



Press Release

11 December 2013
For immediate release

Right-wing parties vote down women's and LGBT rights in the European Parliament

On Tuesday 10 December, a coalition between the European People's Party (EPP) & the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) groups in the European Parliament succeeded in defeating a non-binding resolution on sexual and reproductive health.

They voted to water down calls for national governments to provide adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health services which are in accordance with age, maturity and evolving capacities, which do not discriminate on the grounds of gender, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.

The resolution was also calling for a better prevention on HIV & STDs among young people, fighting against domestic violence against women and giving more information on abortion.

The non-binding resolution proposed by Portuguese Socialist MEP, Edite Estrala, proposed *"that sexual education must include non-discriminatory information and convey a positive view of LGBTI persons, in order to underpin and protect in an effective manner the rights of young LGBTI people"*.

The vote turns the clock back. At the moment approaches to birth control, contraception, family planning and sex education vary wildly across Europe. This report was an important step in calling on members states to improve their laws in these areas and to bring a better standard across Europe.

Edite Estrela MEP, author of the report said: "It's shameful that in 2013, the European Parliament adopted a more conservative resolution than the previous text on this issue, adopted in 2002. This shows how much work remains to defend the rights of women and minorities. This is a battle lost, not the war."

Aurelien Mazuy, President of Rainbow Rose said: "Yet again the right wing and conservative parties have voted against LGBT and women's rights. The defeat for this motion sets the clock back and sends a negative message, devaluing the fight for women's and LGBT rights at a time when the European Parliament should be standing up and send a strong voice in support of equality.

"Only the centre left parties of European have the strength and commitment to deliver on LGBT rights and support progressive policies. Rainbow Rose will continue to fight alongside out MEPs to support LGBT rights and the rights of minorities.

"This is a clear illustration of why voting for the candidates from parties in the Alliance of Socialists and Democrats is vital in the 2014 European Parliament elections.

Ends

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Notes for editors:

1. Point 51 of the defeated motion underlines that sexual education must include non-discriminatory information and convey a positive view of LGBTI persons, in order to underpin and protect in an effective manner the rights of young LGBTI people;
2. You can see the full resolution [here](#)
3. Rainbow Rose is the network for the LGBT groups of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties across Europe.
4. Rainbow Rose is affiliated to the Party of European Socialists and works with the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats in the European Parliament
5. You can find more about Rainbow Rose on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/groups/RainbowRose