

Towards a more inclusive society: the role of Liberal Mayors in the eradication of LGBTIQ+ phobia

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening virtually on 11-12 June 2021:

Notes that:

- since 2019 the rights of LGBTIQ+ people in some EU Member States have been progressively violated, with over 100 municipal councils and regional parliaments in Poland passing resolutions that have created a climate of fear and insecurity for LGBTIQ+ citizens, their families and friends;
- these resolutions talk about LGBTIQ+ "ideology" as if sexual orientation were something that one chooses rather than being inherent to a person's nature;
- in doing so, they overlook and belittle the human suffering that LGBTIQ+ people have endured for so long;
- the supporters of these resolutions claim that the defence and promotion of the rights of LGBTIQ+ citizens undermine Christian values, such as the "traditional family";
- the resolutions have led to these municipalities and regions being labelled as "LGBT-free zones";
- the European Parliament has recently declared the European Union an LGBTIQ Freedom Zone in response.

Believes that:

- the fundamental right to religious faith does not extend to denying the basic human rights of other individuals;
- European cities and regions have grown more tolerant, open and successful when embracing equality and diversity;
- Mayors and regional presidents together with ALDE representatives have a crucial leadership role to set the tone of inclusiveness in their municipalities and regions, showing zero-tolerance towards discrimination and reaching out to their LGBTIQ+ citizens;
- European culture and identity has become richer due to acceptance and integration;
- Europe's attraction is based on freedom and freedom of expression;
- European strength is built upon the creation of bonds between citizens of a diverse community;
- there cannot be different classes of human beings in Europe;
- diversity is not something to fear but to celebrate.

Resolution:

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Calls on:

- liberal mayors together with ALDE representatives throughout Europe to promote the compatibility between the right to religious faith and the right of all human beings to be themselves and to live their life as freely as all other human beings;
- liberal mayors together with ALDE representatives to ensure a free society that respects the rights of the majority while not oppressing the minority, building bridges not walls, and bringing all citizens together for dialogue and joint projects;
- liberal mayors together with ALDE representatives to work with mayors of other political persuasions in their countries to demonstrate the benefits of inclusiveness and of embracing diversity as a strength for local communities;
- ALDE representatives at all levels of government to collaborate between one another for the promotion of tolerance and openness, so that our communities and citizens can prosper in freedom and harmony;
- Liberals in local government to use their existing twinning partnerships to engage with their international counterparts on non-discrimination and inclusiveness, exchanging best practice on local equality policy efforts.

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