



Human Rights Council
June 27, 2019

**Clustered Interactive Dialogue:
SR on violence against women and SR on trafficking**

Statement by: International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by: Tuisina Ymania Brown

Mr. President,

As a former victim of spousal abuse and gender based violence, I am honoured to make this statement so please forgive me if my voice shakes and wavers at the memory of our collective pain and suffering.

We welcome the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and we believe this mandate is crucial to protect lesbian and bisexual women, as well as trans and intersex persons from gender-based violence.

We face specific forms of gender-based violence, including hate crimes, so-called 'corrective rapes' and 'conversion therapies', forced sterilisation, intersex genital mutilation, harassment and intimidation. At the same time, our access to justice is hindered by criminalisation, stigmatization, demonization, cultural practices and prejudices in our own families, society in general and even among state officials.

These problems have been addressed by the mandate holders. Their input to and practice of other UN mechanisms such as CEDAW, the Working Group on discrimination against women and UN Women, were instrumental in establishing the basis for our protection from gender-based violence under the international human rights law.

In the last 8 years, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women has addressed problems and challenges we faced in 12 thematic reports, 17 communications and 12 reports following country visits.

We see the mandate extremely important in ensuring protection from gender-based violence of those who face such violence because of their gender, but also their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

However, since there were no explicit references to us as, lesbian and bisexual women and trans and intersex persons, we have two questions to the mandate holder:

1. What have been the main achievements and what are the remaining gaps in combating violence against lesbian and bisexual women and trans and intersex persons under the mandate over the last 25 years?

2. Which possibilities do you see to continue to ensure visibility of lesbian and bisexual women and trans and intersex persons in the work of the mandate and, more generally, in the UN system, in the future?

I thank you, Mr. President.