As stated in the China Country Update of the 2021 Annual Report on Human Rights and Democracy in the World,\(^1\) the human rights situation across China further deteriorated in 2021. This was marked by, inter alia, a sweeping crackdown on civil society organisations, including those advancing the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) persons. The ban of the Grindr application fits within this highly concerning trend.

The EU is firmly committed to respect, protect and fulfil the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of LGBTIQ persons. On the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) on 17 May 2022, the EU reaffirmed\(^2\) its strong commitment, uncompromisingly standing with all LGBTI persons. The EU will continue to voice its serious concerns over the daily discrimination LGBTI persons face in China, and use all diplomatic tools at its disposal, both bilaterally with the Chinese authorities and in international instances in order to ensure full respect for their rights. The EU will continue to urge China to fulfil its obligations under the United Nation Charter and international human rights law, as well as under China's own Constitution. In doing so, the EU will always make it clear that it will not compromise on human rights, the advancement of which also features in our cooperation with China in other areas.

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