

**41<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 3 – General Debate**  
**Monday 1 July 2019**

**Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit — COC  
Nederland, joined by the Swedish Federation of LGBT Rights - RFSL**

*Read by: Alexander Hammelburg*

Thank you President,

This statement is supported by one hundred organizations from 42 European and Central Asian countries.<sup>1</sup>

Across the European continent and Central Asia, from Amsterdam to Kyiv, individuals experience different grave human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. These include murder, rape, assault, torture, arbitrary arrest, forced sterilization, medicalization and psychiatric interventions, conversion therapy, discrimination in access to health care, employment, housing and education, repression of freedom of expression and association, attacks and restrictions on human rights defenders, denial of police services, extortion, bullying, denial of one's self-defined gender identity, and other abuses.

Three years ago, by creating the mandate for an Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity the Human Rights Council took a historic and much needed action to bring these human rights violations to an end, and advance positive reforms.

Since the creation of the mandate, the Independent Experts worked closely with both government and civil society stakeholders to improve laws, regulations and policies, and to bring them in line with international human rights standards. During its most recent mission to Ukraine earlier this year, the mandate holder was able to enter into dialogue freely to discuss the root causes and solutions to combat violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, in order for all people to live free and equal. Upon finalization of his visit, the Independent Expert expressed his appreciation to the Government of Ukraine for the excellent cooperation he enjoyed during the visit.

This is just one of many important examples of the important work the Independent Expert conducts in close cooperation with States that are seeking to improve, respect, protect and fulfil human rights standards for all, without any distinction. This work has only just started.

Therefore, we call on this Council to renew the mandate, and to fully cooperate with any requests of the mandate holder to address discrimination and violence against persons based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

I thank you President.

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<sup>1</sup> List of supporting NGOs in Appendix 1

## List of Supporting NGO's

PINK Embassy Albania	Albania
Open Mind Spectrum Albania (OMSA)	Albania
United Pro LGBT cause	Albania
PINK Armenia	Armenia
HOSI Wien	Austria
Nefes	Azerbaijan
Arc-en-Ciel Wallonie	Belgium
Cavaria	Belgium
Exaequo	Belgium
Genres Pluriels	Belgium
Sarajevo Open Centre	Bosnia and Herzegovina
GLAS foundation	Bulgaria
GLAS foundation	Bulgaria
Lesbian Group Kontra	Croatia
Zagreb Pride	Croatia
Anonymous	Cyprus
PROUD	Czech Republic
Queer Geography, z. s.	Czech Republic
Mezipatra Queer Film Festival	Czech Republic
LGBT Denmark	Denmark
LGBT Asylum	Denmark
Estonian Human Rights Centre	Estonia
Seta Lgbt rights in Finland	Finland
Sateenkaariperheet (Rainbowfamilies)	Finland
Inter-LGBT	France
Tbilisi Pride	Georgia
Women's Initiatives Supporting Group (WISG)	Georgia
EQUALITY MOVEMENT	Georgia
Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany LSVD	Germany
Völklinger Kreis e. V.	Germany
Colour Youth Athens LGBTQ Youth Community	Greece
Thessaloniki Pride	Greece
Háttér Society	Hungary
Hungarian LGBT Alliance	Hungary
Transvanilla Transgender Association	Hungary
Trans Ísland / Trans Iceland	Iceland
Samtökin '78 – The National Queer Organization of Iceland	Iceland
Reykjavik Pride	Iceland
Q - Queer Student Association	Iceland
Intersex Iceland	Iceland
Transgender Equality Network Ireland	Ireland

Outhouse LGBT+ Community Centre	Ireland
Gay Center	Italy
Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti	Italy
Associazione radicale Certi Diritti	Italy
Center for Social Groups Development - CSGD	Kosovo
Centre for Equality and Liberty for the LGBT Community in Kosovo	Kosovo
Labrys	Kyrgyzstan
Kyrgyz Indigo	Kyrgyzstan
GENDERDOC-M Information Centre	Moldova
NGO Juventas	Montenegro
LGBTIQ Social Center	Montenegro
LGBT Forum Progres	Montenegro
Association Spectra	Montenegro
CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality	Netherlands
EduDivers	Netherlands
COC Nederland	Netherlands
Transgender netwerk Nederland (TNN)	Netherlands
HERA - Health, Education & Research Association	North Macedonia
Coalition sexual and health rights of marginalized communities Margins	North Macedonia
FRI - The Norwegian organization for sexual and gender diversity	Norway
Campaign against Homophobia	Poland
Lambda Warsaw	Poland
Associação ILGA Portugal	Portugal
ACCEPT Association	Romania
Da se zna!	Serbia
XY Spectrum	Serbia
Geten, Center for LGBTIQA People's Rights	Serbia
Iniciatíva Inakosť	Slovakia
Rainbow PRIDE Bratislava	Slovakia
Saplinq, o.z.	Slovakia
SKUC-Magnus	Slovenia
TransAkcija Institute	Slovenia
Legebitra	Slovenia
Federación de Servicios a la Ciudadanía de CCOO (FSC CCOO)	Spain
AACATHI	Spain
RFSL - the Swedish Federation for LGBTQ Rights	Sweden
RFSL Ungdom	Sweden
Fédération genevoise des associations LGBT	Switzerland
Zurich Pride Festival	Switzerland
Swiss Rainbow Families Association	Switzerland
Anonymous	Tajikistan
Anonymous	Tajikistan
Free Colors Association	Turkey
Mersin Lgbt 7 Renk Derneği	Turkey
Anonymous	Turkmenistan
Insight	Ukraine
Public Organization "LGBT Association 'LIGA'"	Ukraine
TransgenderNI	United Kingdom
Micro Rainbow	United Kingdom
Age International	United Kingdom
ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for Western Balkans and Turkey	Regional

Jyväskylän Seta ry	Regional
ILGA-Europe	Regional
GALE	International
Hivos	International
International Federation on Ageing	International
International Longevity Center Global Alliance, Ltd.	International
Stonewall	International
Swedish organisation for sexuality education	International