

**STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER
IN RESPONSE TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF ADAMMIA'S STATEMENT
20 APRIL 2019**

On 18 April 2018, the Prime Minister of the Empire of Adammia - Lord Juliano Saunders - released a public statement to a public Adammic venue condemning the Adammic monarch and the Austenasian government for the third part of the Second Amendment to the Austenasian Constitution of 2011. Lord Saunders's statement derided this government for alleged "regressive treatment of the LGBT community," stated that "Austenasia is no example [to follow]," and called upon Adam I of Adammia to revoke his Imperial Knighthood of the Austenasian Order.

Adam I delivered a statement in response clarifying his support for the rights of the LGBT community but affirming that he will not issue any form of condemnation towards the Empire of Austenasia or her government. I thank the Adammic monarch for his rational and professional response to the issue, and wish to reaffirm the amicable ties that link our states. However, I cannot allow the statements made by Lord Saunders to go without a response from his Austenasian counterpart.

The first issue with Lord Saunders's statement I would like to discuss is his timing. The referendum which enacted the Second Amendment was held over a year ago and was widely publicised. I'm not entirely sure what Lord Saunders hoped to accomplish with his statement, as the Second Amendment is at this point old news. In addition to this, I have spent the past two weeks working on a draft for a bill which would codify domestic partnerships for same-sex couples.

Lord Saunders's approach to diplomacy is indicative of one who acts with naïveté in regards to the accepted practices of diplomacy within the community of small nations. As His Imperial Majesty Emperor Jonathan I pointed out in his statement, this behaviour is immature and disrespectful to the democratic processes of the Empire.

I can assure the Adammic Prime Minister and the people of our two nations that this government is in no way, shape or form anti-LGBT. I am an openly bisexual male, and my Deputy Prime Minister is a trans woman. This government prides itself on its progressive approach to social issues, however we cannot undermine an amendment to our Constitution which was enacted by a free, fair and democratic referendum.

I urge Lord Saunders to re-think his approach to international affairs and to put more research into his decisions and statements. Prime Minister, you mind your internal affairs and we'll mind ours.

Thank you, and may God save the Emperor.

