

# URGENT ACTION

## KEEP KYIV LGBTI PRIDE MARCHERS SAFE

**Hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) activists are at risk of being denied their right to peaceful assembly and at risk of violence during the Pride march planned in Kyiv on 6 June as the police fail to show full commitment to protect the march.**

The Kyiv Pride organizers have announced their intention to hold the Pride march in the capital Kyiv on 6 June. The exact time and place of the event have yet to be agreed with the authorities. In order to discuss the details the organizers, along with Amnesty International Ukraine, are having several meetings with the authorities. The Kyiv City Administration promised to arrange a meeting between the organizers and the police to discuss security measures in the week of 18-22 May. However, no meeting has taken place so far as the police claim that it is "too early" to plan for the event.

In 2012, the planned Kyiv Pride march had to be cancelled by the organizers in the face of threats of violence from far-right groups and the failure of the Kyiv police to guarantee adequate protection. The Kyiv Pride March was also cancelled in 2014, when the authorities had promised their support for the Pride march, including in meetings between Amnesty International and senior members of the Ministry of the Interior, but withdrew their promise of protection at the last moment.

Delayed response and a lack of clear commitment by the police are having a negative impact on the organization of the event and could lead to its cancellation amidst fear of violence by counter-demonstrators.

### **Please write immediately in in Ukrainian, English, Russian or your own language:**

- Calling on the Ukrainian authorities to ensure that LGBTI activists and other Kyiv Pride participants are able to exercise their right to freedom of peaceful assembly;
- Urging them to give assurance without any delay and take all necessary measures to guarantee the safety of the Kyiv Pride participants on 6 June 2015;
- Calling on the Ukrainian authorities to respect and protect the rights of all people in Ukraine, including LGBTI people, without discrimination, including the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly.

### **PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 JULY 2015 TO:**

#### Mayor of Kyiv

Vitaliy KLITSCHKO  
The City Mayor of Kyiv  
26 Khreshatyk street  
01044 Kyiv Ukraine  
Fax: +380 44 202-76-41  
Email: [udzkmada@ukr.net](mailto:udzkmada@ukr.net)

**Salutation: Dear Mayor**

#### Minister of Internal Affairs

Arsen AVAKOV  
Vul. Akademika Bogomoltsa 10  
01024 Kyiv Ukraine  
Fax: +380 44 256-1633  
Email: [vidkrytist@mvs.gov.ua](mailto:vidkrytist@mvs.gov.ua)  
Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/arsen.avakov.1>  
Twitter: [https://twitter.com/mvs\\_ua](https://twitter.com/mvs_ua)

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ukraine has repeatedly failed to protect the rights to freedom of expression and peacefully assembly of LGBTI people in the past. In 2012 a Pride march planned for 20 May was cancelled by the organizers because they had received multiple violent threats from various individuals and groups, and because the Kyiv police failed to guarantee the safety of the demonstrators, telling them 'people would get hurt'. The Kyiv Pride planned for 5 July 2014 was also cancelled after the police told the organizing committee, at short notice, that they could not secure the safety of participants in the face of expected counter-demonstrations. The newly elected Mayor of Kyiv, Vitaliy Klitchko, stated on 27 June 2014 that this was not the time for such 'entertainment events' in Ukraine.

In 2013, the first ever successful LGBTI Pride march in Ukraine took place. Although the fact that the first-ever Pride in Ukraine took place was a welcome development, it was disappointing that Kyiv City Council chose to ban the Pride march from the centre of Kyiv, forcing organizers to change to an alternative location at the last moment and thereby curtailing participants' right to freedom of assembly.

LGBTI people in Ukraine continue to face discrimination, and many are targeted for violence and abuse. In the past Amnesty International has documented several violent attacks against LGBTI people, some carried out by public officials, and some by members of the public. In some cases such attacks have resulted in death and these were not effectively investigated. The authorities have consistently failed to investigate violence against LGBTI people promptly, thoroughly, effectively and impartially.

Name: N/A

Gender m/f: both

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