Statement

Munich and Kyiv are twin cities. Bavaria's capital now protests against deputies' voting in favour of law 8711 on 2 October 2012. It would ban information about homosexuality on every level. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) groups say this act is violating fundamental human rights. Second reading of the law is planned for 16 October 2012.

"This law violates fundamental human rights, including the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly. Should this law be enacted, it will create an unacceptable environment of statepromoted discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. This draft law would also endanger the rights of human rights defenders to engage in human rights work regarding the rights of LGBT people. Ukraine is member of the Council of Europe, and in 1997 ratified the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Article 10 of the Convention states that ,everyone has the right to freedom of expression'. Since 2006, Ukraine has also been a party to Protocol No. 12 of the Convention, which provides a standalone prohibition on discrimination on any ground, which as the explanatory memorandum of the Protocol explains, includes sexual orientation. Ukraine has once agreed to respect these obligations and promote the right of freedom of expression for all people. regardless of their sexual orientation. That's why we call Ukrainian deputies to reject this law during the second reading. Ukraine must strive to create a society in which diversity is viewed not as a threat, but as a source of enrichment for society as a whole!"

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