

Thank you Madam/Mister President,

I am speaking on behalf of **COC Netherlands** and **Labris**-lesbian human rights organization from Serbia.

According to the Serbian Constitution, every person has the **right to equal legal protection and non-discrimination**, but sexual orientation is not explicitly mentioned. Serbia still does yet not have an anti-discrimination law. As referred to by a number of Human Rights Council members, the anti-discrimination law and the gender equality law were drafted and are currently awaiting adoption.

In this context we recommend that:

- The State adopts the anti-discrimination and the gender equality laws;
- Also, that the discrimination based on sexual orientation be specifically prohibited in the Serbian Constitution, Criminal Code and other laws, and,
- We commend Serbia for joining the statement delivered at the **63rd** General Assembly Session on sexual orientation and gender identity and suggest that Serbia continues adopting and implementing policies in the spirit of this statement.

Moving on, to the **right to security of the person**, attacks and threats to LGBT persons and human rights defenders happen very often in everyday life in Serbia. Our colleagues and activists constantly receive death threats and threats of physical violence.

According to the Serbian Criminal Code, racial and other discrimination is a criminal offence, but sexual orientation is not specifically mentioned. Hate crimes are not legally recognized in the Criminal Code. We reiterate the recommendations of members of the Human Rights Council regarding the protection of the LGBT human rights defenders, and we recommend that hate crime should be incorporated into the Serbian Criminal Code as a particular criminal offence.

Thank you.