

Sender:

Ministry of Internal Affairs
Minister Arsen Avakov
01601, Kyiv, vul. Akademika Bohomol'tsya, 10
UKRAINE

Place / Date:

Vitalina Koval

Dear Minister Avakov,

I am writing on behalf of Amnesty International regarding Vitalina Koval, a human rights defender of women rights and LGBTI rights. Ms Koval was violently attacked by members of a right-wing group during an International Women's Day event that she organized in 2018 in her hometown Uzhgorod. She was targeted for her sexual orientation and women's rights activism (see attachment for additional information on the case). After more than three years of investigations and court proceedings, recent developments indicate that there is a risk justice will not be attained in her case. The case of Ms Koval is emblematic of the longstanding issue of impunity for hate crimes in Ukraine. That is why Amnesty International is reaching out to you with a request to publicly support Ms Koval and urge the Ukrainian authorities to ensure justice for her.

- The attack against LGBTI activist Vitalina Koval in 2018 must be investigated as a hate crime. After more than three years, justice must finally be served.
- We are concerned with the lack of progress in the investigation of the 2018 attack against LGBTI activist Vitalina Koval. Ukraine must end impunity for hate crimes against LGBTI people.
- On IDAHOBIT I am calling on Ukraine to protect LGBTI people like Vitalina Koval who was violently attacked in 2018 and still waits for justice.

Best regards,

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