

URGENT ACTION

STOP LGBTI 'PROPAGANDA' LEGISLATION

The President of Kazakhstan is due to sign legislation banning "propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientation" which would violate the right to freedom of expression and discriminate against LGBTI people.

On 19 February, the Upper Chamber (Senat) of the Parliament of Kazakhstan approved a legislation package which, amongst other things, bans "propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientation". It is due to be signed by the President at any time. One of the main pieces of legislation approved is the Law on Protection of Children from Information Harming their Health and Development (Law on Child Protection). Although the text has not been made available to the public, and Amnesty International has requested a copy from the Kazakhstani authorities without success, the local media have quoted Members of Parliament referring to the new, clearly discriminatory, provisions.

Several news websites have also reported that the Parliament has approved additional amendments that 'correspond' to the changes in the Law on Child Protection. These reforms include amendments to the Law on TV broadcasting, the Code on Administrative Violations, the Law on the Rights of the Child, the Law on Advertising, the Law on Mass Media, the Law on Education and others.

Considering that the text of the amendments has not been made public, it is impossible to assess their full impact on rights-holders in Kazakhstan, including those who represent, or work with, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Nevertheless, from the available media statements it is clear that if signed into law this legislation would violate Kazakhstan's international obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the right to freedom of expression, and to prevent any discrimination on the basis of sex and other related bases, including real or perceived sexual orientation. It will expose LGBTI people to discrimination and violence based on stigmatization of their sexuality. Additionally, potentially over-broad references to "propaganda" in the draft legislation may lead to restrictions on a wide range of speech and expression, in violation of international law.

Please write immediately in Kazakh, Russian, English or your own language:

- Urging the President to reject all draft legislation (including the Law on Child Protection) and amendments that promote restrictions on the right to freedom of expression, as well as discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation;
- Urging him to ensure that any further draft legislation and proposed amendments fully comply with Kazakhstan's international obligations aimed at protecting the right to freedom of expression, and at ending all forms of discrimination on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation;
- Calling on the President to ensure the transparency of the legislative process.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 7 MAY 2015 TO:

President

Nursultan Nazarbayev
President of Republic of Kazakhstan
Akorda, Levoberezhie
Astana 010000, Kazakhstan
Fax: 011 7 7172 744 085 / 744 073
Email: press@akorda.kz
akorda.press@gmail.com
Salutation: Dear President

And copies to:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Erlan Idrissov
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
31 Kunayeva Street
Astana 010000, Kazakhstan
Fax: 011 7 7172 72 05 16
Email: kezekshi@mfa.kz

Also send copies to:

Ambassador Kairat Umarov, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan
1401 16th St NW, Washington DC 20036
Fax: 1 202 232 5845 | Phone: 1 202 232 5488 | Email: washington@mfa.kz -OR- consul@kazakhembus.com

Please let us know if you took action so that we can track our impact! EITHER send a short email to uan@aiusa.org with "UA 69/15" in the subject line, and include in the body of the email the number of letters and/or emails you sent, OR fill out this [short online form](#) (press Ctrl + click on link) to let us know how you took action. Thank you for taking action! Please check with the AIUSA Urgent Action Office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Name: unknown

Issues: LGBT rights, Legal concern, Freedom of expression

UA: 69/15

Issue Date: 26 March 2015

Country: Kazakhstan