

UPR Portugal
Statement by ILGA-Europe
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Thank you Mr. President,

This statement is supported by ILGA Portugal, an NGO that works on the subject of human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcome the Portuguese government's commitment to engage in the struggle against discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people in National Equality Plans, and the its willingness to train professionals in several key areas to promote access of LGBT people to security, justice, and health.

Despite important legislative and policy advances, data still show that LGBT people are very much subject to violence and discrimination in several fields.

Moreover, there is a clear exception to the full enjoyment of the right to respect LGBT persons' private life in current legislation and policies on access to assisted reproduction techniques and on adoption rights. This children of same-sex couples in a vulnerable position, and is in violation of their right to non-discrimination, including on the basis of their parents' status, and risks their basic economic and social rights.

We therefore welcome the Brazilian Government's recommendation to "Take measures in order to allow the co-adoption of children by same-sex couples". This reinforces a similar recommendation made by the Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe which the Portuguese Parliament is yet to implement.

In light of the above, we recommend the Portuguese government to:

1. Amend existing family law provisions to ensure the full protection and recognition of children without discrimination on the basis of their parents' status;
2. Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation covering all areas of social and economic life and including the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
3. Include gender identity as a prohibited ground for discrimination in all anti-discrimination legislation and policies;
4. Create specific public services clearly mandated to address and redress situations of discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
5. Amend the criminal complaints registration system in order to include the motivation in bias-motivated crimes; and collect appropriate and relevant data in order to effectively combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;

Finally, we encourage the Portuguese government to continue to pursue anti-discrimination policies on LGBT issues, including the provision of specific and appropriate training on human rights and sexual orientation and gender identity-related rights to public officials.

Thank you, Mr. President