

21ST UPR OUTCOME REPORTS

UN Human Rights Council - 29th session

Outcome Reports were adopted for the countries of Guyana, Kiribati, Spain, Laos, Lesotho, Sweden, Granada, Turkey, Kuwait, Kenya, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Guinea. LGBTI specific concerns were represented in either state responses or NGO responses in the following countries.

GUYANA

BEYON RODIN McDONALD, Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of Guyana in Brussels, observed that Guyana noted the recommendation regarding the rights of lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and intersex persons and would convene a parliamentary session on the issue.

Action Canada for Population and Development was disappointed at the lack of response regarding recommendations to repeal the criminalization of consensual adult same-sex activities, and condemned that homophobia was State-sponsored in Guyana, preventing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons from reporting abuses to the authorities.

Amnesty International urged Guyana to ensure that hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity were investigated and prosecuted, and to repeal all legislation criminalizing same sex relations among adults.

LESOTHO

COC Nederland said lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons faced tremendous difficulties, discrimination and abuses in Lesotho. Their right to privacy and their access to justice were limited. They also faced discrimination at work and in terms of access to health, making them vulnerable to HIV/ AIDS. Their rights had to be respected irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

SWEDEN

Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights, in a joint statement with the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education, commended Sweden's efforts to prosecute hate speech, but urged the Government to protect transgender persons under the law against discrimination. It was critical that the rule of non-refoulement also be applied on the basis of sexual orientation. It welcomed the Government's decision to establish a national human institution in line with the Paris Principles.

TURKEY

Sudwind noted that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, political prisoners and women victims of domestic violence were especially vulnerable groups. Refugees and asylum seekers did not enjoy full rights, even though Turkey had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Migrants and Their Family Members. They did not enjoy the right to work and health service.

International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, in a joint statement with International Lesbian and Gay Association, welcomed Turkey's statement affirming that discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transsexual community would not be tolerated, and thanked Turkey for ensuring the punishment of violence against them. It urged Turkey to bring its domestic laws

in line with international legislation to prohibit and prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

KUWAIT

International Lesbian and Gay Association expressed its concern about the deteriorating situation of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in Kuwait, who suffered discrimination, stigma and lack of access to almost all services, including necessary health service.

KYRGYZSTAN

Ulan Djusupov, Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said that its laws ensured protection from discrimination for all people within its territory and under its jurisdiction, on the grounds of sex, gender, ethnicity, language, and others. The current legislation did not violate the rights of sexual minorities. The legislation on limiting propaganda on non-traditional sexual relations was currently being considered by Parliament.

COC Nederland stated that the violations of the basic rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were on rise in Kyrgyzstan, and the currently proposed amendments would make the situation worse. Even the Ministry of Justice had recommended to Parliament to withdraw the bill as it ignored the Constitution. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people needed to be protected and treated as equal citizens.

Sudwind regretted that Kyrgyzstan refused to enact specific legislation to prohibit discrimination against persons based on sex, race, colour, religion and sexual orientation.