



34th Session of the Human Rights Council –
Item 6 – UPR Outcome Lithuania



Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association
Joined by European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Federation
March 16th, 2017

delivered by Kseniya Kirichenko

Mr. President,

This statement is delivered in consultation with Lithuanian Gay League. In Cycle 1, Lithuania received 15 recommendation on LGBT* issues. In 2016 Lithuania received 22 recommendations on sexual orientation and gender identity. These recommendations focused on “anti-gay propaganda” legislation, non-existent procedure of gender reassignment, ineffective response to hate crimes and pending homophobic legislative initiatives. Lithuania accepted 20 out of 22 UPR recommendations on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We commend Lithuania on accepting almost all recommendations on SOGIE issues. We see it as a positive advance that the Government for the first time has openly talked about LGBT* issues. We congratulate Lithuania for having accepted the criticism and taking concrete actions towards achieving progress.

Mr. President,

The Lithuanian Government **did not support Switzerland and Czech Republic recommendations**, namely to amend and review the Law on Protection of Minors. Lithuania remains one of two countries in the world with effective “anti-gay propaganda” legislation. While the Lithuanian Government claims that this Law is not implemented in a discriminatory manner, we wish to clarify that this is factually inaccurate. Since 2013, this Law was used to censor public information on LGBT* topics on three different occasions.

The Lithuanian Government claims that “this Law is necessary for the protection of the child’s rights”. The toxic “anti-gay propaganda” legislation first and foremost violates the rights of LGBT* children to receive objective and scientific information. Therefore the Lithuanian Government should amend the Law, so that it does not openly stigmatize LGBT* people.

On February 27th, 2017 the Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced that Lithuania had started campaigning for election to the Human Rights Council. We stand ready to continue working with the Lithuanian Government to ensure that the application of censorship laws domestically does not stand in a way of promoting human rights internationally.

Thank you, Mr. President