

**32nd Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6 – UPR Singapore**

**Statement by:
International Lesbian and Gay Association
24 June 2016**

delivered by Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera

Thank you Mr. President,

This statement is delivered in consultation with two Singapore NGOs, Oogachaga and Pink Dot that work on the subject of sexual orientation and gender identity.

During the 24th UPR session, Singapore received and noted all **13** SOGI related recommendations. **Eleven** of these recommendations specifically refer to the decriminalization of consensual same-sex activity between consenting adult males, Section 377A of the Penal Code. We are disappointed that the government continues to deny the existence of institutionalized discrimination perpetuated by the existence of Section 377A.

In its earlier response, Singapore government maintained its position that this legislation, is not proactively enforced. It added that the Prime Minister has previously stated it was better to accept the 'legal untidiness and ambiguity' of leaving the law as it was. As concluded by the Human Rights Committee, it is irrelevant whether laws criminalizing such conduct are enforced or not; their mere existence continuously and directly interferes with an individual's privacy.

In fact, we would like to highlight that this has direct consequences for LGBT human rights in Singapore:

1. Discriminatory media guidelines and censorship;
2. Refusal to register and formally recognize LGBT organizations;
3. Lack of appropriate support and sexuality education for LGBT youth;
4. Lack of healthcare and social services to address the needs of LGBT persons;
5. Workplace discrimination towards LGBT persons.

Sadly, since the 24th UPR session, prejudice towards Singapore's LGBT community has increased. In February, a local TV station censored a segment of a programme, in which US President Obama thanked celebrity Ellen Degeneres for advancing the LGBT rights. In June, a same sex kiss in the musical *Les Miserables* was also censored by Singapore government.

The Singapore government has additionally restricted local subsidiaries of multinational companies from expressing support for LGBT events and programmes in Singapore – a move that has further narrowed outreach and support, as well as stigmatized affirmation for the LGBT community.

We urge the Singapore government to repeal Section 377A as it is a centerpiece through which the human rights and well-being of LGBT Singaporeans are denied and disregarded. We also seek ongoing engagement with the government to address and resolve the key areas highlighted in our report.

I thank you Mr. President