

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ADVISORY

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Invitation to a joint press conference Amnesty International presents report on anti-gay hate crimes in Bulgaria Bulgarian NGOs present Sofia Pride 2012 plans

On 28 June, Amnesty International will release at a press conference in Sofia a report calling on the Bulgarian authorities to amend its legislation to define attacks against people on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity as hate crimes.

The report, *Changing laws, changing minds: Challenging homophobic and transphobic hate crimes in Bulgaria*, focuses on the failure of the police and prosecutors to address effectively crimes against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Representatives of Bulgarian non-governmental organizations will speak on the importance for changes in the legislation and will present the Sofia Pride 2012 plans.

When: 28 June 2012, Thursday at 11:00

Where: Bulgarian News Agency
49 Tzarigradsko shosse
Sofia 1124

Who: Emily Gray, Amnesty International's researcher on sexual orientation and gender identity; Fotis Filippou, Regional campaigner at Amnesty International's Europe and Central Asia Programme; Monika Pisankaneva, chair of Bilitis Resource Center Foundation; co-organizer of Sofia Pride 2012; Yana Buhner Tavanier, head of the Campaigns and communications programme, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee; co-organizer of Sofia Pride 2012; Margarita Ilieva, Head of the Legal defence programme, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee.

Hristina Stoyanova, mother of a medical student beaten to death in 2008 in Sofia because of his perceived sexual orientation, and other survivors of hate crimes will be present at the press conference and available for interviews.

For further information or to request an interview please contact:

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