

40th session of the Human Rights Council – Item 6

UPR Outcomes Belize

**Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van
Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland**

Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Cavid Nabiye

Dear President,

The statement is delivered on behalf of the United Belize Advocacy Movement, Promoting Empowerment Through Awareness For Les/Bi Women, Our Circle, Empower Yourself Belize Movement and Belize Youth Empowerment for Change. As a coalition, we must thank members of this Council for the SOGI recommendations that were tabled and that led to 15 being adopted by the government of Belize.

Since last year, Belize has raised the bar of its human rights commitment towards its LGBTI citizens. The announcements, during both the UPR and Human Rights Committee sessions, that the government was working with the National AIDS Commission to advance anti-discrimination legislation, have finally restored hope that LGBTI Belizeans are welcomed as full citizens.

Naturally, adopting recommendations does not automatically mean due implementation. We remain concerned that no deadline has been set to present an anti-discrimination bill to parliament and that after 9 years of accepting recommendations to develop a National Human Rights Institute, no deadline has been defined to conduct and finalise a feasibility study. Furthermore, the gender equality framework that has been developed on paper has not been fully realised in budget allocation; a strong accountability mechanism to address police officers abuse of power is still lacking.

Dear President,

As a national coalition we are open to support the government of Belize in any planning, legal reform effort, police training and policy process that would give life to the 15 recommendations it has accepted.

I thank you.