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**STATEMENT BY  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AT THE 1525th MEETING OF THE  
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

19 June 2025

**In response to the current issue raised by Norway on the occasion of Pride Month**

Everyone has the right to live in freedom, equality and dignity. Human rights apply to all of us, no matter who we are, where we live and who our loved ones are. The European Union condemns all persecution, discrimination, brutality and extreme forms of violence, including murder and torture, committed on the basis of a person's sexual orientation or real or presumed gender identity.

The European Union stresses that there can be no hierarchy between the different grounds for discrimination, all of which are equally reprehensible and run counter to the universality of human rights, to the fundamental values of the European Union and to the commitments undertaken by all OSCE participating States. As long as such discrimination persists, the European Union will continue to work to end it.

The most recent report on the implementation of the European Commission's LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, non-binary, intersex and queer) Equality Strategy 2020–2025 emphasizes the importance of platforms for dialogue with Member States and a wide range of stakeholders, with particular attention being paid to the most vulnerable groups.

The fight against all forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence, alongside respect for human rights, depends on the courageous commitment of human rights defenders, activists, journalists and other media players and on civil society organizations. We recognize the contribution of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in support of civil society organizations working to promote mutual respect and to combat intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes, and in enabling them to form partnerships among themselves. We urge the ODIHR, the other autonomous institutions, the field operations and the Secretariat to step up their co-operation in this regard and to intensify their relations with civil society organizations. It is our joint responsibility to create conditions conducive to safer and more tolerant societies within the framework of our comprehensive approach to security.

In conclusion, we emphatically reaffirm that LGBTI persons have the same human rights as all other individuals and that no right may be denied to them.

Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.