



## **45th Human Rights Council Session**

### **Item 4 –General Debate Item 4**

#### **Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association**

Delivered by Gabriel Coutinho Galil

Thank you, Madam President,

Around the world people continue to face violence and discrimination because of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). We draw the attention of the Council to some of the situations that have occurred in the past few months.

In **Poland**, LGBTI activists continue to be targeted<sup>1</sup>. An investigation on the arrest of 48 LGBTI people, conducted by the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights, identified degrading treatment, in arrest and detention, violations to the right to legal help and to information<sup>2</sup>. We call upon this Council to take action against police violence and arbitrary detention, and to demand protection of the fundamental rights for LGBTI people in **Poland**.

In the **Philippines**, a Pride march was violently interrupted and over 20 people were arrested warrantlessly. In **Indonesia** a gay celebration was targeted by a police raid and at least nine people were arrested<sup>3</sup>. Freedom of expression and association, and freedom of peaceful assembly must be upheld without any kind of distinction.

In **Tunisia**, an appeals court upheld the conviction of two men accused of sodomy<sup>4</sup>, while a recent study in sub-Saharan African countries highlighted that in states where consensual same-sex sexual acts are criminalized, these persons are at a 5 times higher risk of having HIV<sup>5</sup>. These provisions criminalizing same-sex conducts are a violation to the rights to privacy and non-discrimination under international law, and we call upon states in all the regions to abide by international human rights law and to decriminalize same-sex consensual sexual acts.

In **Latin America**, a significant increase in hate crimes and violence against LGBTI people have been reported by civil society<sup>6</sup>. We call upon States to adopt legislation in relation to hate crime and speech against LGBTI people, and to hold to account those responsible.

We further call upon States to address the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on LGBTI people and to include them in the responses to the current health and social crisis.

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch. Poland: Crackdown On LGBT Activists. <<https://bit.ly/2FLm54x>>

<sup>2</sup> NMPT. The NMPT visits police places of detention after night arrests in Warsaw. <<https://bit.ly/2FRwA64>>

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch. Indonesia: Investigate Police Raid on 'Gay Party'. <<https://bit.ly/32SwzaK>>

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch. Tunisia: Homosexuality Convictions Upheld. <<https://bit.ly/35VDguK>>

<sup>5</sup> AIDS Map. MSM living in African countries that criminalise gay sex are at a much higher risk of getting HIV. <<https://bit.ly/2Epn0GT>>.

<sup>6</sup> Antra - Associação Nacional de Travestis e Transexuais. Assassinatos. | <https://antrabrasil.org/assassinatos/>; Openly. More than 60 LGBT, intersex people killed in Colombia in first eight months of 2020. <<https://bit.ly/2HhPblS>>; Presentes. Un crimen de odio a personas LGBT+ cada tres días en Argentina. <<https://bit.ly/3cqMkZz>>



I thank you Madam President.