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United Nations Human Rights Council 14th session
UPR Italy
ILGA-Europe, COC Netherlands

Wednesday June 9th 2010

Mr. President,

We commend Italy for accepting recommendation 36 made during the working group session which advises Italy to strengthen measures to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and combat hate crimes on these grounds, to undertake further campaigns against homophobia; ensure adequate protection of LGBT people, not only through police forces on the streets, but legally via anti-discrimination law; to give special attention to cases of possible discrimination for reason of sexual identity or orientation, and to ensure that cases of violence against such persons are appropriately investigated and prosecuted.

Whilst progress in this area has been made, there remain concerns that legal protection for lesbian, gay and bisexual persons only exists in the area of employment. Further legal protection on discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity must be developed, and implemented. Taking note of an increased level of violence against LGBT people over the past decades sexual orientation and gender identity also needs to be included in appropriate hate crimes legislation, and training on these grounds should be provided to police and relevant authorities. Furthermore, public education and awareness campaigns should be implemented to promote tolerance and respect on these grounds. We would appreciate if the delegation could clarify whether Italy is willing to do this?

We welcome Italy's support for the historic joint statement on sexual orientation, gender identity and human rights, delivered in December 2008 at the General Assembly, and 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.

In closing Mr. President, I would like to reiterate that whilst we note the progress made in this area and the Italian delegation has positively reacted to recommendations made, it is necessary to work on further development of anti-discrimination protection and to actively work on implementation of such laws.

Thank you Mr. President.