

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council No 1100  
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**EU statement on the International Day against  
Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**

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On the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, the European Union reiterates its strong commitment to the equality and dignity of all human beings irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Despite recent progress around the world, almost 80 jurisdictions still criminalise same-sex relations. In many places discrimination and violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex persons is a daily occurrence. The European Union repeats its call to all Governments around the world to abide by their international human rights commitments, to repudiate intolerance and to promote equality as enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other instruments.

The OSCE participating States agreed in Madrid in 2007 to take a comprehensive approach “in order to effectively combat all forms of discrimination”. The EU believes that promoting tolerance and ensuring human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is central to OSCE’s vision of comprehensive security with the inherent dignity of the individual at its core.

The EU calls upon all participating States to live up to their commitments to fight against all forms of discrimination, and uphold the basic contract any government should have with its people. The criminalization of and intolerance towards homosexuality is clearly incompatible with the fundamental OSCE commitments regarding human rights.

On this day, the European Union also wishes to pay homage to the courageous advocacy efforts carried out by human rights defenders, activists, media journalists,

and civil society organisations to address the violations faced by LGBTI persons. Their work has been crucial every step of the way in putting these issues on the table, documenting abuses and advocating for the effective protection of fundamental human rights.

In line with the EU Guidelines to Promote and Protect the Enjoyment of all Human Rights by LGBTI Persons and the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, we will continue to work with all partners to advance the human rights of all around the world.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\*, SERBIA\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, GEORGIA and ANDORRA align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.