

**32nd session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6 – UPR Outcome Denmark**

**Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit
– COC Nederland
Joined by LGBT Denmark and International Lesbian and Gay Association**

Delivered by Alexander Hammelburg

Thank you, Mr. President,

Since Denmark's first UPR in 2011, we have seen significant advances in the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people.

We applaud Denmark's commitment to ensure non-discrimination against the LGBTI community in health care, as well as the Government's support for lifting the requirement for 18 years-of-age for legal gender change.

Norway, Canada and Bulgaria addressed the lack of protection from discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity in all contexts. Even though Denmark accepted the recommendations from Bulgaria and Canada in principle, we are disappointed that the Government is not willing to review the law, as they state that all LGBTI people are well protected under existing non-discrimination and equal treatment legislation.

The lack of explicit prohibition of discrimination outside the labour market entails that the Danish Board of Equal Treatment cannot rule regarding discrimination that takes place outside the workplace. Once again, we urge Denmark to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression outside the labour market.

The Danish anti-discrimination and equal treatment legislation only refers to sexual orientation and not to gender identity or gender expression. Danish governments have argued that it is not necessary to include gender identity and gender expression in the legislation as it is considered to fall under the term 'sexual orientation'. This runs the risk of trans persons' rights not being protected. We therefore call on Denmark to include 'gender identity and gender expression' in the non-discrimination and equal treatment legislation.

We thank all the governments who raised specific SOGIESC issues with Denmark in this review, and we stand ready to continue working with the Danish Government to ensure that we see many more advances for the rights of LGBTI people in the years ahead.

I thank you.