

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Michael Cashman, Sophia in 't Veld, Raúl Romeva i Rueda, Alexander Stubb and John Bowis

on combating homophobic bullying

Lapse date: 30.4.2007

**Written declaration on combating homophobic bullying**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas a body of scientific evidence shows that homophobic bullying at school affects very many young gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people,
- B. whereas victims can also be heterosexual young people or those uncertain of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity,
- C. whereas in a number of cases such bullying has led to suicide,
- D. whereas discrimination and violence influence young people's mental health, achievement in school and transition from education into employment, and thus can lead to social exclusion,
- E. whereas improving the situation of vulnerable young people and preventing education failure are priorities of the Lisbon Agenda,
- F. whereas Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Community sets the objective of combating discrimination based on sexual orientation,
- 1. Strongly condemns all forms of homophobic bullying;
- 2. Calls on the Member States to fight homophobia in education through campaigns in schools and the media, supported by the necessary administrative and legislative means;
- 3. Calls on the Member States to organise a peer review to disseminate best practices on combating homophobic bullying in schools;
- 4. Calls on the Member States to recognise and support LGBT youth groups and engage them in a structured dialogue on bullying and discrimination;
- 5. Calls on EU Agencies and the Commission to conduct pan-European research on homophobic bullying and other forms of exclusion of LGBT people in school;
- 6. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and civil society organisations.