

Intergroup calls on the President of the Parliament to support IDAHO along with activists
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Call follows adoption of resolution on homophobia in Europe

The Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights welcomes the 2007 International Day against Homophobia (IDAHO) and, as in previous years, the Intergroup endorses and fully supports the day. The Intergroup congratulates the efforts of local activists all around the world who are preparing events and other celebrations to mark the day. The officers of the Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights highlighted the particular importance that this year's IDAHO in light of the European Parliament's adoption of a resolution on homophobia as well as the on-going challenges facing gay prides and equality marches in Central and Eastern Europe.

"We welcome recognition by the European Parliament of 17th May 2007 as the International Day Against Homophobia," Michael Cashman, President of the Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights stated, "In response to the resolution on homophobia in Europe adopted by the European Parliament, the officers of the Intergroup on Gay and Lesbian Rights have tabled an official request for the President of the European Parliament, Mr. Hans-Gert Pöttering, to make a statement marking the day as called for by the adopted resolution."

"As our resolution on homophobia highlights, homophobia is still not vanquished, even in Europe," Raul Romeva, Vice-President of the Intergroup remarked. "IDAHO is an important initiative that deserves to be supported both by LGBT activists and also by politicians. I hope that the President of the Parliament will choose to mark this day in light of the resolution that was adopted with a clear majority last month."

"It is important on IDAHO that Member States take stock of what they have done and what they haven't done to combat homophobia. The European Parliament has repeatedly condemned homophobia in the strongest possible terms. Member States and the European Council in particular should do the same. I hope that the Member States will choose to join those marking this day on behalf of so many victims of homophobia," Sophie in 't Veld added.

ENDS

For further information on the Intergroup please visit our website:

<http://www.lgbt-ep.eu>

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