

37th session of the Human Rights Council – Item 6

UPR Outcomes Ukraine

Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland. Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera

Dear Mr. President,

This statement is made on behalf of the LGBT Association ‘LIGA’ from Ukraine and the community this organization represents. Since the second UPR cycle, Ukraine has made huge efforts in ensuring the human rights of Ukrainian LGBT citizens. In fulfillment of the UPR recommendations of the previous cycle, the government has countered legislative attempts in prohibiting so-called “homosexuality promotion”, and adopted anti-discrimination legislation as well as prohibited discrimination of people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity in labor sphere. We commend Ukraine for now accepting ten further recommendations on implementing effective measures to combat hate crimes and discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

The positive legal steps and policy intentions should be followed up however, by implementing proper policies that actively counter discrimination and violence. Policies that were part of previously made commitments by the government, and previously translated into a national human rights action plan. Reality shows us much room for improvement. The most recent examples of grave violence show us the urgency of swift government action, as last week only, a homosexual man was murdered in his apartment in Mykolaiv by three young people and a group of women was attacked after the march for women’s rights in Kyiv by representatives of ultra-right organizations.

Mr. President,

To eliminate these threats and attacks and reassure protection of LGBT people, the government should start implementing all policy actions as prescribed in the Action Plan on Implementation of National Human Rights Strategy until 2020. Until date, most actions have not been followed-up due to a lack of prioritization and unavailability of necessary budgets. We call on the government to pick up the implementation of the action plan where it left it. LIGA remains most willing to support in the processes of project assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation. We further call upon the government of Ukraine to scale up its efforts in implementing all recommendations referring to SOGI, to ensure equality before the law and non-discrimination to everyone. As long as the government of Ukraine continues to partly neglect its obligations under both domestic and international legal frameworks, the lives of all Ukrainian LGBT people will be affected, with intolerance, hate, discrimination, violence and murders still being the norm.

I thank you, Mr. President.