

# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

## BELARUS

### Ihar Tsikhanyuk

#### BEATEN BY POLICE FOR BEING GAY

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals face negative stereotyping and prejudice in Belarus, where there are currently no registered LGBTI organisations.

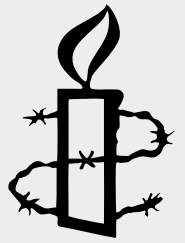
In January, Ihar Tsikhanyuk, an openly gay drag performer and LGBTI rights activist, unsuccessfully attempted to register Human Rights Centre Lambda, with the authorities as an LGBTI organisation. He was subsequently questioned by police, who subjected him to physical and verbal abuse because of his sexuality.

No one has been held to account for Ihar's mistreatment. He and others connected to Human Rights Centre Lambda remain at risk of further threats and abuse because of their sexuality and LGBTI activism.

■ [www.amnesty.org.uk/ihar](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/ihar)



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#### SEND A SOLIDARITY CARD TO:

Ihar Tsikhanyuk  
c/o Belarus Team  
Amnesty International  
1 Easton Street  
London  
WC1X 0DW

- **Preferred language** Belarusian, Russian and English
- **Salutation** Dear Ihar Tsikhanyuk
- **Suggested message** We admire your work in such difficult circumstances and wish you success in it. (*Belarusian:* Мы захапляемся вашай працай у такіх цяжкіх умовах і жадаем Вам поспехаў у ёй. *Russian:* Мы восхищаемся вашей работой в таких тяжелых условиях и желаем Вам успехов в ней).

#### CAN I

- ✗ Send a religious card or message?
- ✓ Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?
- ✗ Include my name and address?
- ✓ Download the message in another language?

'I don't want to hide myself. I live openly. It is not easy in Belarus, but I want to show people that I am a person like everybody. Maybe with my example I want to show that it is possible to live openly.'

Ihar Tsikhanyuk

#### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER TO:

Urge General Prosecutor Alyaksandr Koniuk to investigate Ihar Tsikhanyuk's allegations and bring those responsible to justice.

**Write to:** Generalnaya Prokuratura  
ul. Internatsionalnaya 22  
220030 Minsk  
Belarus

**Fax:** +375 17 226 42 52 (Please say 'fax' clearly if someone answers)

**Email:** [info@prokuratura.gov.by](mailto:info@prokuratura.gov.by)

**Salutation:** Dear General Prosecutor

#### In your letter:

- Urge the General Prosecutor to start a thorough and independent investigation into Ihar Tsikhanyuk's allegations that he was beaten by police and targeted because of his sexual orientation.
- Call on him to ensure that the officers responsible face disciplinary and criminal proceedings.
- Ask him to end the obstruction, harassment and intimidation of non-governmental organisations involved in human rights in Belarus.