

NGO JOINT STATEMENT ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network; International Service for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, COC Netherlands, International Commission of Jurists, Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany LSVD, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights – RFSL, Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Right), Human Rights First, ILGA-Europe (European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association), Shirkat Gah- Women's Resource Centre, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Human Rights Council of Australia, Corporacion Humanas, LBL Denmark, International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT), Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, OMCT.

Madame Vice-President, I am pleased to speak to issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and human rights, on behalf of 119 NGOs (**21 ECOSOC-accredited**) **from over 60 countries (see attached list)**, and more than 300+ participants from 23 countries who endorsed the Joint Statement during the Asia Pacific Outgames Conference last week.

We welcome the statement on **violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity**, delivered by **Colombia** on behalf of a **broad grouping of 83 States** from all UN regions. We also welcome the comments from the delegate from Nigeria, on behalf of the African Group that "laws that criminalize sexual orientation should be expunged."

We commend the large core group of states advancing this initiative and we are particularly encouraged by the **measurable increase in cross-regional support** for these issues in recent years. It is hard to imagine that any State committed to human rights could disagree with the principle that **States have a collective responsibility to end human rights violations against all those who are marginalized.**

Numerous Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies have documented or commented on violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including use of the **death penalty, killings, torture, criminal sanctions, police harassment, rape, beatings, and disappearances.**¹ We urge all Special Procedures, treaty bodies and other stakeholders to continue to integrate these important issues across all of their mandates.

As **UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon** stated in this room in January of this year:²

"I understand that sexual orientation and gender identity raise sensitive cultural issues. But cultural practice can not justify any violation of human rights...(W)hen our fellow humans are persecuted because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, we must speak out...(H)uman rights are human rights everywhere, for everyone."

And as High Commissioner stated to the Council during this session:³

"We are not trying to create new or special rights. We are simply trying to address the challenges that prevent millions of people from enjoying the same human rights as their

¹ International Commission of Jurists: http://www.icj.org/IMG/UN_references_on_SOGI.pdf.

² Remarks by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on 25th January 2011, during a special sitting of the UN Human Rights Council:

<http://www.arc-international.net/global-advocacy/generalassembly/un-sg-statement-to-hrc-on-sogi-issues-.htm>

³ Interactive Dialogue with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, Item 3, 16th session of the HRC.

fellow human beings just because they happen to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.”

In closing, Madame Vice-President, we would like to reiterate that the Council cannot simply refuse to address or discuss human rights violations against any individuals, without **violating its own mandate**, as provided in GA resolution 60/251. We look forward to **future dialogue within this Council**, with the support of those States which did not yet feel able to join the statement, but which share the concern of the international community at these systemic human rights abuses.

Name	Organisation	Country	ECOSOC
Allison Jernow	International Commission of Jurists	Switzerland	Yes
Klaus Jetz	Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany LSVD	Germany	Yes
John Fisher	Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	Canada	Yes
Michael Ineichen	International Service for Human Rights - ISHR	Switzerland	Yes
Jessica Stern	International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission	United States	Yes
Maria Sjodin, Executive Director	The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights - RFSL	Sweden	Yes
Bjorn Van Roozendaal	COC Netherlands	Netherlands	Yes
Andi Cipta Asmawaty	Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's Solidarity for Human Right)	Indonesia	Yes
Paul LeGendre	Human Rights First	USA	Yes
Evelyne Paradis	ILGA-Europe (European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association)	Belgium	Yes
Fauzia Viqar	Shirkat Gah- Women's Resource Centre	Pakistan	Yes
Lucy Vidal	Center for Women's Global Leadership	USA	Yes
Christopher Sidoti	Human Rights Council of Australia	Australia	Yes
Mariana Duarte	Corporacion Humanas	Chile	Yes
Steffen Jensen	LBL Denmark	Denmark	Yes
Asger Kjaerum	International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT)	International umbrella organisation based in Denmark	Yes

