

Freedom thinkers

*An event series of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom*

## From Russia to Uganda – Discrimination and persecution of LGBT activists. What can the EU do?

**Wednesday, 25 June 2014**

**12.00–14.00**

Venue: Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit,  
Avenue de Cortenberg 71, 1000 Brussels

### About the event

In April, an Italian court recognized a gay couple's marriage abroad for the first time in Italy and Malta adopted same-sex civil union law, thus making Malta the 22nd European country to legally recognize same-sex unions. But anti-LGBT rhetoric and violent acts are still too frequent in Europe.

In Russia, a large majority opposes legal recognition of same-sex marriage and supports laws discriminating against LGBT people. Prohibition to hold gay pride parades was found discriminatory by the European Court of Human Rights in 2010. In June 2013, Russia received international criticism for enacting a federal law banning the distribution of "propaganda" in support of "non-traditional sexual relationships".

38 out of 53 African states criminalize homosexuality in some way. Uganda might be the most famous such case. Same-sex relations are forbidden and persecution of homosexuals has always been fierce. In 2013, the Parliament broadened criminalization of homosexuality with the introduction of the Anti-Homosexuality Act, which was signed into law by the President on 24 February 2014. The World Bank put on hold a 90 Million dollar grant to Uganda's health sector in response.

This event aims at discussing the possible actions of the EU and its member states towards states which criminalize and promote persecution of homosexuals.

Kindly register by 24 June 2014 via <http://tinyurl.com/pgeh88g> or email [register.brussels@fnst.org](mailto:register.brussels@fnst.org).

Please be advised that photographs will be taken at the event for use on the FNF website, social media, in the press, FNF marketing materials, and other publications. By entering this event, you consent to FNF photographing and using your image and likeness.

## *Invitation*

Welcome

**Hans H. Stein**

Director International Political Dialogue  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

Speakers

**Auf Usaam Mukwaya**

LGBT activist  
Uganda

**Kseniya Kirichenko**

Project Coordinator at the LGBT Organisation "Coming Out"  
Russia

**Gregory Vallianatos**

Lesbian and Gay Community of Greece (OLKE)  
Greece

Moderator

**Lousewies van der Laan**

Vicepresident, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
Party

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