

Panel discussion on ending violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Joint NGO statement

- delivered by Linda Baumann, 7 March 2012

Thank you Madame President, Madame High Commissioner, Mr. Moderator, Distinguished panelists,

I am honoured to address this panel on behalf of ILGA, which represents 917 lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex member organisations. This statement has also been endorsed by 284 NGOs from 90 countries, from diverse cultures and religions, and by mainstream allies and supporters from around the world.

We are here, not to ask for our rights, since these are already our birthright as human beings, but to urge States to fulfil their responsibilities to end human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcome this panel discussion, and commend South Africa for its leadership in bringing this important human rights issue to the Council's attention.

We warmly congratulate the High Commissioner for her report, which marks both a point of arrival and a point of departure, as it poignantly addresses human rights violations that have been highlighted by UN Special Rapporteurs and treaty bodies for close to two decades.

Around the world, 76 countries still criminalise us because of how we live or who we love. In extreme cases, we face the death penalty. Very often these laws are the relics of colonial-era legislation, rather than the expression of a pre-existing homophobic or transphobic culture.

Lesbians are subject to so-called "curative" rape, intersex people are subject to medical abuses, transgender persons demeaned and beaten, their rights and identities unrecognised. We are denied health care or needed treatment; we routinely face discrimination in work, housing and education. In many countries, our work as human rights defenders is opposed, obstructed or banned. Our rights to peacefully gather are often denied, while attempts are made to silence our voices.

For too long, this Council has allowed these violations to go unaddressed. There is no dignity, nor honour in torture, persecution and discrimination.

It is time for the Council to fulfil its responsibility to promote and protect the human rights of all persons without discrimination, and to develop a mechanism to ensure sustained ongoing attention to the systemic human rights violations on these grounds.

We look forward to working with States and stakeholders from all regions towards the day when all persons, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, can live their lives in the equal freedom and dignity to which all human beings are entitled.

Thank you.

Organisation

贵州黔缘-qianyuan-LGBT,GuiZhou, China
ACCEPT Association
ACCION ZULIANA POR LA VIDA
AI XIAOMING DUCUMENTARY STUDIO
Aibai Culture & Education Center
AIDES
Aireana, grupo por los derechos de las lesbianas
Akahata-Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Gv©neros
Alianza Lambda de Venezuela
Alliance française de Delhi
Ambassadors of Change ngo
Amitie' Trust
Amnesty International LGBt Latino America
Amnesty International Philippines - LGBT Group
Amnesty International Turkey
Anjaree Group
APUVIMEH
ARC International
ArusPelangi
Asia Pacific Transgenders Network (APTN)
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)
ASOCIACION ALFIL
Asociacion Civil Equidad LGBT
Asociacion Hombres y Mujeres Nuevos de Panamv°
Association for Women's Rights in Development
Association of fine arts and design - PLANET design
Astitva - An organisation for the Support & Development of Sexual minorities
Australian Coalition for Equality
Baguio Pride Network, PLHCW, STRAP, I am LGBT, AIPH-LGBT
Bandhu Social Welfare Society
Beijing Aizhixing Institute
beijing health education institution
Beijing LGBT Center
Black Pink Triangle Izmir LGBTT Association
Boys of Bangladesh
Cambodian Center for Human Rights ("CCHR")
Campaña por una Convenci√≥n Interamericana de los Derechos Sexuales y los Derechos Reproductivos
Canadian AIDS Society
CariFLAGS: the Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities
Casa Renacer Hondurasd
Casa Rosa vzw
CASAL LAMBDA
Case Management Society of Australia Limited
Cebu Rainbow LGBT Community
CENTER FOR THE RIGHT TO HEALTH
Center of Excellence for Transgender Health
Centre for Development Studies University of Auckland
Centre for Popular Education and Human Rights, Ghana
Centre for Secular Space
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)

Country/Region

china
Romania

china
China
France
Paraguay
Argentina
Venezuela, South America
India
Kenya
India
United States
Philippines
Turkey
Thailand
Honduras ,C.A.
Switzerland/Canada
Indonesia
Malaysia/Asia Pacific
Regional

Asia-Pacific
Ecuador
Bolivia
Panama
Global
Bosnia and Herzegovina

India
Australia, Oceania
Philippines
Bangladesh/ South Asia
China
china
China
Turkey
Bangladesh
Cambodia

Latinoamerica
Canada

Caribbean
Honduras ,C.A.
Belgique
SPAIN
Australia
Philippines
Nigeria
USA
Pacific
Ghana
world
Argentina

