

ALL-UKRAINIAN UNION

# COUNCIL OF LGBT ORGANISATIONS OF UKRAINE

Tel. +380 44 296-34-24, +380 50 443-80-64 • E-mail: [coordinator@gay.org.ua](mailto:coordinator@gay.org.ua)  
Postal Address: c/o Nash Mir, P.O. Box 173, Kyiv, 02100, Ukraine

---

## SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE IS ON THE AGEND.

### Appeal to LGBT community of the Netherlands in connection with the referendum on the Association Agreement with Ukraine scheduled for 06 April 2016

Kyiv, 11 February 2016

On 6 April, the people of the Netherlands will participate in consultative referendum. It was called by the country's government regarding whether to approve or not the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement signed by the Prime Minister of the Kingdom – Mark Rutte. In late 2013, this document was a stumbling block for our country which has led to the biggest commotion in the last 22 years after obtaining the independence. When the previous president of Ukraine Viktor Yanukovich at the last moment refused to sign the Agreement, pro-European civil society launched peaceful actions of protest immediately which developed into revolutionary events of 2013/2014.

For Ukrainian LGBT, signing the Association Agreement of our country with European Union and its member states has a special appreciable meaning. Unfortunately, Ukraine remains considerably behind the EU when it comes to human rights protection standards, norms against discrimination of people on characteristics of sexual orientation and gender identity. This situation started changing to better only recently as a result of cooperation strengthening between Ukraine and the EU.

Three years ago Ukraine faced civilizational choice: to become closer to the Russian Federation (where so-called "homosexuality propaganda" is a right violation) or the European Union (where human rights are guaranteed to all including LGBT). Ukrainians in times of Euromaidan made their choice in favour of European values and principles. This is a very important reason for us to address our fellows from the Netherlands to support the Association Agreement with Ukraine. Therefore, unification of approaches to human rights and freedoms in Ukraine based on the example of the Netherlands and other EU member states will help the Ukrainian society to join more actively in such European values as respect of an individual, right for self-expression and tolerance. The Association between Ukraine and the EU is also protection of human rights for Ukrainian LGBT community.

We are ready to take and implement the best approaches and standards of the European Union in Ukrainian reality. However, at the same time, we aspire to acquaint our brotherly nations in the EU to achievements of our own culture and wealth of our land in more details, to cooperate on all levels.

**Today, we, the Ukrainian LGBT organisations united in national union – The Council of LGBT Organisations of Ukraine, call upon you to join in the Netherlands to the positions of solidarity with Ukraine and support the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement of the referendum.** We are sure that failure or success of the referendum depends on civil activeness of the Netherlands' LGBT community.

After the positive decision of the plebiscite, the government of the Netherlands will ratify the Association Agreement based on the nation's decision: it will become operative discovering new possibilities for mutual convergence and enrichment for our countries, nations and communities.

Support the Association Agreement! Call on your fellow citizens to support it! Promote solidarity with Ukraine!

FOR REFERENCE: The Council of LGBT Organisations of Ukraine is a union, which consists of 31 LGBT organisations of our country. The Council represents and defends interests of the LGBT community of Ukraine on national and international levels, cooperates with inter-governmental and human rights organisations, other institutions of civil society and media. The activity of the Council is legalised by the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine

*Best wishes,*

**The Council Secretary**



**Sviatoslav SHEREMET**