

**34th Human Rights Council session**  
**March 6<sup>th</sup> 2017**  
**Annual full-day meeting: Rights of the Child (res. 7/29 & 31/7)**

**Statement by: the Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights  
– RFSL**

**Joined by: International Lesbian and Gay Association**

*delivered by Micah Grzywnowicz*

Thank you Mr. President,

As recalled by the High Commissioner in his report, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender non-conforming and intersex children are left out from the Agenda 2030 and therefore are at a heightened risk of being overlooked in the implementation.

We would like to uphold the principle of “leaving no one behind” and urge it to be used not only in words but also in action. We invite this panel to name those children who have been left out from the implementation so far so it can be mitigated in the future. We still have 13 years left and the business cannot continue as usual.

The Agenda 2030 states that children should have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society. Not all children can benefit from this promise. LGBTI children often fall in the cracks of the system, specially because they suffer from multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. LGBTI children are often victims of bullying and violence in schools. Transgender and gender non-conforming children are frequently denied access to bathrooms and this, among others, has a direct impact on their meaningful and active participation in education. Without receiving quality education promised by the SDGs they won't be able to access labor market, making it impossible to break the cycle of poverty.

All children are critical agents of change. Agenda 2030 should also be their platform for development, growth and contribution. This will only be possible, if States include LGBTI children in their national programs and policies and see all children and youth as valuable resource and hope for the future.

To close, what do the panel think should be the first 3 steps for states to ensure that LGBTI children are not left behind in the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

I thank you Mr. President,