Madam President,

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and intersex persons have been disproportionately exposed to discrimination, violence and other severe human rights violations. Today we draw attention to some of these situations taking place around the globe.

**LGBTI people face violence:**
Last week in **Puerto Rico** a woman was shot dead simply because she used the bathroom according to her gender identity.1 In **South Africa,** the murder of a LGBTI human rights defender marked the third killing of a member of the LGBTI community in this country in only two months.2

Freedom of expression of LGBTI persons is constantly restricted in the name of cultural and religious sensitivities, impeding the public debate on gender and sexuality:
In **Brazil,** attackers lobbed a Molotov cocktail at the headquarters of a comedy group due to a TV show that portrayed Jesus as a homosexual.4 Meanwhile, authorities from the **United Arab Emirates** and from **Kenya** have banned the exhibition of a movie due to the presence of same-sex relationships.

**We are left unprotected:**
States still are falling short on enacting and implementing legislation that fully comply with the international human rights standards. In the **United States of America,** the State of California failed to legally ban cosmetic surgeries on intersex infants.7 A High Court in **Zambia** upheld a ruling which sentenced two men to 15 years imprisonment for consensual same-sex sexual activity. In **Australia,** the parliament is discussing a bill which would allow

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4 Reuters, 'Brazilian comedy group hit by Molotov cocktails after film on 'gay Jesus'” [https://reut.rs/3agSI3z](https://reut.rs/3agSI3z)
7 CNN, 'Ban on cosmetic surgeries on intersex infants fails key California vote' [https://cnn.it/32GG5fC](https://cnn.it/32GG5fC)
service providers, including hospitals, to discriminate against LGBTI people on the basis of religious freedom.

**Our communities are faced with hate speech and shrinking space:**
A report published last month shows a sharp rise in anti-LGBTI hate speech carried out by public figures across Europe. In Croatia, an effigy of a same-sex couple was set on fire during a city parade. While in Poland more than 100 municipalities have adopted resolutions declaring themselves as LGBT-free zones.

Madam President,

Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics cannot be used as grounds for violence and discrimination. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is clear on ensuring freedom and equality to all human beings, without any distinction. We call upon states to intensify efforts on implementing these provisions and stand ready to work with them, with you, with all relevant stakeholders on addressing these violations.

I thank you, Madam President.

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10 ILGA-Europe, ‘Annual Review of the situation of LGBTI people paints a picture at odds with a widespread notion that in Europe the work is done’ <https://bit.ly/2vFzM4>