

translation of:

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Lithuanian Social Democrat Parliamentary Faction's Statement on the Rights of Vulnerable People

The development and process of democracy needs to be constantly nurtured and the ideas of democracy constantly celebrated. Lithuania, in acceding to the European Union and other democratic global organizations, has pledged herself to honor fundamental human rights and freedoms. Unfortunately, although Lithuania has become an EU member, under the current governance of the right-wing, violations of human rights and freedoms are still occurring in our country. The most unfortunate thing is that members of the Lithuanian parliament elected by the nation are contributing to this.

The Lithuanian Social Democrat Party Faction in Parliament

One parliamentarian took care of getting the permit for the "Lithuania for Lithuanians" march of fascist youth and another fifty MPs went on record opposing a march of sexual orientation minorities in Vilnius. A meeting against a march by sexual minorities took place in front of the Vilnius municipality building with certain European Parliament and Lithuanian parliament members in attendance. All of this demonstrates a worsening of the situation of democracy in Lithuania. Foreign ambassadors resident in Lithuania have spoken out against this and have noted the apathy of the political elite when fascist youth march the streets of Vilnius, and not a single person from among the nation's leaders has expressed a critical opinion on these events which do not bring honor to Lithuania.

Lithuanian parliamentarians should protect the principles of democracy and defend human rights and freedoms rather than come to terms with the expression of aggression and violent instincts and the sowing of hate in society, and shouldn't seek cheap popularity by agreeing with the mob that would

deny human rights. Lithuania spends many thousands of litas for propagating the image of our country abroad and makes tremendous efforts to attract investment, but violations of human rights and freedoms in our country diminish these efforts. What can foreign ambassadors who condemn human rights violations occurring in Lithuania recommend to international corporations intending to invest here?

Each of us belongs to a certain race, gender, sexual orientation and age group, we have greater or lesser disabilities, but we are all united by the fact we are humans. And human rights and freedoms have to be respected. Only a society that respects the rights of all social groups can call itself truly democratic.

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