Lydia Alpízar Durán	Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)	International organization with offices in Mexico, Canada and South Africa	Yes
	International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific	Malaysia (international NGO)	Yes
R. Iniyán Ilango	Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative	Headquarteded in New Delhi, Offices in Accra and London	Yes
Alexandra Kossin	OMCT	Switzerland	Yes
Sepali Kottegoda	Asia Pacific Women's Watch	Sri Lanka	Yes
Philippe Dam	Human Rights Watch	New York (USA)	Yes
Kim Vance	ARC International	Canada	No
Chesterfield Samba	GALZ	Zimbabwe	No
Andrey Kuvshinov	Rights Society	Russia	No
Germán Humberto Rincón Perfetti	Asociación Líderes en Acción	Colombia	No
Christian Rumu	Mouvement pour les Libertés Individuelles - MOLI	Burundi	No
Bin Xu	Common Language	China	No
Florin buhuceanu	Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives -	Romania	No
Linda RM Baumann	Out-Right Namibia (ORN)	Namibia	No
Alvaro Queiruga	Colectivo Ovejas Negras	Uruguay	No
Patricia Curzi	International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association - ILGA	Belgium	No
Stefano Bucaioni	Arcigay (Italian Lesbian and Gay Association)	Italy	No
Douglas Sanders	Gays Without Borders	Thailand	No
Corey Irlam	Australian Coalition for Equality	Australia	No

Wim Antonio Monasso LL.M	FILAD	Netherlands	No
Maurice Tomlinson	AIDS-Free World	Jamaica	No
Irina Nita	ACCEPT Association	Romania	No
Carolien van de Lagemaat	Transgender Netwerk Nederland	Netherlands	No
Joel Bedos	IDAHO Committee	International	No
Belissa Andía Pérez	Instituto Runa de Desarrollo y Estudios sobre Género	Perú	No
Patricia Ackerman	The Fellowship of Reconciliation	USA	No
Francis New Lozano	Colectivo Claveles Rojos	Perú	No
Yahia Zaidi	Abu Nawas Algeria	Algeria	No
Kenita Placide and Adaryl Williams	United and Strong Inc.	Saint Lucia	No
Mario Kleinmoedig and Kenita Placide	Cariflags	[Carribbean]	No
Yahia Zaidi and Samir Bargachi	Khomsa (Maghreb Network for freedoms and difference)	Maghreb Countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya and Mauritania)	No
Samir Bargachi	Kifikif LGBT Group	Morocco	No
Monica Tabengwa	Lesbians, Gays & Bisexuals of Botswana [LEGABIBO]	Botswana	No
	LGBT organization Labrys	Kyrgyzstan	No
William Villacampa	ProGay Philippines	Philippines	No
Ruth Baldacchino	Malta Gay Rights Movement	Malta	No
Kasha .N. Jacqueline	Freedom and Roam Uganda	Uganda	No
	Sexual minorities uganda	Uganda	No
	Icebreakers Uganda	Uganda	No
	Queer youth Uganda	Uganda	No
	Spectrum Initiative	Uganda	No

	Wonetha Uganda	Uganda	No
	Horizon Community association Rwanda	Rwanda	No
	Frank and Candy Uganda	Uganda	No
	Rainbow Health Foundation Uganda	Uganda	No
	Youth on the Rock Uganda	Uganda	No
	Civil society Coalition on Constitutional law and human rights Uganda	Uganda	No
	Kyrgyz Indigo	Kyrgystan	No
Dorota Trypens	Federation for Women and Family Planning	Poland	No
Mariam Armisen	The Queer African Youth Networking Center (QAYN)	Burkina Faso, Nigeria and USA	No
Theodor Rathgeber	Forum Human	Germany	No
Hassan Shire	East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project	Uganda	No
Deborah Lambillotte	Casa Rosa vzw	Belgium	No
Sass Rogando Sasot	Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP)	Philippines	No
Madhu Mehra	Partners for Law in Development	India	No
Kiromiddin Gulov	Equal Opportunities	Tajikistan	No
Rev Rowland Jide Macaulay	House Of Rainbow Fellowship	Nigeria	No
	Justice for Gay Africa Society	UK	No
	Queer African Youth Network	USA	No
	Pan Africa International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association		No
Nigel Warner	ALEGRI	UK	No

