STATEMENT

by EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on LGBTI persons’ rights in India

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"I take note with concern of the Ruling of India's Supreme Court reversing a 2009 New Delhi High Court order which had decriminalised homosexual acts. I call on India to uphold its national and international commitments – in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights – to protect the exercise of these rights by all individuals.

The EU is committed to the universality of human rights and reaffirms that cultural, traditional or religious values cannot be invoked to justify any form of discrimination, including discrimination against LGBTI persons. I wish to reaffirm the EU's commitment to equality and non-discrimination. The EU campaigns tirelessly for the respect of human rights, irrespective of sexual orientation and gender identity."

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