



**INTERNATIONAL HUMANIST AND ETHICAL UNION**  
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June 22, 2009

Valdas Adamkus  
President of the Republic of Lithuania  
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Dear President,

I am writing as president of the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU), a non-governmental organization representing more than one hundred member groups from 40 countries, to urge you not to sign the "Law on the Protection of Minors against the Detrimental Effect of Public Information". IHEU works to promote secular and democratic government and to defend the human rights of every human being.

IHEU is very concerned by this proposed law, believing it would reinforce discrimination based on sexual orientation and deny the right to freedom of expression. We are particularly concerned that this law would deprive young people of access to potentially vital education, support and protection. By denying young people access to balanced information about sexual orientation the legislation risks further isolating youth who are already among the most at risk for committing suicide or suffering hate crimes.

Indeed, we believe that if the measure is enacted, Lithuania would be in violation of its obligations under international and European human rights treaties to which it is a state party. Lithuania has an obligation to uphold the rights of all its citizens – including its lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender youth.

I thank you for your consideration in this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Sonja Eggerickx  
President, International Humanist and Ethical Union