



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
OFFICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

**Zagreb, 5th November 2007**

**International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission  
80 Maiden Lane, Suite 1505  
New York, NY 10038**

Dear Sir or Madam,

as requested by the Office of the Prime Minister of the Croatian Government, regarding the events at this year's "Zagreb Pride", the Government Office for Human Rights hereby states:

The Government of the Republic of Croatia condemns any kind of violence and discrimination towards any social group, including towards the members of gender and sex minority. In order to suppress any kind of prejudice, violence and discrimination in the Republic of Croatia, The Croatian Government has undertaken numerous activities, out of which we would like to emphasize the implementation of "hate crime" into Croatian criminal legislation, which, among others, sanctions any form of hate crime towards a person based on his/hers sex orientation. Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Croatia supports all activities aimed at raising public awareness about the rights of sex and gender minorities, including the organization of Gay Pride. This is best seen from the fact that the Head of the Office for Gender Equality of the Republic of Croatia participated at this year Gay Pride as well as at the ones before. Additionally, the Government of the Republic of Croatia, through the Office for Gender Equality of the Government of the Republic of Croatia has officially organized the celebration of the International day against Homophobia, together with civil society organizations.

The Ministry of Interior undertook comprehensive measures and activities aligned with Croatian law in order to ensure safety of all the participants of the Gay Pride. Together with the lesbian group "Kontra" the Ministry of Interior agreed upon security measures and offered all additional help in order to ensure safety of all the participants of the Gay Pride. Co-operation and actions provided by the police have been evaluated as extremely professional.

Regretfully, there are some marginal groups in the Republic of Croatia, as well as in all countries of the world, which are determined to jeopardize integrity of members of minority groups. Such groups have tried to use this event to attack the participants of the Gay Pride. We must specially emphasize that the Ministry of Interior has been extremely successful in suppressing this kind of violent activities, which is especially evident in the fact that the police members acted on 14 persons in order to prevent possible assaults, against which, the police filed a complaint for the initiation of offence procedures in accordance with the Act on the Violation of Public order and Peace, Act on Public Gathering, Act on Personal Identification. Police filed a complaint against one person based on the belief that they have done a criminal act of jeopardizing public safety and criminal act of jeopardizing life and property by generally dangerous acts or means, and criminal act of Hate crime.

From the above mentioned, it is clear that the authorized state bodies provided and ensured safety and participant's right on public gathering.

Regretfully, although professional police actions and preventive measures were secured, certain incidents and assaults on participants of the Gay pride occurred after the Gay pride, which we condemn most severely. The Police aiming to determine the identity of attackers acted in accordance with their professional rules and procedures, and following the analyses of all cases no negligence was determined on the side of the police.

Having in mind the above mentioned, the Government of the Republic of Croatia strongly condemns all forms of violence and discrimination in the Republic of Croatia and has in plan future protection and promotion of integrity of all minority groups, including members of sex and gender minority.

Respectfully,

A circular official stamp in purple ink. The outer ring contains the text "REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA" at the top and "Vlada Republike Hrvatske" at the bottom. In the center, there is a signature in blue ink that reads "L. Maderić".  
**HEAD OF THE OFFICE**  
**Luka Maderić**