

Barack Obama, President, United States of America
Donald Tusk, President, European Council
Jean-Claude Juncker, President, European Commission
Martin Schulz, President, European Parliament
Federica Mogherini, Vice-President of the European Commission, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations
Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights
Ministers of Foreign Affairs, EU Member States
Pedro Agramunt, President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General, Council of Europe
Nils Muižnieks, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe
Ilkka Kanerva, President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
Michael Georg Link, Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

17 June 2016

**Steering Committee Statement
on the Mass Shooting in Orlando, Florida**

The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Condemns the Heinous Crime Committed in the City of Orlando.

An armed terrorist broke into the LGBT nightclub "Pulse" on 12 June 2016 in Orlando, Florida, killing 50 people and injuring 53 others. We, the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, express our condolences to the families and friends of the victims and to all the people of the United States.

We condemn this heinous attack perpetrated against LGBT persons and all kinds of attacks against persons or groups on the grounds of sexual orientation.

We condemn hate speech, which festers online after incidents like this in support of terrorists and further acts of terror.

Intolerance, hate speech and hate crimes are very serious challenges in many places around the world, including the Eastern Partnership countries.



We call on the Eastern Partnership countries to adopt anti-discrimination legislation and to strengthen it in the countries where the anti-discrimination laws have been adopted in order to put an end to discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or any other grounds, as well as to hostility and a climate of impunity encouraging further attacks. It is essential to guarantee the right to life, dignity, freedom of speech and assembly for all.

*Members of the Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Statement initiated by “Public Information and Need of Knowledge” NGO (“PINK Armenia”)*