

Prime Minister, Mr Mirko Cvetkovic
Minister of Interior, Mr Ivica Dacic

Stockholm, October 5th 2010

Dear Mr Mirko Cvetkovic and Mr Ivica Dacic,

Civil Rights Defenders along with several other international human rights organisations, will closely monitor and take part in the upcoming Belgrade Pride on October 10. We give our full support to the participants and we welcome the positive measures already taken by the government of Serbia and the promises made by the Serbian Ministry of Interior, but we also have high expectations that these promises will be fulfilled on Pride Belgrade itself.

Civil Rights Defenders appreciates the positive statements in support of Pride that the Ministry of Interior have communicated during the preparations of this year's Pride. The promise of full protection during the upcoming Belgrade Pride on October 10 is also very encouraging. Considering the brutal attacks against the participants who tried to realise Pride in 2001 and the failure to provide protection during the attempt to organise Pride in 2009, we sincerely hope and expect that the Ministry of Interior this time is fully prepared to guarantee security. We also expect that enough resources have been put aside for the purpose of protecting the participants. It is the obligation of the state of Serbia to respect and protect the fundamental right of freedom of peaceful assembly, enshrined in Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights during the Belgrade Pride.

Civil Rights Defenders proclaims its full support for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons and for their right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. The Belgrade Pride planned for October 10, gives the Serbian government another opportunity to prove that it is capable to provide real protection of LGBT persons.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Hårdh
Executive Director