

**Government of Montenegro**

**Dr Igor Lukšić**

**Prime Minister of Montenegro**

Podgorica, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2011

Dear Mr Lukšić ,

After several discriminatory and homophobic statements inappropriate for a person in charge for human rights within the Government of Montenegro, we take this opportunity to once again remind you to seriously consider our suggestion to replace Minister for Human and Minority Rights with a person that will perform such responsible duties with full professional capacity.

Beside all expectations that clear revision of attitudes will happen, Mr Dinosa refuses to deviate from discriminatory behaviour opposite to respect of sexual minorities' human rights. On the other side, it is noticeable that the Minister, pressured by the international public, enables his deputies to react according the international standards. Such a method introduces „two audiences“ policy: he himself continues being firm in negative behaviour towards LGBT persons, while in the same time his deputies advocate attitudes that are the only ones appropriate for the Ministry they work in.

We believe that „two audiences“policy, one for domestic and the other one for international public, leaves a bad image of our country. Montenegro's European partners will have the impression that real will for situation change doesn't exist. Such a doubt is confirmed even by the latest reaction of European Parliament, after the adoption of EP Resolution on Montenegro on March 9th 2011. Ulrike Lunacek, MEP and Co-president of Intergroup on LGBT rights said: *„We demand that Ferhat Dinosa, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, defends LGBT people's human rights instead of displaying intolerance and insensitivity to these issues. This is the only way forward for Montenegro's accession process“.*

Instead of showing greater degree of sensitivity and tolerance, Dinosa declares the Ministry he runs, incompetent for making and presenting the Report on situation of LGBT rights which had to be submitted to the Parliamentary Board for human and minority rights. On the other hand the responsibility of the Ministry is quite clear in this process. Furthermore, in a meeting of the Parliamentary Board the Minister once more emphasized that rights of sexual minorities can't be at the same level as rights of national minorities, as it would be an insult for the second ones. In stating so, Mr Dinosa shows obvious lack of knowledge in respect to the Constitution and international standards. He doesn't understand that affirmative action and positive discrimination are synonyms and that the Constitution clearly defines „special measures directed to achievement of national, gender and complete equality and protection of persons who are in an unequal position based on any ground“(Article 8, point 2), which by any chance doesn't exclude the possibility for such measures to be directed to persons of different sexual orientation.

Latest public statement given by the Minister on TV Montena (March 15th 2011) confirm his earlier standing points on the necessity of „*preservation of people's moral code*“therefore respect and expectation of a Devine will. By saying this he instigated a dilemma weather for him religion stands before the law. As media are broadcasting, Dinoso said that he won't attack „*moral code of the majority*“ in no case, but also won't judge due to knowing „where their and his soul will end up“. He also added: *"In concluding this topic and all other topics that will be on the agenda-whilest being in a place where I am, I always try keeping in mind that I can't be anyone's judge, according to God's knowledge, not even when these people are concerned."*

Prime Minister Luksic, we are convinced that you pay special attention to the process of human rights improvement in Montenegro. One of key priorities of the Government in this period is exactly this field, motivated by recommendations of European Commission for fighting discrimination of LGBT people among the rest.

We, the signed below, believe that your Government won't allow twofaced politics to be carried out on its behalf. Montenegro needs a Minister that will be prepared to provide conditions for protection of every person's rights no matter its nationality, religion or belief, political opinion or sexual orientation. Therefore, we once more ask from you to nominate someone else for the position of Minister for Human and Minority Rights who *understands the concept of human rights and is prepared to fight for equality of all Montenegrin citizens.*

Yours respectfully,

**Nongovernmental organizations, members of the Coalition „Together for LGBT rights“**

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|---|--|
| 1. Akcija za ljudska prava (HRA)                  | 9. Evropski pokret u Crnoj Gori                  |
| 2. ANIMA – Centar za žensko i mirovno obrazovanje | 10. Expeditio                                    |
| 3. CAZAS  | 11. Ekvista                                      |
| 4. Centar za građansko obrazovanje-CGO            | 12. Institut alternativa                         |
| 5. CEDEM  | 13. Juventas                                     |
| 6. CEMI   | 14. Sigurna ženska kuća                          |
| 7. Crnogorski ženski lobi                         | 15. SOS za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja, Nikšić    |
| 8. CRNVO  | 16. SOS za žene i djecu žrtve nasilja, Podgorica |