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UPR: [REDACTED]  
ILGA-Europe, COC Netherlands and Mozaika  
United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva. 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

Madam President,

We would like to thank Latvia for its positive participation in the UPR process and would like to commend Latvia in particular for accepting recommendations to intensify efforts to combat discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; to provide general information about anti-discrimination and reform the curriculum in schools as to provide information about gender equality, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and ethnic minorities; and in this regard to engage in awareness raising activities.

Whilst we appreciate Latvia's pledge to include information on the provision of general information on anti-discrimination issues in its next report, we recommend that the Government establishes a concrete plan of implementation of the measures mentioned in close co-operation and consultation with civil society organisations.

We are concerned about the rejection of a recommendation to recognise the diversity of family forms and thus we recommend that Latvia reconsiders its position and ensures equal rights between same sex and opposite sex couples in its legislation and policies and ensure that children of LGBT parents are not discriminated against, for example by introducing the possibility of partnership registration.

Furthermore we take note of Latvia's rejection of recommendations to adopt hate-crime legislation that includes homophobic and transphobic motivation as grounds for offence. Latvia explained that discussions on this have not taken place yet and that no violence has been reported against homosexual and transgender persons as such. NGO's sources indicate that violent incidents have actually taken place. We recommend to reconsider this position and to include sexual orientation and gender identity in hate crime legislation.

We want to commend Latvia for its support to the *Joint statement on ending acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation & gender identity*, which was delivered at the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council on behalf of 85 UN Member States. Finally, we recommend that the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity be applied as a guide to assist in policy-making.

Thank you Madam President.

