

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4507/07

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to the Council

Subject: Persecution of LGBT individuals in Uganda

We are concerned by continuing reports that Ugandan lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are facing regular abuse by police. A government spokesman was quoted as saying 'there is no question of equal treatment for these strange fellows... Homosexuality is repugnant to the people of Uganda.' The Cotonou Agreement Article 1 calls for 'respect of the rights of the individual' and Article 8 calls for a political dialogue where respect for human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law and good governance are essential prerequisites for the validity of the agreement.

Will the Council raise the issue of this continued discrimination against LGBT individuals in its discussions with the Ugandan Government? What urgent actions does the Council intend to take to ensure that the EU makes clear to Uganda the EU position on human rights? Will the Council reiterate the EU's commitment to the abolition of the criminalisation of same-sex relations in accordance with the rulings of the UN Human Rights Committee? What action will the Council take to ensure that Uganda understands that equal rights of all minorities, including LGBT individuals, is enshrined in Articles 1 and 8 of the Cotonou Agreement? What sanctions, if any, are envisaged in the event that the Ugandan Government persists in its homophobic policies?