

16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2018

## **P R E S S   S T A T E M E N T**

The European Network of Parents of LGBTI+ Persons (ENP) is saddened and appalled by the recent events taking place in Romania, regarding the push to outlaw same-sex marriage.

The proponents of the referendum being held on October 7th are aiming to keep a portion of the population as second-class citizens, which goes contrary to EU's policy on equality. It is a planned attack on love, by those who still hold the thought that love has a gender, which it obviously doesn't.

At present, the Romanian Constitution defines the family as the free-willed marriage "between spouses" but the initiative's promoters want to amend it to state that a family is the union between a man and a woman, so as to make same-sex marriages unconstitutional in Romania. Therefore some questions arise: *Will this be a strategy adopted by other European States? Is the European Union going to just watch states dismantle their own equality legislation and do nothing? What collective measures are being taken to redress this dangerous path, if other countries choose to do the same in future?*

ENP stands in support of all Romanian LGBTI+ people, their parents and families in protest of this senseless referendum and holds to account, those public officers who are shying away from their responsibility to safeguard equality for all.

*ENP Board*