

UPR – Norway

18 September 2014

European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Association

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Thank you, President

This statement is also made on behalf of the Norwegian organisation for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgender people, LLH.

In its report, the government of Norway recognises¹ the importance of the national action plan *Improving the quality of life among LGBT people* in promoting better living conditions for the LGBT population.

LLH agrees that the action plan was indeed an important tool in providing better living conditions, and regrets that there are no signals from the Government of Norway in continuing its concerted engagement, despite the challenges LGBT people continue to face within Norwegian society. We therefore urge the Norwegian government to **develop a new national plan to address the continuing challenges**.

The evaluation of the action plan shows that when it comes to developing services and building expertise, more work needs to be done in order to achieve the goals. LLH urges the Government to **allocate adequate resources to train administrators and service providers on sexual orientation and gender identity issues**.

In its national report to the Human Rights Council, the government of Norway addresses other areas relevant for LGBT people, such as strengthening the work on anti-discrimination and hate-crime, domestic violence, access to health services and gender recognition of trans*-people, asylum and education.

Within the above mentioned areas, LLH asks the Norwegian government:

- To authorise the Anti-Discrimination Ombud to award compensation to victims of discrimination.
- To coordinate national efforts to tackle hate crimes within the Ministry of Justice, the National Police Directorate and the Police.
- To include gender identity and gender expression in the paragraphs of the penal code that concern hate crime and hate speech.
- To provide national standards securing adequate care to victims of hate crimes and domestic violence regardless of the geographical location of the victim. These should include access to safe housing for people belonging to the LGBT-community.
- To immediately remove the requirement to undergo sterilization in order to change legal gender markers.
- To ensure safe spaces and housing conditions for LGBTI asylum seekers while the asylum application is under consideration.
- To improve access to health services and hormone treatment for transgender asylum seekers while the asylum application is under consideration.

We hope the Government will show its continued support by ensuring that LGBT people are equally protected against discrimination in all areas of life.

¹ Paragraphs 21, 22, 23