

Human Rights Council – 31st session

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: Saint Lucia



Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with **United and Strong Inc** and the **Sexual Rights Initiative**.

We welcome the Saint Lucia Government's acceptance of recommendation calling to enact comprehensive legislation that fully guarantees the application of the principle of non-discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights by every member of society and for the strengthening of their efforts to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. We also welcome the Government's statements regarding section 131 of the Labour Code Act, which was implemented in 2012, provides protection on the basis of sexual orientation and that piece of legislation demonstrates the Saint Lucian Government's increased awareness of the needs of the LGBTI community. We also recognize the commitment of the Government to continue its engagement with civil society organizations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons to implement further anti-discrimination and awareness-raising programmes.

However, Saint Lucia noted all recommendations related to the repeal of laws and Penal Code provisions prohibiting and punishing consenting sexual relations between adults of the same sex, adding to its response that though Saint Lucia has become a more tolerant state as evidenced by the Labour Code, it cannot commit to holistic legislative change at the moment. The Labour Code Implementation cannot be effective and meaningful in a legal framework that criminalizes consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex. These provisions not only generate many forms of discrimination, exclusion and violence but also serve as an impediment for LGBTI people in accessing their fundamental rights including health, education and justice.

We remind the Government that human rights are universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and we therefore urge the Government, to repeal laws that criminalise persons based on their gender identity or sexual orientation and affirm the rights of LGBTI persons.

Thank you.