Chi Heng Foundation Beijing Branch (Chi Tong Beijing)	China
China Changsha Rainbow Gay Alliance	China
China Queer Independent Films	China
Citizens Constitutional Forum	Fiji
Club Matapi	Suriname
Coalicion Arcoiris	Costa Rica
COALICION BOLIVIANA DE ORGANIZACIONES LGBT	Bolivia
Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO)	Trinidad & Tobago
Coalition for the Liberation of the Reassigned Sex	Philippines
COC Netherlands	The Netherlands
Colectiva Mujer y Salud	Republica Dominicana
Colectivo LotoBlanco	Ecuador
Colectivo Ovejas Negras	Uruguay
Colectivo Sentimos Diverso	Colombia
Common Heart Organization	China
Common Language	China
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative	India
communication for social change	Ghana
COMMUNITY AND FAMILY AID FOUNDATION-GHANA	Ghana
Corporacion Humanas - Regional Center on Human Rights and Gender Justice	Chile
Corporacion KIMIRINA	Ecuador
corps dissident	France
CREA	India
Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN)	Philippines
DIONISIOS ARTE-CULTURA-IDENTIDAD	Ecuador
Diverlex Diversidad e Igualdad a Través de la Ley	Venezuela
Diversity Futures	Australia
Drachma	Malta
Dreilinden	Germany
Drodrolagi Movement	Fiji
East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project	Uganda
ECPI-Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives	Romania
Education International	Belgium/Global education union organization
Elige, Red de Jovenes por los Derechos Sexuales y Reproductivos	Mexico
Equality Network	Scotland, UK
Equidad Ecuador	Ecuador
Espacio de Articulacion DIDH - Diversidad, Interculturalidad y Derechos Humanos	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Federacion Argentina LGBT	Argentina
FIATPAX,GAYGAS	Nicaragua
Filipino Freethinkers	Philippines
Former Founder Aus Transgender Support Association of Queensland Inc.	Queensland, Australia
Freedom and Roam Uganda	Uganda
Freshmen Autonomous Committee of SWUST	China
FtM Phoenix Group	Russia
Fundacion Amigos por la Vida - FAMIVIDA	Ecuador
Fundacion Arcoiris por el respeto a la diversidad sexual	Mexico
FUNDACION DIVERSENCIA	Bolivia
Fundacion DIVERSO ECUADOR	Ecuador
Fundacion Ecuatoriana Equidad	Ecuador
FUNDACION HABITAT VERDE	Bolivia
FUNDACION MANODIVERSA	Bolivia
Fundacion Privada para la Identidad de G√©nero	Spain

Fundacion REDVIHDA	Bolivia
Fundacion Reflejos de Venezuela	Venezuela
Fundacion Triángulo	Spain
GATE - Global Action for Trans* Equality	international/worldwide
Gay And Lesbian Vaishnava Association	USA
Gay Church	Taiwan
Gay Grassroots of Northwest Florida	USA
Gay Japan News	Japan
GAYa NUSANTARA	Indonesia
Gays Without Borders	Thailand
GDUFS	China
Gender Dysphoria Unit of South Australia	South Australia
Gender Spectrum	USA
GenderBridge	New Zealand
GrenCHAP Inc.	Grenada/Caribbean
Grupo CD4 y Revista QueerNavaca	Mexico
Grupo Nepyru	Paraguay
Grupo Transexual Portugal	Portugal
Guang Tong (GZTZ.ORG)	China
Hong Guang Alliance	China
Human Rights First	USA
HURISA	South Africa
ID Trans	
IDAHO Committee	International
Igualdad de Derechos Ya	Ecuador
ILGA	Belgium
ILGA-Europe - European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association	Europe
Inclusive Foundation	Georgia
India HIV/AIDS Alliance	India
INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre, Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
Iniciativa Venezolana Contra la Discriminacion	Venezuela
International Alliance of Women/alliance Internationale des Femmes	Netherlands/International
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)	USA
International HIV/AIDS Alliance	United Kingdom
INTERNATIONAL LESBIAN AND GAY LAW ASSOCIATION-LATINAMERICA	Latinamerica
INTERNATIONAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION	Global
International Service for Human Rights	Switzerland
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific	Malaysia
Intersex International Organization	Philippines
Intersex South Africa (with OII)	South Africa
Ipas	Global
Istanbul LGBTT Solidarity Association	Turkey
Itigokurabu	China
Jiangxi Rainbow	China
JWT	India
Kaos GL	Turkey
Karnataka Sexual Minorities Forum	India
Kolectiva RebeL#as L@sbcas	Peru
Kongzhong Corp	China
Kyrgyz Indigo	Kyrgyzstan
Ladlad Bacolod	Philippines
LADLAD REGION II	Philippines