Bård Nylund	Landsforeningen for lesbiske, homofile, bifile og tanspersoner/The Norwegian organisation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights	Norway	No
Dawn Cavanagh	Coalition of African Lesbians	Pan Africa	No
Jenna Capeci	American Jewish World Service	USA	No
Hina Noureen	Baidarie	Pakistan	No
Fabrizio Ungaro	Ireos, Centro Servizi Autogestito Comunità Queer Firenze	Italy	No
Igor Kochetkov	Russian LGBT Network	Russian Federation	No
Helmut Graupner	Rechtskomitee LAMBDA (RKL)	Austria	No
Helmut Graupner	European Commission on Sexual Orientation Law (ECSOL)	Austria	No
Liz Frank	Women's Leadership Centre	Namibia	No
Alexandra-Elena Ciucu	Accept Association	Romania	No
G. Thomas Hoemig	English-speaking Gay Group (EGG)	Belgium	No
Paata Sabelashvili	Inclusive Foundation	Georgia	No
Paulo Corte-Real	ILGA Portugal	Portugal	No
Henry Pacheco	The Council for Global Equality	USA	No
Reimo Mets	NGO SEKY	Estonia	No
Kirill Sabir	"FtM Phoenix" Group	Russian Federation	No
Miguel Angel Sanchez Rodriguez	Fundación Triangulo	Spain	No
Evgeny Pisemskiy	Orlovskaya Regional Non-profit Organization Against AIDS "Phoenix PLUS"	Russian Federation	No
Anne-Marie Thus	Dutch foundation for LGBT families "Meer dan gewenst"	The Netherlands	No
Jelena Ajdarević	For the Leading Youth	Serbia	No
	GATE – Global Action for Trans* Equality	USA/Argentina	No

Bruce Amoroto	Philippine Forum on Sports, Culture, Sexuality and Human Rights (TEAM PILIPINAS)	Philippines	No
Tolekan Ismailova	Human Rights Centre "Citizens against corruption" (CAC)	Kyrgyzstan	No
Rosanna Flamer-Caldera	EQUAL GROUND	Sri Lanka	No
Paisarn Likhitpreechakul	Sexual Diversity Network	Thailand	No
	OO Tais Plus	Kyrgyzstan	No
Shivananda Khan	Naz Foundation International	UK	No
Sunita Kujur	CREA	India	No
Dédé Oetomo	GAYa NUSANTARA	Indonesia	No
Ira Briones	Lesbian Activism Project, Inc. (LeAP, Inc)	Philippines	No
Justina Puzinaite	Tolerant Youth Association (Tolerantisko jaunimo asociacija)	Lithuania	No
Vladimir Simonko	Lithuanian Gay League	Lithuania	No
Khalisa Shahverdiyeva	"Gender Group" Public Union	Azerbaijan	No
	LGBT NGO Vertae	Uzbekistan	No
Jayanthi Kuru-Utumpala	Women's Support Group	Sri Lanka	No
Kumudini Samuel	Women and Media Collective	Sri Lanka	No
Aigul Alymkulova	Women Support Center	Kyrgyzstan	No
Aija Salo	Seta (LGBT Equality in Finland)	Finland	No
Anne Lim	GALANG	Philippines	No
	Public Fund Voice of Freedom	Kyrgyzstan	No
THAKANE LETUKA	MATRIX SUPPORT GROUP	LESOTHO	No
Edna Aquino	Violence is Not our Culture	International	No
Aisha Shaheed	Women Living Under Muslim Laws	International	No