

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL 

**SPHERE  
UKRAINE**

**ATTACKED FOR  
DEFENDING LGBTQIA+  
& WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

# SPHERE UKRAINE

Sphere NGO have been championing LGBTQIA+ and women's rights since 2006, and are among the oldest organisations of their kind in the country. Founded by activists Anna Sharyhina and Vira Chernygina, they provide a safe space for women and LGBTQIA+ people in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city.

Although Ukraine is considered one of the most progressive post-Soviet countries on LGBTQIA+ rights, it's still failing to address the growing rate of hate crimes. As groups targeting LGBTQIA+ people have proliferated across the country, Sphere have suffered numerous discriminatory attacks. These groups have set upon Sphere's supporters and premises, urinating on their walls, smearing faeces on the doorknobs, 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 organised Kharkiv's first Pride ever. Despite threats and intimidation, Sphere created a hugely successful event attended by up to 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.

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



## ACT NOW

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

Grab a petition and start collecting names and emails.

## STAND WITH SPHERE

Print off the solidarity letter template and write a message of support to Sphere.

## SEND TO

Post your petitions, letters and solidarity letters to:

Amnesty International Australia,  
Locked Bag 23,  
Broadway NSW 2007  
Australia.

Make sure you post them to us by 31 January 2022.

We'll post them to the target, include them in the handover in February 2022 and make sure that Sphere get your solidarity messages.

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