



## NEWS REPORT

<b>Date:</b>	20 June 2010
<b>Expert:</b>	Mirjana Najcevska
<b>Title:</b>	Harassment on the grounds of sexual orientation and belief
<b>Country:</b>	FYR Macedonia
<b>Context</b>	
<b>Issue at stake:</b>	Public event prohibiting presence of homosexuals and non-believers
<b>Ground of discrimination:</b>	Sexual orientation and religion/belief
<b>Source:</b>	Public event
<b>Field:</b>	Public spaces
<b>Legislative provisions:</b>	Art. 7 of the Law on Prevention and Protection from Discrimination

### Content

**Socio-political development:** In the period of 13-15 June 2010, it was announced that the "6<sup>th</sup> International Moto Festival" would take place on 18-19 June 2010 in Skopje's fortress, which is in the very centre of the town. On the promotion material (posters, websites and video announcements) there was a ban on homosexual and non-believers. The former were designated as "Homo" (in the English version) and "pederasi" (in the Macedonian version which is a pejorative word for homosexuals) while the latter were designated under the symbol "666". Weapon, drugs, animals and alcohol were also forbidden during the Festival. The City of Skopje is the traditional sponsor of this Festival, including this year. Neither the City of Skopje nor any other local self-government (particularly the municipality "Centre" - Skopje), nor the central Governmental authorities reacted against this. A group of NGOs and part of the media organised a press-conference on June 16 to denounce hate speech and discrimination caused by the posters. Only after the NGOs' reaction, the organiser, the sport company "Night Wolves", tried to avoid critics by arguing that they did not really intend to stop entrance of homosexuals. It was merely using the word "peder" by reference to a "person's character". The City authorities of Skopje published on 17 June a statement that they were not aware of the content of the promotion material and requested the word 'homo' to be deleted.



However, they did not request deletion of the symbol "666", they did not announce that they would investigate the responsibility of the city administration and they did not condemn this harassment.

**Internet link source and additional information:**

[http://www.nightwolves.com.mk/index\\_mk.htm](http://www.nightwolves.com.mk/index_mk.htm) (last entered 19.06.2010)

[http://www.utrinski.com.mk/default.asp?](http://www.utrinski.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=CDF3F9A69AEAFD48A186FB0D6D8AC7F7)

[ItemID=CDF3F9A69AEAFD48A186FB0D6D8AC7F7](http://www.utrinski.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=CDF3F9A69AEAFD48A186FB0D6D8AC7F7)

[http://www.skopje.gov.mk/ShowAnnouncements.aspx?](http://www.skopje.gov.mk/ShowAnnouncements.aspx?ItemID=3442&mid=482&tabId=1&tabindex=0)

[ItemID=3442&mid=482&tabId=1&tabindex=0](http://www.skopje.gov.mk/ShowAnnouncements.aspx?ItemID=3442&mid=482&tabId=1&tabindex=0)