

**Question for written answer E-006339/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Situation for LGBTI refugees in Turkey

The Syrian refugee Muhammed Wisam Sankari was beheaded at the beginning of August after months of threats and persecution. The trans activist Hande Kader was murdered a matter of days later.

The Turkish authorities have been reluctant to take any action. LGBTI citizens report that they are also receiving little or no effective protection from local NGOs and UN agencies. At the same time, the Turkish government has stepped up its campaign of repression against the LGBTI community, banning events such as the most recent Gay Pride march.

This situation has led many LGBTI refugees to attempt to return to their countries of origin, such as Syria, where they live under threat from Isis and where Syrian law classifies homosexuality as a crime punishable by prison.

Bearing in mind Turkey's status as a candidate country for accession to the EU and the recent agreement with the EU on asylum, in which it is classed as a safe third country:

1. What steps will the VP/HR take to protect LGBTI refugees in Turkey?
2. Does she believe that Turkey is a safe country for LGBTI refugees?
3. Will she boost support for Turkish civil society organisations working on LGBTI issues through projects under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession to which she referred in her answer to my question E-012140/2015?