

IDAHO 2015 FORUM

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia - Montenegro

JOINT STATEMENT



Budva, 11 May 2015

As stated in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

We commit ourselves to jointly combat homophobia, transphobia and biphobia in order to eliminate any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, continuously promoting social acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons.

Reaffirming our commitment to implementation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers' Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, and our proud belief in fundamental freedoms, which are the foundation of national and global prosperity, we welcome further initiatives addressed to combat discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We the Ministers from the Region intend to:

Actively work to ensure further promotion and effective implementation of legal and other measures in order to eradicate every discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Foster freedom of assembly and expression, including all kind of social gatherings to be held in tolerant atmosphere and without violence, in order to promote, pursue and defend LGBTI rights.

Guarantee use of right to education, regardless of one's personal characteristics, banning any form of physical, mental and social violence, bullying and negligence, insulting the person, or any other form of discrimination, which arise from stereotypes and prejudices towards LGBTI people.

Provide impetus and support to desired cultural and social change in order to contribute the process of LGBTI equality, in terms of their safety and inclusion in society.

Ensure respect of right to privacy of each individual no matter of one's sexual orientation or gender identity in order to counterattack homophobia, transphobia, biphobia and related social intolerance.

Welcome and foster every international initiative with respect to enhancement of awareness and knowledge on human rights of LGBTI people.

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Enhance regional and international cooperation, exchange of knowledge and good practices among Signees in order to tackle homophobia, transphobia and biphobia at national, regional and international level as well as to foster cooperation of national institutions with civil sector organizations defending the human rights of LGBTI people.

Prioritize the response to hate crimes and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity all across national governments and publicly condemn it, in order to underscore that such acts will not be tolerated. Also, we will seek a stricter penalties, taking into account as an aggravating circumstances, to fully sanction and prosecute by the law.

Commit ourselves to continuously work with Judicial Training Centers, Law Enforcement Services and all relevant institutions in order to end hate crime and violence, preventing that cultural, traditional or religious values, and the rules of a "dominant culture" can be invoked to justify hate crime, violence or any other form of discrimination, including sexual orientation or gender identity as protected grounds.

Bardhylka Kospiri

Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Youth, Republic of Albania

Nezir Pivić

Deputy Minister of Justice, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Arsen Bauk

Minister of Public Administration, Republic of Croatia

Zoran Pažin

Minister of Justice, Montenegro

Jadranka Joksimović

Minister without portfolio, Republic of Serbia