



46th Human Rights Council Session

Item 4 –General Debate Item 4

Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Gabriel Galil

Madam President,

We are appalled by the current situation in Myanmar and the use of excessive and lethal force against peaceful protesters. LGBTI activists have been killed, detained and threatened. We call on member states to take urgent action to ensure the safety of peaceful protesters and stop the other severe human rights violations in the country.

On the 24th of February, security forces raided the *LGBT+ Rights Ghana* Centre in Accra. The Centre did not even complete a month of operations before it was shut down.¹ We call on the Council to protect the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association of LGBTI people in Ghana and in other jurisdictions that restrict civil society work on LGBTI human rights².

We note with concern the crackdown on academic freedom and freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration in Turkey, in the context of rising hateful rhetoric against the LGBTI+ community by representatives of high-level religious and political institutions, as well as actions and legislation attacking human rights defenders and civil society organisations.

In Uzbekistan, the new Draft Criminal Code does not remove the provision criminalising consensual same-sex conduct between men. The provision remains in the new version of the Code, moved from Article 120 to Article 154 without changing its substance.³ A reform of the Criminal Code keeping the provision on criminalisation raises many questions about Uzbekistan's commitment to international human rights treaties. We call on the government to take this opportunity to meet its international human rights obligations and decriminalise these conducts.

In Honduras, an ongoing constitutional reform seeks to impose a constitutional ban on the right to marriage to same-sex couples and on abortion⁴, contravening international and regional human rights standards on prohibition of discrimination and on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

¹ CNN "Founder of LGBTQI center shut down in Ghana says he fears for his safety" <<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/02/25/africa/lgbt-ghana-office-raids-intl/index.html>>.

² ILGA Europe. Turkish government steps up its attacks on LGBTI+ citizens. <https://www.ilga-europe.org/resources/news/latest-news/turkish-government-steps-its-attacks-turkeys-lgbti-citizens>

³ Special Procedures Communication UZB 2/2021. <<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=26199>>

⁴ Reuters. Honduran lawmakers vote to lock in bans on abortion, same-sex marriage <https://reut.rs/2MgLZj6>



We call the attention of the Council to these human rights violations and urge its members to take further action on protecting the human rights of LGBTI people across the regions.

I thank you Madam President.