

Mr. Klitschko
Mayor of Kyiv
City Administration
Khreshchatyk 36
01044 Kyiv

RE: Kyiv Pride

Dear Mr. Klitschko,

Firstly, we would like to congratulate you and the people of Ukraine on your victory at the Eurovision Song Contest. Following recent dramatic developments within your country, we sincerely hope, just like in 2005, that the Eurovision Song Contest in 2017 will be a token of hope and celebration after all that has happened.

We fully understand that the road towards a society build on modern western democratic values is not an easy one, however, it is hopeful to see that so many understand the concept of fundamental human rights and are willing to contribute to a society that is inclusive and built on strong democratic values.

Just like last year, this year the LGBTI community in Ukraine has expressed the desire to utilize their right of assembly and speech by holding a Pride March on June 12th.

We fully understand that some in society feel averse towards LGBTI people, as we have seen in many countries in Eastern Europe, but we have also seen that in a relatively short period of time, society is capable of accepting diversity. One can think of Poland, Latvia, Bulgaria and Serbia. In these countries, the first Pride events did not take place without counter-protesters, but with authorities securing the Pride Marches, hence giving strong signals of inclusion towards society, inclusiveness of LGBTI people in society got propelled.

We sincerely hope that you recognize the fundamental human rights that also apply to the LGBTI community in Ukraine, and Kyiv specifically. Being able to hold a Pride March that is secured and protected by the authorities is part of the ongoing efforts in the transformation of Ukraine into a modern stable democracy where all Ukrainians are respected and protected.

One of our Vice-Presidents, Frank van Dalen, has visited Ukraine several times. He is looking forward to visiting your beautiful city again on the weekend of June 10-12th and participate in the hopefully secured Pride March.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Doster
Co-President



Brett Hayhoe
Co-President