

35th Human Rights Council session

June 20, 2017

ITEM 10 – Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

delivered by *Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera*

Thank you, Mr. President,

In recent years, governments and other entities have adopted wide- ranging measures to address human rights violations against lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people. In the spirit of this Item 10 – technical assistance and capacity-building– we would like to share a few of those good practices that have happened in the last few months.

LGBTI persons struggle to realize the right to education. We congratulate the government of **Japan** that recently updated the national bullying prevention policy that will for the first time protect discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.¹ This is an important step forward to ensure equal access to education for all Japanese children. Similarly, we congratulate **Cambodia** for working with LGBT defenders to draft a new ‘Life Skills’ curriculum that will include coursework on LGBT issues.² The creation of this curriculum is an important step towards combating discrimination against the LGBT community in Cambodia, as the material would be taught nationwide and will cover a broad range of issues.

The **Swedish** government has announced it will pay financial compensation to forcibly-sterilised trans people.³ This is the first time that a state has recognized this horrific requirement as a human rights violation and offering financial compensation. In this regard, we also welcome the recent decision of the **European Court of Human Rights** which also found such sterilization requirements in France to violate the right to respect for private life..⁴

Mr. President,

Trans persons often face challenges in realizing the right to work. In **India**, a State-level government hired 23 transgender women to work in the city metro service as part of a policy to end discrimination against trans women and encourage other organizations to hire them.⁵

In the face of challenges worldwide to realize the freedom of association for LGBTI persons, we also welcome the landmark decision by the **Commonwealth** to accredit an LGBTI focussed organization, the Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN).⁶ This sends a strong signal that the voices of all persons should be heard by governments, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

In the health arena, steps are also being made. We welcome the Resolution 695 issued by **Paraguay’s** Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare that provides that for medical records, clinical histories, and forms, Trans people may use the name by which they identify themselves; this extends to medical treatment and care throughout the Ministry’s networks of health services.⁷

¹ <http://bit.ly/2sURvgn>

² <http://bit.ly/2sUWq0O>

³ <http://reut.rs/2odGeCv>

⁴ <http://bit.ly/2sztYi5>

⁵ <http://bit.ly/2sSp5nz>

⁶ <http://bit.ly/2sUFyHc>

⁷ <http://bit.ly/2mQwNee>

Similarly, we congratulate the **South African** National Aids Council for creating, after a ten year process, the first national HIV plan to address the specific needs of the LGBTI communities, highlighting the vulnerabilities associated with those identities.⁸

In **Canada**, the parliament amended the Human Rights Act to add gender identity and gender expression to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination.⁹ Adding these grounds marks a significant step toward protecting the rights of transgender and gender diverse communities: recognizing their inherent dignity and respect.

We hope to continue seeing these developments in the upcoming months and that these good practices will spark discussion and hope and inspire other governments to renew their efforts and determination on joining forces to end human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics.

I thank you Mr. President

⁸ <http://bit.ly/2rBu3kp>

⁹ <http://bit.ly/2sSdSDr>