lambada de venezuela	Venezuela
Landsforeningen for lesbiske, homofile, bifile og transpersoner	Norway
Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network	Latin America and the Caribbean
LeAP	Philippines
Lesben- und Schwulenverband LSVD	Germany
Lesbian Activism Project, Inc.	Philippines
Lesbians and Bisexuals in Action	India
LGBT Centre Mongolia	Mongolia
LGBT Georgia	Georgia
LGBT Platform Suriname	Suriname
Liberty Victoria (Victorian Council for Civil Liberties Inc)	Australia
MADRE	United States
MANODIVERSA	Bolivia
Metropolitan Community Church of Quezon City	Philippines
Mingle (Mission for Indian Gay & Lesbian Empowerment)	India
Moscow Helsinki Group	Russia
MUSAS Peru	Peru
National LGBTI Health Alliance	Australia
Naz Foundation International	South Asia
Nazra for Feminist Studies	Egypt
NON-GENDERED - Fighting for Legal Recognition	London
Nvai	China
OEML	Ecuador
OLO, One Love Oceania	U.S.A./ Oakland, California
OMNIA ASBL VZW	Belgium
On the Margins Group	China
Open Arms MCC	USA
Organisation Intersex International	New Zealand
Organizacion de Transexuales por la Dignidad de la Diversidad	Chile
Organizacion Ecuatoriana de Mujeres Lesbianas - OEML	Ecuador
Organization Q	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Outrage Magazine	Philippines
Pacific Sexual Diversity Network	Tonga
Partnership Law Japan	Japan
Peaceworks	Australia
Pearls for development	India
Pembe Hayat LGBTT Solidarity Association	Turkey
PFLAG	China
Philippine Forum on Sports, Culture, Sexuality and Human Rights	Philippines
PINK EMBASSY, ALBANIA	Albania
PLAKA Dumaguete	Philippines
Positive Vibes	Namibia
PPA+	Philippines
ProGay Philippines	Philippines
PROMSEX	Peru
Proyecto Transg√©nero	Ecuador
Public Association Labrys	Kyrgyzstan
Public Association Pathfinder	Kyrgyzstan
Public Information and Need of Knowledge NGO	Armenia
Public organization "Informational-Educational Center "For Equal Rights"	Ukraine
Queer Comrades	China
queer delhi	india
Queer Pagan Network - Philippines	Philippines
QUITOGAY	Quito Ecuador

Raffles Design Institute Bangkok	Thailand
Rainbow China	Hong Kong
Rainbow Liberty Foundation	Denmark
Rainbow Rights Project (R-Rights), Inc.	Philippines
Rainbow Youth	New Zealand
Red Lesbica Cattrachas	Honduras
Red Ribbon Volunteer Group of Longgang District, Shenzhen,China	China
REDLAC	Puerto Rico
REDTRANS	Nicaragua
RFSL, The Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights	Sweden
Rights Society	Russia
Saathi, IIT Bombay	India
Sadhane	India
Sangama	India
sangini (india) trust	india
Scottish Transgender Alliance	Scotland, UK
SEARCH Foundation	Australia
Secrec. Lesbica Sub region Andina ILGALAC -Colectivo Uniones Peru	Peru
Sex and Gender Education Forum, Sun Yat-sen University	China
Sexual Diversity Network (Thailand)	China
shanghai Nvai LBT Organisation	china
Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)	Guyana
Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP)	Philippines
Space Allies	Japan
SREI	India
SRIA Rwanda Ltd	Rwanda, East and Southern Africa
Studiorum Sexualis	Barcelona
Survival Advocacy Network (SANFiji)	Fiji
Tanzania Sisi Kwa Sisi Foundation (TSSF)	Tanzania
Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group	Australia / Tasmania
The Center for Health Policy Study, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Mahidol University, Thailand.	Thailand
The family of chinese lgbs' relatives and friends	China
The Humsafar Trust	
the israeli center for human sexuality & gender identity	israel
The Philippine LGBT Hate Crime Watch	The Republic of the Philippines
THE POZ HOME CENTER	Thailand/Bangkok
Trans Education and Advocacy	Ireland
Trans*Action Netherlands	Netherlands
Transgender Law Center	USA
Transgender Network Switzerland	Switzerland
TransGender Victoria	Australia
traveschile (Agrupacion Transgenera)	Santiago
UHAI- the East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative	Kenya
United and Strong Inc.	Saint Lucia
United Belize Advocacy Movement	Belize
UP Babaylan	Philippines
Venezuela Diversa A.C	Republica Bolivariana de Venezuela
ver,di	Germany
Villanova University	USA

Vox Asoacion Civil	Argentina
Vreerwerk	Netherlands
WEZESHA	Tanzania
WhyCantWeGetMarried.Com	Sierra Leone
Witches' Hive of the IFTAS	Philippines
women coalition of HKSAR	hong kong
Women Working with Women (3W)	Kenya
Women's Therapy Center	Berkeley, CA USA
Women'S Way Foundation	Suriname
Womens Global Network for Reproductive Rights	Quezon City
Workinggroup on International solidarity with LGBT	belgium
World Organisation Against Torture	Switzerland
wuhanrainbow	China
WUR	China
Young Peoples Concerned Network	Fiji
中国同志联盟	China
中国爱白	China
北京同志中心	China
同影镇	China
同志之声	China
城堡工作组	China
武汉高校红丝带联盟	China
臺灣青少年性別文教會	ROC
花样年华重庆同心工作组	China
长安大学同伴联盟	china