
From: eCorrespondence (Dfat) <Dfat-Correspondence@cloud.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 1 October 2020 12:27
To: Mary Somers
Subject: Response to correspondence - DFA-MCO-01647-2020

Reference No: DFA-MCO-01647-2020
Your Ref No: M13/0920

Dear Ms. Reilly,

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., has asked me to reply on his behalf to your correspondence of 24 September 2020.

We note the motion agreed at South Dublin County Council, as described in your letter. The Minister is most concerned by recent developments relating to LGBTI+ people in Poland. The Government has expressed its concerns regarding this issue publicly.

The principles of equality and non-discrimination are enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. It is important that these principles are protected and promoted throughout the Union. We fully support the strong statements from the European Commission that there is no place for discrimination against the LGBTI+ community in the European Union. We also welcome the active engagement of Irish MEPs in raising awareness of these issues in the European Parliament.

Advancing human rights is central to Ireland's foreign policy, The Global Island. Ireland is committed to promoting the rights of LGBTI+ people, who continue to suffer disproportionate levels of violence and discrimination around the world. Ireland continues to support initiatives in international fora which promote and protect the rights of LGBTI+ people, and which condemn violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Embassy of Ireland in Poland undertakes a number of initiatives, together with local non-governmental organisations, to raise awareness of and facilitate discussion on the rights of LGBTI+ people. This includes taking part in the Warsaw Equality Parade each year. The Embassy is also one of a number of diplomatic representations who sign an annual letter in support of the Warsaw Equality Parade and other such parades around Poland.

This autumn, the Embassy will support a number of engagements, including events to showcase the experience of countries such as Ireland in ensuring the adoption of equal rights for LGBTI+ people.

We will continue to work both bilaterally and at the EU level to promote and protect the rights of LGBTI+ people across the EU and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

Nora Delaney
Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs