

**Human Rights Council – 29<sup>th</sup> session – June 2015**

**Item 6: Universal Periodic Review – Grenada – Adoption of UPR outcome on Grenada – June 2015**

**Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development**

Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with GrenCHAP, Groundation Grenada, CariFLAGS, and the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome the commitment of Grenada with the UPR process.

However, state's commitment to protection and fulfilment of human rights is undermined by its pointed refusal to recognise rights in one specific area: sexuality; and for a particular persons in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique: those who are LGBTI—as the state has declined to accept all 16 of the recommendations in this area, one of every seven of all UPR recommendations. Weaknesses in Grenada's commitment to respect for bodily integrity are also evidenced in its similar responses to recommendations on pregnancy termination and flogging of children.

Vigilant protection of minority rights and bodily rights is an especially important human rights obligation of small island developing states, where extrajudicial punishment of difference is likely, stigma amplified, remedy machinery admittedly weak, state regimes of evidence-based sexuality education underdeveloped, sexual minorities in particular are well documented to be especially vulnerable to victimisation, violence and other rights violations, and where, as the state fully admits, laws which violate human rights remain on the books. This is even more compelling as Grenada has singled itself out in the Caribbean as the only state that has shown an interest in implementing prosecutions for "unnatural" sexuality in recent years. And the state signals here to the Council that it intends to preserve such law, with all its human rights consequences.

We are further disappointed that Grenada has hidden behind discriminatory yet repealable statutes to decline its human rights obligations. Human rights obligations require the repeal of such statutes, as other states have pointedly recommended.

As Grenada has markedly noted it does in the case of its death penalty, we urge the state to enact a moratorium on sodomy prosecutions while it engages in the incremental measures it proposes to fulfil rights for sexual minorities.

We remain committed to assist the state in these efforts.

Thank you.