

35th session of the Human Rights Council - Item 3
Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Discrimination against Women
in Law and in Practice

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

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This statement was drafted in consultation with Transvanilla and the Hungarian LGBT Alliance, both based in Hungary.

We welcome that the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice regularly includes references to sexual orientation and gender identity, and LGBTI persons both in their thematic and country reports.

We commend the inclusion of sexual orientation in the current report as one of the grounds of intersectional discrimination faced by women in the context of economic and social life and the feminization of poverty.

Gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles have a significant impact on lesbian, bisexual, trans women and men, and gender non-conforming persons. By defying these norms they are often specifically vulnerable to violence and discrimination in laws and practice.

The gender wage gap disproportionately affects lesbian and bisexual women and specifically female same-sex households. Apart from that, they often lack support of their families and do not have access to social security benefits because their relationships are not recognized.

When trans people do not have access to legal gender recognition, it impedes them from enjoyment of adequate health care, education, reproductive services and formal employment.

Gender segregation in the job market puts trans people and women not conforming to traditional gender roles or expression at particular risk of being targeted or bullied at work, excluded from certain positions or sectors, demoted or dismissed. There were, for example, numerous cases of discrimination against LBT teachers, justified by freedom of religion or anti-propaganda measures, reported in all regions. Lists of professions prohibited for women in some countries by definition exclude trans people.

Lesbian women, trans women and women not conforming to traditional gender norms are often targeted by their own family or community members to punish them or to 'cure' them with aggravated forms of sexual and physical violence, killing, rape and torture.

We welcome LGBT references in the country report on Hungary, as same-sex couples and their children are explicitly excluded from the concept of family in law and practice, lesbian women do not have access to social security supported artificial reproduction, and restrictions on foreign funding will disproportionately affect LGBT human rights defenders.

At the same time, we regret that obstacles faced by trans persons in Hungary were not addressed. First and foremost, trans specific health care expenses are not covered by the State. Other problems include lack of trans specific health care standards and legal gender recognition legislation, discrimination in health care settings, at school and the workplace, transphobic violence and problems with implementation of anti-discrimination legislation.

We would like to ask the Working Group:

- In what way could you collaborate with other mandate holders and Treaty Bodies to address the specific way in which LBTI women are affected by laws and practices that limit women's autonomy over their gender and sexuality and address root causes?
- How will you foster a dialogue with local lesbian, bisexual, trans and intersex communities?