

SEXUAL ORIENTATION
AND GENDER IDENTITY:
*Issues concerning LGBTI persons
in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

3rd Universal Periodic Review

About Sarajevo Open Centre

- Established in 2007 to empower **LGBTI persons** and **women**
- Community empowerment & activist movement building
- Advocating on national, European and international level
- Lack of consultations in preparing the **National Report**

Adoption of laws, strategies and action plans related to equality of LGBTI persons

- 2nd UPR cycle recommendations:
 - **107.27** (made by **Germany**)
 - **107.37** (made by **Uruguay**)
- No LGBTI Equality Action Plan & Antidiscrimination Action Plan
- **Hate speech, discrimination, and violence** widespread
- No institutional plan to combat **peer violence**
- **Freedom of assembly** sensitive issue related to the LGBTI community



Recommendations – group 1

- Draft in cooperation with the civil society, and adopt a countrywide **anti-discrimination strategy**, followed by an **anti-discrimination action plan**, as well as an **LGBTI equality action plan**.
- Adopt and amend laws to enable **equal treatment** of LGBTI persons **in society**, especially concerning transgender health care, same-sex partnerships, and freedom of assembly.
- Strengthen the protection of bodily integrity of intersex people and **prohibit unnecessary "sex normalization" medical procedures** conducted on intersex children.



Institutional capacity building and law enforcement

- 2nd UPR cycle recommendation **107.51** (made by **Norway**)
- Number of **processed cases** of hate crimes is very low
- **Example:** Merlinka Festival attack in 2014
- Increasing levels of documented **domestic violence**
- Threats, blackmail, physical assaults, forced medical treatment and peer violence

Recommendations – group 2

- Build upon developments in Sarajevo Canton regarding **training, coordination** and **awareness-raising** in tackling discrimination of LGBTI persons and implement these practices throughout the judiciary and the police.
- Work together with the civil society in order to harmonize entity laws on protection against domestic violence with the **Istanbul Convention**.



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