

Human Rights Council
7 July 2020

Item 3
Interactive Dialogue: IE on SOGI

Statement by: Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualitet –
COC Nederland

Co-sponsored by: International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by: Olena Shevchenko

Madam President,

This statement was prepared in consultation with the Public Organization 'Insight' and LGBT Human Rights Centre 'Nash Mir'.

We welcome the Independent Expert's report and recommendations to Ukraine.

There is an increase of attacks against LGBTI communities by right-wing radicals in Ukraine. In 2019, 'Nash Mir' Center documented 369 cases of homo- and transphobic violence and discrimination. This spring, two trans women were brutally beaten.

These hate crimes are not acknowledge therefore not investigated with the General Prosecutor's Office stating, "we have not had and will not have such crimes".

I lead the LGBTI organization 'Insight'. My personal data, including my home address, and those of my relatives were published on right-wing social media accounts.

A year ago, I filed a report regarding death threats. Last week an investigating officer finally visited my home to check if I am 'still alive' and only because they received an order from a supervising authority.

In March, the Patriarch of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was televised blaming Covid-19 on same-sex marriages. We filed a lawsuit. However, the case remains in limbo. We currently learn about our case developments from the right-wings' bullying comments on Facebook.

Recently, three bills on criminalization of hate crimes against LGBTI people have been introduced in Parliament. However, the Law Enforcement Committee, influenced by religious groups, rejected these bills. This significantly impacts the chance these bills will be adopted.

Bearing this in mind, we would like to ask the Independent Expert:

- What is you plan to ensure Ukraine is implementing your recommendations?

Thank you.