

URGENT ACTION

POLICE PROTECT TRANSGENDER RIGHTS MARCH

On 23 November, adequate police protection enabled up to one hundred transgender rights activists in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, to hold the 2019 Trans March and mark Transgender Day of Remembrance. The police successfully prevented attempts by groups openly advocating hatred and discrimination to disrupt the event.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

Transgender rights activists were able to hold a march on 23 November in Ukraine's capital Kyiv to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance. Police officers successfully protected the event, known as Trans March, allowing up to one hundred activists to peacefully exercise their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

The successful protection of the Trans March comes in striking contrast with the similar event in 2018, when police failed to protect participants, did not take action against members of violent groups who attacked the march, and instead forced transgender rights activists into a nearby metro station effectively terminating their peaceful assembly.

This year the Trans March began at Mykhailivska square in central Kyiv with a minute of silence and followed with speeches by transgender rights activists. The participants of the Trans March were protected by a police cordon from members of groups openly advocating hatred and discrimination, assembled nearby. The police successfully curbed at least one real attempt to breach the cordon.

Twenty minutes after the beginning of the gathering, transgender rights activists proceeded to march through the central streets of Kyiv. The marchers' column was protected by dozens of police officers. There were also dozens of police officers patrolling nearby streets and areas from which the marchers could be potentially attacked, including on their way back from the event. The march ended at Poshtova square and all participants were able to safely leave the area using a nearby metro station.

Organisers of the Trans March have thanked everyone in Ukraine and internationally whose support has contributed to this positive outcome.

THIS IS THE SECOND AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 157/19

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/EUR50/1410/2019/en/>

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