



To: President of Partido Popular Pablo Casado Blanco, President of the Community of Madrid Isabel Díaz Ayuso

Cc: Spokesperson and Deputy of Partido Popular in the Madrid Assembly Alfonso Serrano

15 December 2021

Dear President of Partido Popular Pablo Casado Blanco and President of the Community of Madrid Isabel Díaz Ayuso,

We are writing to you on behalf of ILGA-Europe (the European region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association), with over 600 member organisations in 54 countries across Europe and Central Asia.

Spain is a European leader in equality and non-discrimination, particularly when it comes to LGBTI rights. For many years, it has consistently ranked in the top 10 European countries for the legal and policy framework for the protection of the human rights of LGBTI people, as shown by our annual rainbow map. These achievements would not have been possible without the support of Spain's major parties. It has been inspirational for major political parties across Europe to see the progression made by the Partido Popular in the past years as regards LGBTI rights, in particular its historic support for the LGTBI Law at the Madrid regional level.

We have recently been informed that the political party VOX has registered a parliamentary draft to introduce new legislation concerning LGBTI rights in the region of Madrid, which would eliminate two LGBTI regional laws; the [LGTBI Law](#) and the [Trans Law](#). Both laws were passed in 2016 with a wide consensus within the regional chamber, so it is clear that this parliamentary draft is an attempt by VOX to deny a wide range of rights to LGBTI people in the Madrid region. We are writing to you today to call on you to ensure that your party is standing strong against these attempts to regress from established rights of LGBTI people.

If this piece of legislation succeeds it will be the first time since Spanish democracy was established in which LGBTI rights will regress in Spain. Spain is known as a safe haven for many LGBTI people across the continent. A regression on LGBTI rights would not only damage rights in Madrid, but also have a knock-on effect on the current negotiations about LGBTI rights at the national level, impacting the reputation of not only Spain, but also the Partido Popular, at the European level.

As we understand, in order for VOX's proposal to be rejected, the Madrid Partido Popular needs to vote no in order to prevent this draft legislation to proceed further through the regional assembly on 16 December. Therefore, we ask for your continued support for the equal treatment of LGBTI people in



Madrid and broader Spain, in voting against allowing this draft legislation, and voting to uphold the human rights of LGBTI people.

Kind regards,

Katrin Hugendubel
Advocacy Director
ILGA-Europe