Dear [name of MEP],

On Tuesday 24th, during the evening vote session, you will be voting on the Report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union 2018-2019.

I am calling on you to support amendment 44 during this vote.

The rapporteur on this report, Clare Daly MEP, included a reference to the case of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, recognising that it poses a threat to journalists and freedom of expression in Europe. However, at the committee stage, the European People's Party, the Socialists and Democrats, and the Renew group, all voted to remove reference to Assange from the text.

I believe the criminal prosecution of Julian Assange – for journalism carried out entirely within the European Union – has wide-reaching implications. It threatens the freedom of the press in Europe, and jeopardizes the fundamental rights of all Europeans.

I am not alone in this. The European Federation of Journalists [stated](https://europeanjournalists.org/blog/2020/01/02/international-journalist-statement-in-defence-of-julian-assange/) that the detention and prosecution of Assange sets "an extremely dangerous precedent for journalists, media actors and freedom of the press." The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe [recognized](http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=28508&lang=en) that "the detention and criminal prosecution of Mr. Julian Assange set a dangerous precedent for journalists," and demanded "that Mr. Assange’s extradition to the United States must be barred and that he must be promptly released." The High Commissioner of Human Rights for the Council of Europe, Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, [stated](https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/julian-assange-should-not-be-extradited-due-to-potential-impact-on-press-freedom-and-concerns-about-ill-treatment) that "allowing Julian Assange’s extradition on this basis would have a chilling effect on media freedom, and could ultimately hamper the press in performing its task as purveyor of information and public watchdog in democratic societies."

It is proper that this case is mentioned in the European Parliament's report on fundamental rights, and it is unacceptable that it was removed. Whatever is thought of Assange, the hard fact is that this case is harmful to fundamental rights in Europe. MEPs must oppose it.

The rapporteur, Clare Daly, has tabled a plenary amendment, amendment X, which adds the reference to the Assange case back into the text. It is crucial that it passes.

Please support amendment 44 on Tuesday evening.

I will be paying close attention to this vote. I hope I can count on you to do the right thing.

Yours,

[your name]