



## EUROPEAN FORUM OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER CHRISTIAN GROUPS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **A CALL TO THE CARDINALS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The European Forum of Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Christian Groups, representing forty-six member groups from twenty-two European countries, and from Anglican, Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant confessions, welcomes the wise decision of His Holiness Pope Benedict 16 to retire from his ministry today.

We earnestly pray for the cardinals gathering to meet in conclave to elect his successor, expressing the wish that they will take into consideration the particular needs of those Christians of diverse sexual orientation and sexual identity, and address the issue of homophobia based on misinterpretation of religious texts.

Michael Brinkschröder, a Catholic, and male co-President of the Forum, noted that “In recent years dialogue has been initiated with many bishops in the Roman Catholic Church who are prepared openly to discuss these issues with us. We hope the new pontiff will permit and encourage this conversation to continue and develop, so that Catholics in all their diversity may play their full part in the life of the Church”.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with a member of the Board of the European Forum, please call Michael Brinkschröder on +49 (89) 651020603 or email him on [michael.brinkschroeder@web.de](mailto:michael.brinkschroeder@web.de)