

Universal Periodic Review – Romania
June 06, 2013

COC Netherlands, ACCEPT Association, ECPI-Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives, and
the Global Justice Institute

Thank you Mister/Madam Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of COC Netherlands, ACCEPT Association, ECPI-Euroregional Center for Public Initiatives, and the Global Justice Institute.

We welcome the commitment made by the Romanian Government to the realization of human rights including those of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. We commend the Government for accepting recommendations made by Austria, Belgium and The Netherlands to:

- (i) take appropriate measures to counter discrimination of LGBT people at policy and legislative level,
- (ii) carry out awareness campaigns to increase understanding among the population on the rights of LGBT persons, and to
- (iii) ensure that acts of discrimination are properly investigated and perpetrators held accountable.

Stigmatization and discrimination of LGBT people are still a daily reality in Romanian society. A recent survey by the National Council for Combating Discrimination shows that homosexuals are the second most discriminated group in Romania. We are therefore concerned that thus far the Romanian government has to date not undertaken specific activities or actions and preventive measures to fight discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Recent violent attacks affecting LGBT community are not properly investigated and the perpetrators are not sanctioned - which created a state of impunity for these aggressors motivated by hate. There is no educational program at national scale for the law enforcement forces tackling hate crimes. The existence of transgender individuals is fully ignored – the legal or medical standards in the field are vague or non-exist while the jurisprudence is contradictory as to the conditions that need to be met for gender change in the civil status documents.

In the process of implementing the recommendations of the UPR, we therefore urge the government to initiate public policies on LGBT issues in order to integrate existing legislation against discrimination and to consider the need for systematic and permanent training for personnel working in state institutions and local and central authorities, focusing on human rights aspects related to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you