

PETITION to: Arūnas Valinskas, Speaker of the Seimas

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Email: Arunas.Valinskas@Irs.lt

June 2009, Lithuania: “Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information” – risk of violation of basic human rights

Dear Mr. Valinskas

We, participants at the Europride in Zürich 2009, are deeply concerned that on the 11th of June, 2009, the Lithuanian Parliament will vote on a proposed amendment to the information law in your country which would affect the basic human right to freedom of expression and would discriminate against lesbians, gay men and bisexual and transgender people. If passed, this law would explicitly make it illegal for anybody to distribute information on homosexuality through any medium to which children might have access. In short, this would prohibit any publicly accessible information, including Pride marches like ours today.

We call on you and on all Members of the Lithuanian Parliament

- to reject the proposed amendment to the “Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information” and not to allow such discrimination and restriction of basic human rights;
- to ensure that all persons in Lithuania, including children, can fully enjoy their right to freedom of expression and their right to seek, receive and impart information, including information about gender identities and sexual orientation.

Yours respectfully

Signatories:

Name	Address	Signature
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Copy to: Gintaras Steponavičius, Minister of Education and Science, A. Volano str. 2/7, LT-01516 Vilnius, Lithuania. Email: Ministras@smm.lt or smmin@smm.lt