

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



VITALINA KOVAL

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER, UKRAINE

**VIOLENTLY ATTACKED FOR
SUPPORTING LGBTI RIGHTS**

VITALINA KOVAL

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER

UKRAINE

Vitalina Koval has always wanted to make a positive difference. She uses her incredible energy to support local LGBTI people in her home city, Uzhgorod. But she and other activists have been violently attacked by far-right groups, just for speaking out against hate.

On 8 March 2018, Vitalina organized a peaceful demonstration for women's and LGBTI rights to mark International Women's Day. The police reassured her that she and her fellow demonstrators would be safe.



On the day, a group shouted insults and hurled red paint, and Vitalina received chemical burns to her eyes. Her attackers were detained briefly but released just hours later. Afterwards, Vitalina and others received further threats, and two activists reported that they were beaten up.

There has still been no effective investigation into what happened on 8 March. The attacks are part of a wider surge in violence and intimidation by far-right groups in Ukraine, who claim the inclusive values supported by people like Vitalina are “unhealthy”. But Vitalina and human rights defenders like her won't give into fear and hate. Let's stand with them.

Tell Ukraine to protect Vitalina and other activists defending women's and LGBTI rights.

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WRITE TO UKRAINE'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Tell him to publicly recognize the vital role of Vitalina and other activists who defend women's and LGBTI rights, and protect them from attacks by far-right groups.

Minister of Interior

*Vul. Akademika Bohomoltsa, 10
Kyiv, 01601
Ukraine*

Email: pgmia@mvs.gov.ua

Twitter: @AvakovArsen

Facebook: www.facebook.com/arsen.avakov.1

Salutation: Dear Minister

STAND WITH VITALINA

She told us she's gained so much strength from those who have supported her so far – let her know you stand alongside her in the face of hate.

Vitalina Koval

*Amnesty International Ukraine Office – postal box address
POB 40
04050
Kyiv
Ukraine*

Twitter: @VitalinaKovalUA

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**