

# OPEN LETTER TO THE NIGERIAN AUTHORITIES

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, express our deep concern regarding the draft law currently considered in Nigeria introducing new criminal penalties for homosexuality as well as for public advocacy or associations supporting lesbian and gay rights.

The proposed law would further reinforce the criminalization regime of homosexual acts already in place in Nigeria, by leading to the imprisonment of individuals solely for their actual or imputed sexual orientation, including for consensual sexual relations in private, advocacy of lesbian and gay rights, or public expression of their sexual identity.

This law, if approved, will constitute an unbearable discrimination as well as a violation of the rights to freedom of expression, conscience, association, and assembly. These rights are enshrined in international law as well as in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Furthermore, the approval of this law will undermine the fight that Nigeria is combating against the spread of HIV/AIDS.

We consequently ask the Nigerian authorities to:

- Withdraw the draft law
- Guarantee safety and protection for all human rights defenders and all individuals irrespective of their sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or religion
- Respect international human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Remove discriminatory laws that criminalize sexuality, gender identity, homosexual acts in all parallel legal systems followed in the country

**Michael CASHMAN,**  
President of the LGBT Intergroup, PSE

**Sophie IN'T VELD**  
Vice-President of the LGBT Intergroup, ALDE

**Raül ROMEVA**  
Vice- President of the LGBT Intergroup, Greens/EFA

**Alexander STUBB**  
Vice-President of the LGBT Intergroup, EPP/ED

Sarah LUDFORD, ALDE  
Gabriele ZIMMER, GUE/NGL  
Paulo CASACA, PSE  
John BOWIS, EPP/ED  
Piia-Noora KAUPPI, EPP/ED  
Glenis, WILLMOTT, PSE  
Elena VALENCIANO, PSE  
Cecilia MALMSTRÖM, ALDE

Michael Cashman, European Parliament, ASP 13G318, 1047 Brussels, Belgium

[mcashman@europarl.eu.int](mailto:mcashman@europarl.eu.int)

Tel. +32 22 84 56 45

Fax. +32 22 84 97 59

Linda MCAVAN, PSE  
Feleknas UCA, GUE/NGL  
Åsa WESTLUND, PSE  
Marco PANNELLA, ALDE  
Emma BONINO, ALDE  
Alexander ALVARO, ALDE  
Anders SAMUELSEN, ALDE  
Max VAN DEN BERG, PSE  
Fiona HALL, ALDE  
Anne VAN LANCKER, PSE  
Caroline LUCAS, Greens/EFA  
Bernadette BOURZAI, PSE  
Maria CARLSHAMRE, ALDE  
Mary HONEYBALL, PSE  
Richard CORBETT, PSE  
Gary TITLEY, PSE  
Adeline HAZAN, PSE  
David HAMMERSTEIN MINTZ, Green/EFA  
Jaroslav ZVERINA, EPP/ED  
Jeanine HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT, ALDE  
Satu HASSI, Greens/EFA  
André BRIE, GUE/NGL  
Martine ROURE, PSE  
Margrete AUKEN, Greens/EFA  
Claude MORAES, PSE  
Inger SEGELSTRÖM, PSE  
Fausto BERTINOTTI, GUE/NGL  
Roberto MUSACCHIO, GUE/NGL  
Vittorio AGNOLETTI, GUE/NGL  
Giusto CATANIA, GUE/NGL  
Luisa MORGANTINI, GUE/NGL  
Monica FRASSONI, Greens/EFA  
Eva-Britt SVENSSON, GUE/NGL  
Milan HORACEK, Greens/EFA  
Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN, GUE/NGL  
Roselyne BACHELOT-NARQUIN, EPP/ED  
Glenys KINNOCK, PSE  
Gérard ONESTA, Greens/EFA  
Anna HEDH, PSE  
Patrick GAUBERT, EPP/ED  
Willem SCHUTH, ALDE  
David MARTIN, PSE  
Thijs BERMAN, PSE  
Hiltrud BREYER, Greens/EFA  
Lissy GRÖNER, PSE  
Kader ARIF, PSE  
Carl SCHLYTER, Greens/EFA  
Luis YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO GARCÍA, PSE

Michael Cashman, European Parliament, ASP 13G318, 1047 Brussels, Belgium

[mcashman@europarl.eu.int](mailto:mcashman@europarl.eu.int)

Tel. +32 22 84 56 45

Fax. +32 22 84 97 59