

February 2009

Thank you for your email regarding the recent report concerning fundamental rights by Mr Cantania MEP which was voted on 14th January 2009.

Due to the emotive nature of some of the report there were a number of free votes. For the reason indicated below, I and my Conservative colleagues abstained on the resolution on a whole.

We Conservatives in Europe do have concerns about the proposed anti-discrimination directive and it has always been our view that while we abhor discrimination in all its forms, producing a one-size fits all Directive at European level could make the problem worse. However the matter is still being discussed by the European Commission and the Council of Ministers. Please rest assured that we will take your views into account when this matter comes before the European Parliament again.

Many thanks for raising your concerns with me.

Giles Chichester MEP

**Report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2004-2008
(2007/2145(INI))**

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Rapporteur: Giusto Catania

61.

"Stresses the need to raise public awareness of the right to reproductive and sexual health, and calls on the Member States to ensure that women can fully enjoy these rights, to put in place appropriate sex education, information and confidential advisory services, and to facilitate access to contraception in order to prevent all unwanted pregnancies and illegal and high-risk abortions, and to combat the practice of female genital mutilation;"

76.

"Urges the Commission to submit proposals ensuring that Member States apply the principle of mutual recognition for homosexual couples, whether they are married or living in a registered civil partnership, in particular when they are exercising their right to free movement under EU law;"