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## PIAC Flash numéro 14

### Northern part of Cyprus decriminalises homosexuality

Yesterday morning, the Decriminalisation of Homosexuality Bill passed the Parliament of the northern part of Cyprus. **The northern part of Cyprus was the last territory in Europe where homosexuality was still a crime.**

Moreover, the bill strengthens the protection of LGBT people by including a ban on hate speech against LGBT people. Further, the bill bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the provision of public services.

**Michael Cashman MEP**, Co-President of the LGBT Intergroup reacted: "I am very happy that Europe is finally free from laws criminalising people for their sexual orientation."

"I am also glad to see that the government has included a prohibition on hate speech against LGBT people and has improved protection from discrimination. This is a major leap forward for the rights of LGBT people."

**Marina Yannakoudakis MEP**, Member of the LGBT Intergroup added: "I congratulate the Turkish Cypriot LGBT community on finally being able to exercise the most basic human right of all – the right to love."

"As other countries such as Nigeria and Uganda impose increasingly draconian measures to persecute LGBT people, I hope that people will learn from Cyprus that the anti-gay legacy of Britain's colonial past should be scrapped and not strengthened."

