

**Question for written answer E-002022/2023**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

**Brando Benifei (S&D)**

Subject: Violence towards LGBTI refugees in Kenya

Kakuma refugee and asylum seeker camp in Kenya, set up in 1992 to host Sudanese refugees, now has in excess of 200 000 inhabitants, including an LGBTI community hosted in an area known as Block 13.

That community is often subject to violence; although Kenya is the only country in East Africa to grant asylum to individuals discriminated against because of their gender identity or sexual orientation, superstitious homophobic culture is so pervasive that LGBTI refugees are often forced to hide, as they have no way to protect themselves in an attack from fellow refugees, monitors, the local external population or the authorities.

According to international media, such as *VICE*, and NGOs operating locally, such as Refugee Flag Kenya, Refugee Coalition of East Africa and Amnesty International, violence has shot up since the outbreak of the pandemic; young LGBTI people have even been burnt to death.

Given that a pillar of the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020-2025 is dedicated to EU leadership in pushing for LGBTIQ equality around the world and that the Commission showed in the strategy that it is aware that refugees in reception and detention centres are particularly vulnerable, can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy provide information on the action that he has taken in cases like the one at Kakuma?

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