



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 21 June 2010  
**Expert:** Margarita Ilieva  
**Title:** Equality body declares municipal ban on public demonstration of sexual orientation to be direct discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation  
**Country:** Bulgaria  
**Context:**  
**Issue at stake:** Attempted curtailment of gay pride manifestation  
**Ground of discrimination:** Sexual orientation  
**Source:** Equality body decision - 11 May 2010, Decision N 107 in case N 271/ 2009  
**Field:** Freedom of expression and of association

### **Content:**

**Case:** The equality body held that the Pazardzhik municipal council committed direct discrimination against non-heterosexuals by adopting a regulation banning public demonstration of sexual orientation. The body held that even though the ban was formulated in apparently neutral terms ('sexual orientation' as opposed to 'homosexual orientation'), it specifically targeted non-heterosexuals, which was obvious from public statements made by councillors. The body ordered the council to repeal the impugned rule and to abstain from further adoption of discriminatory norms.

**Internet link source and additional information:** not available yet.