express our support for Ukrainian lesbians and gays, their organisations and their demands to the authorities of Ukraine, in particular:

- 1) To include protection from discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity in the new Labour Code of Ukraine;
- 2) To introduce legislation providing protection from discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation and gender identity in other spheres of life;
- 3) To give legal recognition to the relationships of same-sex partners through the introduction of civil partnership legislation;
- 4) To grant same-sex partners all other social and economic rights enjoyed by heterosexual married couples;
- 5) To develop programs aimed at protection from discrimination on these grounds, including public awareness campaigns, courses at schools and higher educational institutions, and awareness raising trainings for public servants, particularly the police;
- 6) To support and comply with the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*, particularly in policy development.

We hope that the Ukrainian authorities, who have proclaimed the objective of European integration, including the adoption of European values in the areas of human rights, and European standards of life, will pay attention to the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in society. We call upon the Ukrainian Parliament and Government to take concrete and effective steps in order to ensure equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and to consider them as full Ukrainian citizens having equal rights and obligations.

Kiev, Ukraine

October 5th, 2008