**Case: Costas, Greece**

*Minister of Justice,*

*Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights,*

*96 Mesogeion Avenue,*

*115 27 Athens,*

*Greece*

Dear Minister,

In August 2014, Costas and his refugee partner were badly beaten up in a homophobic and racist attack in central Athens. No suspects have ever been identified or punished.

In 2015, the number of reported attacks against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex (LGBTI) people have more than doubled compared to 2014. Racist attacks remain an ongoing issue.

Despite positive legislative steps, the Greek authorities have not done enough to tackle rising violence motivated by hatred. They repeatedly fail to unmask any hate motive behind attacks, and to protect everyone affected. Additionally, the lack of legal recognition of same-sex couples and of gender identity makes the LGBTI community feel even more vulnerable.

Minister, I urge you to:

* Personally ensure this hate crime is promptly, independently and impartially investigated and that Costas and his partner get compensation for the injuries and trauma they have suffered.
* Find and punish those responsible with a sentence that fully recognizes the hate motive behind their crime.
* Take all necessary measures to ensure all LGBTI people, refugees and migrants, people of colour, and other targets for hate crimes in Greece can live free from harassment and violence.
* Ensure the legal recognition of relationships of all gender combinations and of gender identity.

Yours sincerely,