

July 1, 2019

STATEMENT

Joint NHRI statement to the 41st session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: General Debate – Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

This is a joint statement on behalf of 24 national human rights institutions¹ in support of the renewal of the mandate of the Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights and UN human rights treaties emphasise that human rights and freedoms belong to everyone, without distinction of any kind. Yet violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) persist to this day all around the world.

The establishment of the mandate of the Independent Expert by this Human Rights Council has been a critical stride in bringing visibility of the human rights situation of LGBTI people, and in identifying collectively solutions to protect their rights.

¹ List of NHRIs who support the statement: Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission; Albania: People's Advocate; Argentina Defensoría del Pueblo; Australian Human Rights Commission; Canadian Human Rights Commission; Colombia Defensoría del Pueblo; Danish Institute for Human Rights; Finnish Human Rights Centre; German Institute for Human Rights; Georgia: Public Defender's Office; Great Britain: Equality and Human Rights Commission; Greek National Commission for Human Rights; India National Human Rights Commission; Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission; Kenya National Commission on Human Rights; Malaysia Human Rights Commission (SUHAKAM); Mexico Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos; Netherlands Institute for Human Rights; Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission; Norwegian National Human Rights Institution; Peru: Defensoría del Pueblo; Philippines: Commission on Human Rights; South African Human Rights Commission; Zambia Human Rights Commission;

The mandate is playing an invaluable role in assessing the implementation of existing international human rights law, identifying good practice and gaps, engaging constructively with rights-holders, States and other stakeholders, and in facilitating the provision of advisory services, and cooperation, to help States address SOGI-based violence and discrimination.

As such, the mandate has provided invaluable orientation and guidance to us as national human rights institutions as we work with our respective States to design and implement effective action to promote and protect the human rights of LGBTI people.

We call on States to support the renewal of the mandate and reiterate - as NHRIs - our full commitment to continue supporting the work of the Independent Expert.