

**23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Statement by the Canadian HIV AIDS Network**  
**Item 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions**  
*- Delivered by Kenita Placide*

Thank you Mr President,

We welcome the Report of the Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions. We are impressed by the special rapporteur's thorough process and ability to successfully respond and record much needed details to account for the reality of violence and unlawful killings in a number of countries.

Highlighted in this report is the inquiry and investigation into escalating violations against human rights defenders and the lack of respect for life demonstrated by the growing number of incidents involving "honour killings" as well as increased violence against groups such as journalists, women and children. Some of these instances are believed to have been committed on the grounds of the victims' sexual orientation or gender identity.

The special rapporteur has sensitively drawn attention to the general context of these occurrences, i.e. the hostile climate where especially LGBT individuals often face discrimination, intimidation and negative stereotyping, including from high-level public figures and law enforcement. The Rapporteur has noted concerns about cases in which family members of LGBT individuals, due to so-called honour motives, can insist that investigations into their murders are closed as soon as possible, as well cases in which family members have been known to perpetrate murders of LGBT individuals in the name of honour.

We therefore support the special rapporteur's recommendation, and call on states to do their part by accepting responsibility to reduce the vulnerable situation of LGBT individuals, ensure human rights laws are domesticated to ensure redress and include language sensitive to gender identity and sexual orientation. States must also commit to awareness-raising campaigns, training of professionals of the judiciary and security and law enforcement officers. States must also reject the lenient attitude towards the investigation and prosecution of crimes against LGBT individuals that lead to impunity of perpetrators.

"Unjust provocation" should not be misused as a mitigating factor in cases that involve alleged morality motives, in particular honour killings and killing of LGBT individuals.

Thank you.