

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Rt Hon David Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
King Charles St
London
SW1A 2AH

20th May 2008

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Moldova Pride Sat 11 May 2008

I write following International Day Against Homophobia 2008 to express grave disquiet at the treatment of lesbian and gay people and their friends and families who attempted to take part in a Pride Parade in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova, last Saturday. According to a question tabled in the EU Parliament (enclosed) police stood by as organised thugs intimidated Pride participants, both verbally and physically, until they agreed not to parade.

I gather that, despite the fact that the Moldova Pride committee fulfilled all legal requirements for such an event, on the eve of the march the Mayor of Chisinau, Dorin Chirtoaca, issued a declaration informing the organisers that the march had been banned by City Hall. I further understand that the mayor had no jurisdiction to do this under Moldovan law.

This is clearly a breach of Article 11 of the ECHR, which guarantees the right to assemble. Moldova is currently in the process of applying for EU membership and this should be seen as an opportunity to apply pressure on the authorities there with regard to compliance with international human rights law. I would, therefore, ask you to raise this as a priority with the Moldovan government.

I understand from a constituent who attended Riga Pride in 2007 that participants were invited to a reception at the British Embassy and that this did much for the morale of the LGBT Latvians. Even though Moldova Pride is over for this year, I wondered if there might not be some opportunity for the Moldova Pride organising committee to be invited to a similar reception at the British Embassy in Chisinau in future.

I attach a copy of the question submitted to the European Parliament on 15th May 2008 and a translation of a statement by the Moldovan Christian Democrats, which I think demonstrates the degree of difficulty faced by the Moldovan LGBT community. It is an amateur translation but the original Romanian can be supplied for verification, if there is any doubt.

Thank you, as ever, for giving this your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.

cc: HM Ambassador Beyer.