

Human Rights Council, 47th session
2 July 2021

Item 3 – ID with SR on privacy

Statement by Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights – RFSL

Co-sponsored by International Lesbian and Gay Association

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Madam President,

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's reports on the right to privacy following his missions to the United States, France and Germany.

We also commend the continued acknowledgement of how gender, which encompasses not only cisheteronormativity, but also sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), affect how privacy is experienced.

Throughout his reports and statements, the Special Rapporteur has made clear that human rights, which include the right to privacy, are universal and should be available to everyone without any discrimination based on gender and SOGIESC.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons already face persecution through criminalisation of their identities, dissemination of their personal information, lack of access to legal gender recognition or bathrooms, online harassment of LGBTI activists, non-consensual medical interventions for intersex children, and many more. Some even forced to seek asylum in other countries in order to protect themselves and their families from the fallout of these invasions of privacy.

Though the Special Rapporteur notes that the measures put in place to protect privacy within the United States, France and Germany do hold some merit, the disparities evident when comparing privacy rights across gender and SOGIESC deserve attention and need to be remedied.

Following the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, we call on states to develop and secure a universally agreed and internationally binding multilateral consensus on privacy in different fields that protects the right to privacy of all people regardless of any factors, including gender and SOGIESC. It will be in establishing these clear, international and multilateral directives on how to protect against gender-based privacy infringements that will prevent the ongoing harms that individuals and families around the world still suffer.

I thank you, Madam President.