

Human Rights Council – 32nd session

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes: Singapore



Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Action Canada makes this statement in collaboration with Kaleidoscope Human Rights Foundation and the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We welcome the Singaporean government's willingness to engage in the UPR process.

During this review, Singapore received a large number of recommendations calling for the reform of existing laws that criminalize homosexuality, including article 377 A of the Singaporean *Penal Code* which criminalises "acts of gross indecency" between men, including sodomy.

We regret, however, that all of these recommendations were only noted, and that the government used its earlier explanation that this legislation is not proactively enforced, that Singapore is firmly opposed to discrimination and harassment, and does not discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

However, in addition to this discriminatory law, and despite the government's explanations and arguments, there is evidence that such discrimination against LGBT people remains. Examples include the requirement of individuals to declare their sexual orientation when applying to the civil service, and the classification by sexual orientation in the admission process for the military which is then followed by the assignment of discriminatory duties.

This law has been in force since colonial times, and despite a heated debate in Parliament almost a decade ago), it remains in place. This discrimination is a clear example of Human Rights violations.

We, therefore, urge the government of Singapore to urgently consider repealing Section 377A, as this provision clearly reinforces negative views towards LGBTI people, perpetuates discrimination and acts as a mechanism to restrict LGBTI individuals from the full enjoyment of their human rights.

Thank you.