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Norwegian Ambassador waiting for Lithuanians' reaction to 11 March rally

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Norwegian Ambassador to Lithuania Steinar Gil expressed his disappointment about lack of reactions from the Lithuanian political elite regarding nationalistic youth rally on 11 March in Vilnius. More than 500 nationalistic youth marched from the St. Ann's church to former the Vilnius Sports palace.

The Ambassador expressed his disappointment during a seminar **“European and Lithuanian Values: Identical or Different?”** held on 19 March in Parliament. During discussion the Ambassador said, “These people were shouting – Lithuania for Lithuanians. Two years ago they were shouting “Juden Raus.” We know the history of Lithuania during the 2nd World War... My question is – how many parliamentarians have spoken up against this kind of demonstration? How many officials in Lithuania have spoken up against this kind of manifestation?”

The Norwegian Ambassador reminded that the same authorities that issued a permit for this rally to take place in the centre of Vilnius are refusing to do the same for the Baltic Pride. The Baltic Pride permitted to be held away from the Centre of Vilnius. Steiner Gil noted that, “All foreigners in Lithuania noticed this, we're aware of this and I must say we are quite shocked. The gay parade is not about likes or dislikes, it is not about tolerance, it is about respect and it is about rights. Whether we like it or not, we have to respect the rights”.

Lithuania's Member of the European Parliament Leonidas Donskis who also participated in the event called on the Lithuanian political establishment not to be afraid of losing their political capital in talking about problems of tolerance in Lithuania. The politicians should also remember that they must lead. MEP Donskis on Alfa.It said that he is surprised that Lithuania's Prime Minister and President did not comment on the 11 March rally.

Tagged as: [11 March](#), [Baltic Pride](#), [Leonidas Donskis](#), [LGBT](#), [Norway](#), [Steinar Gil](#)

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1 Comment



1. *Nick Knight*

03/21/2010 • 5:44 pm

As a Lithuanian I am ashamed we allow hate groups, but prosecute homosexuals. First we passed a hate law known as the "Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information" , now were blocking a Gay pride parade. Those currently in power so not see how this makes us look like hate mongering idiots. I assure the reader this attitude does reflect the majority of Lithuanians.

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