



### **Sphere workers attacked for defending LGBT & women rights in Ukraine.**

The Sphere Organization has been championing LGBT and women's rights since 2006. Founded by activists Anna Sharyhina and Vira Chernygina, they provide a safe space for women and LGBT people in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city.

Although Ukraine is considered one of the most progressive post-Soviet countries on LGBT rights, it's still failing to address the growing rate of hate crimes. As groups targeting LGBTI people have proliferated across the country, Sphere has suffered numerous discriminatory attacks. These attacking groups have set upon Sphere's supporters and premises, urinating on their walls, breaking windows and chanting homophobic slogans at them. There have been dozens of attacks like these. Anna and Vira report them to the police, but no one is held accountable.

In 2019, Sphere organized Kharkiv's first Pride March ever. Sphere created a hugely successful event attended by 3,000 people. But the police failed to protect marchers from violence, instead joining in by hurling homophobic abuse. Anna and Vira say that police inaction in the face of constant attacks has left Sphere and their supporters in a permanent state of fear.

"I want our attackers to be held accountable in accordance with the law," says Anna. Add your voice to Anna and Vira's.

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### **Tell Ukraine to bring Sphere's attackers to justice.**

#### **WRITE TO UKRAINE'S AUTHORITIES**

Tell them to ensure that the attacks on Sphere – including the hate motive – are investigated, and those responsible are held to account in fair trials.

TO: Ministry of Internal Affairs

ADDRESS: vul. Akademika Bohomoltsa, 10

01601 Kyiv, Ukraine

EMAIL: [pgmia@mvs.gov.ua](mailto:pgmia@mvs.gov.ua)

TWITTER: @MVS\_UA

SALUTATION: Dear Minister

#### **STAND WITH SPHERE**

Write messages of support for Sphere. Let them know you standing with them.

ADDRESS: . Sphere PO Box 10399 Kharkiv, 61005 Ukraine

You can also sign a Pride flag, add your city's name to it, and send it to Sphere so they can use it to decorate their community center.

**OR** post a supportive message on your social media channels, tagging Sphere @ spherewa on Facebook and @KharkivPride on Twitter and Instagram.