

**UPR Republic of Moldova  
ILGA-Europe, COC Netherlands and GENDERDOC-M  
United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva. 16 March 2012**

Madam President,

We would like to thank the Republic of Moldova for its support to several recommendations made during the UPR process. Amongst other commitments, the Republic of Moldova during the UPR process expressed its unequivocal support to ensure that its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens will be protected from discrimination; that crimes against LGBT people will be investigated and perpetrators will be prosecuted; that public awareness raising activities about LGBT rights will be undertaken; that action will be undertaken to build broad support for LGBT-rights in the new anti-discrimination law and that the right to freedom of expression and assembly will be upheld for LGBT communities.

Unfortunately, the reality is different.

The city of Balti and several other local councils have adopted decisions making the region a forbidden zone for "aggressive propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientations" and "homosexual demonstrations." At the same time, the mayor of Chisinau has banned pride manifestations over the past two years. In 2008, a group of pride participants was exposed to savage reprisal by numerous extremist groups and left unprotected by the police. Can the delegation of the Republic of Moldova explain how it views these developments in light of its commitment to uphold the rights to freedom of assembly? In this context, we wish to emphasize that such bans perpetuate to a climate of homophobia and transphobia. They send out messages to society that are in stark contrast with the government's commitment to undertake awareness raising activities about LGBT rights and to build support for a new anti-discrimination law.

Political leadership needs to fulfil the commitments that Moldova has made in the context of promoting human rights of LGBT individuals. Whilst we recognize that these issues may be sensitive, we remind the government that human rights violations based on one's sexual orientation and gender identity concern the everyday lives of many citizens, and should not be subjected to the view of the majority of society before being addressed. It is the responsibility of the government to uphold the rights of all its citizens. In this context we urge government of the Republic of Moldova to:

- 1) Express its explicit support of the 2011 Human Rights Council resolution condemning violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and;
- 2) Show its political will in ensuring that anti-discrimination legislation, which explicitly includes protection on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, will be adopted soon.
- 3) Express its clear reaction to the recently adopted homophobic unconstitutional decisions by local municipalities and show its stance on ensuring enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all citizens of the Republic of Moldova, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Thank you Madam President.