

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000215/26
to the Commission**

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(21 January 2026)

Subject: Police raid on LGBT persons in Baku and Azerbaijan's human rights obligations towards the EU

Recent credible reports, including by international media and human rights organisations, describe a police raid on an LGBT-friendly club in Baku, Azerbaijan during which more than 100 people were detained. Detainees reportedly faced violence, humiliation, denial of access to legal counsel and discriminatory treatment based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Such practices raise serious concerns regarding Azerbaijan's compliance with its international human rights obligations, including under the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as its commitments under the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement ⁽¹⁾, which places respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms at the core of bilateral relations.

In this context, the Commission is asked:

1. How does the Commission assess these reported events and Azerbaijan's compliance with its human rights obligations, in particular regarding non-discrimination and protection of minorities?
2. Has the Commission raised these allegations with the Azerbaijani authorities, and if so, what was their response?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take, including through political dialogue and conditionality in EU-Azerbaijan cooperation, to address these violations and to support civil society and vulnerable communities, including LGBT persons in Azerbaijan?

Submitted: 21.1.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(5 May 2026)

Human rights and the rule of law are an essential part of EU-Azerbaijan relations, as outlined in the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement ⁽¹⁾.

The EU was made aware of the reports about a police raid on a LGBTIQ-friendly night club in Baku in December 2025, during which more than 100 persons were reportedly detained. Reports about alleged ill-treatment during the detention are particularly concerning.

All allegations of ill-treatment or torture need to be independently investigated. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is unacceptable.

In Azerbaijan, the human rights situation for LGBTIQ individuals remains fragile and characterised by inadequate legal safeguards and institutional protection.

The EU will continue to closely follow the human rights situation in the country and will maintain dialogue with the authorities on such issues.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law will remain central to the future development of EU-Azerbaijan relations. The EU Delegation will continue to co-host and participate in events dedicated to supporting human rights defenders in Azerbaijan.

¹ OJ L 246, 17.9.1999, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/1999/614/oj.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/azerbaijan/>.