



European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Forum parlementaire européen pour les droits sexuels et reproductifs
Европейский парламентский форум по сексуальным и репродуктивным правам

European Parliamentary Forum
for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Rue Montoyer 23
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Mr Klaus Iohannis
President of Romania

Brussels, 24 June 2020

Call to uphold Women's rights, gender equality, SRHR & LGBTQI+ rights in Romania

Dear President,

As Members of Parliaments from across political parties, we wish to express our deep concern about the adoption of an explicit amendment to the National Education Law by the Romanian Senate on 16 June 2020 that prohibits information on gender identity in schools, universities and other educational spaces in particular "activities that spread the gender identity theory or opinion, understood as the theory or opinion that gender is a different concept from that of biological sex and that the two are not always the same".

If enacted, gender studies and courses on women's rights and equal opportunities at universities could be abolished, scientific literature defining and using the term gender could be banned or confiscated, meaning that access to accurate and evidence-based knowledge and information would be blocked which is an infringement on the right to education and freedom of thought and expression. All teachers, school counselors, academics, doctors, social workers, non-governmental organisations and professional trainers would be banned from addressing topics related to gender and gender equality incl. on transgender persons.

Romania historically has had the highest teenage birth rate in Europe. By banning conversations about the difference between gender and biological sex, Romania would make it challenging to address these topics in its sexuality education and act against the interests of its young people in general – and in particular against its LGBTQI+ community.

Moreover, Romania would violate its anti-discrimination and gender equality legislation both of which are legal obligations as a member of the European Union. Discrimination against the country's LGBTQI+ community would be legitimised. And furthermore, Romania would violate its obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) or the Istanbul Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

The adoption of this law would align Romania with extremist and authoritarian measures of neighbouring Hungary and Poland in these areas.

Your mandate as the President of Romania is decisive for human rights and freedom of thought and expression in Romania. **We urge you to respect the fundamental human rights of all Romanians and ask you not to promulgate the Education Law no. 87/2020 with the amendment adopted by the Senate which bans any reference to gender identity in schools and universities, but to send it back to Parliament for re-examination.**



European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Forum parlementaire européen pour les droits sexuels et reproductifs
Европейский парламентский форум по сексуальным и репродуктивным правам

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATORIES - CURRENT MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS

Members of Parliaments:

1. Hon. Pere Lopez Agras, MP, Andorra
2. Hon. Petra Bayr, MP, Austria
3. Hon. Heike Grebien, MP, Austria
4. Hon. Katharina Kucharowits, MP, Austria
5. Hon. Nico Marchetti, MP, Austria
6. Hon. Fourat Ben Chikha, MP, Belgium
7. Hon. Barbara Creemers, MP, Belgium
8. Hon. Greet Daems, MP, Belgium
9. Hon. Petra De Sutter, MEP, Belgium
10. Hon. Christophe Lacroix, MP, Belgium
11. Hon. Séverine de Laveleye, MP, Belgium
12. Hon. Moscufo Nadia, MP, Belgium
13. Hon. Chastel Olivier, MEP, Belgium
14. Hon. Sophie Rohonyi, MP, Belgium
15. Hon. Jessika Soors, MP, Belgium
16. Hon. Hilde Vautmans, MEP, Belgium
17. Hon. Bojan Glavašević, MP, Croatia
18. Hon. Predrag Fred Matić, MEP, Croatia
19. Hon. Heidi Bank, MP, Denmark
20. Hon. Marie Bjerre, MP, Denmark
21. Hon. Anne Sophie Callesen, MP, Denmark
22. Hon. Mette Gjerskov, MP, Denmark
23. Hon. Bertel Haarder, MP, Denmark
24. Hon. Mona Juul, MP Denmark
25. Hon. Sophie Løhde, MP, Denmark
26. Hon. Karen Melchior, MEP, Denmark
27. Hon. Rasmus Nordqvist, MP, Denmark
28. Hon. Halime Oguz, MP, Denmark
29. Hon. Anne Paulin, MP, Denmark
30. Hon. Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, MEP, Denmark
31. Hon. Christel Schaldemose, MEP, Denmark
32. Hon. Nikolaj Villumsen, MEP, Denmark
33. Hon. Marianne Vind, MEP, Denmark
34. Hon. Pernille Weiss, MEP, Denmark
35. Hon. Susanne Zimmer, MP, Denmark
36. Hon. Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, MEP, France
37. Hon. Irène Tolleret, MEP, France
38. Hon. Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, MEP, France
39. Hon. Pierette Herzberger- Fofana, MEP, Germany
40. Hon. Norbert Neuser, MEP, Germany
41. Hon. Maria Noichl, MEP, Germany
42. Hon. Terry Reintke, MEP, Germany
43. Sen. Alice-Mary Higgins, Ireland



European Parliamentary Forum for Sexual and Reproductive Rights
Forum parlementaire européen pour les droits sexuels et reproductifs
Европейский парламентский форум по сексуальным и репродуктивным правам

44. Hon. Laura Boldrini, MP, Italy
45. Hon. Valeria Fedeli, MP, Italy
46. Hon. Chiara Gribaudo, MP, Italy
47. Hon. Vanna Iori, MP, Italy
48. Hon. Lia Quartapelle, MP, Italy
49. Hon. Valeria Valente, MP, Italy
50. Hon. Dovilė Šakalienė, MP, Lithuania
51. Hon. Elise Bjørnebekk-Waagen, MP, Norway
52. Hon. Heidi Nordby Lunde, MP, Norway
53. Hon. Nina Sandberg, MP, Norway
54. Hon. Åslaug Sem-Jacobsen, MP, Norway
55. Hon. Nicholas Wilkinson, MP, Norway
56. Hon. Joanna Scheuring-Wieulgs, MP, Poland
57. Hon. Maria Antónia Almeida Santos, MP, Portugal
58. Hon. Sandra Cunha, MP, Portugal
59. Hon. Catarina Marcelino, MP, Portugal
60. Hon. Luís Monteiro, MP, Portugal
61. Hon. Alexandre Quintanilha, MP, Portugal
62. Hon. Carla Alexandra Sousa, MP, Portugal
63. Hon. Florian Dorel Bodog, MP, Romania
64. Hon. Sofía Castañón, MP, Spain
65. Hon. Antonia Jover Diaz, MP, Spain
66. Hon. Iratxe García Pérez, MEP, Spain
67. Hon. Pedro Antonio Honrubia Hurtado, MP, Spain
68. Hon. Maria del Mar Garcia Puig, MP, Spain
69. Hon. María Márquez Guerrero, MP, Spain
70. Hon. Joan Mena Arca, MP, Spain
71. Hon. Lucía Muñoz Dalda, MP, Spain
72. Hon. Alberto Rodríguez, MP Spain
73. Hon. María Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, MEP, Spain
74. Hon. Gloria Elizo Serrano, MP, Spain
75. Hon. Josune Gorospe, MP, Spain – Basque country
76. Hon. Iñigo Iturrate MP, Spain – Basque country
77. Hon. Isabel Pizueta, MP, Spain – Basque country
78. Hon. Malin Björk, MEP, Sweden
79. Hon. Sara Heikkinen Breitholtz, MP, Sweden
80. Hon. Yvonne Feri, MP, Switzerland
81. Hon. Vera Tax, MEP, The Netherlands
82. Hon. Sophie in 't Veld, MEP, The Netherlands
83. Hon. Baron John Mann, United Kingdom