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47<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council

8 July 2021

**Item 6 – UPR Outcomes - Austria**

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

*Delivered by: Tobias Humer*

Madame President,

This statement was drafted in consultation with VIMO. We thank all the States that made 11 recommendations to the Austrian government with respect to human rights of LGBTI people in the country, although we regret that 6 recommendations were noted.

As an intersex organisation, we are especially thankful for the 5 recommendations targeting the rights of intersex children, their physical and psychological integrity and we applaud Austria for accepting those and also for first steps towards implementation.

In June 2021, the Austrian Parliament has unanimously adopted a resolution that requests the government to effectively protect intersex children from nonconsensual and not necessary treatments and enhance psychosocial support. We urge Austria to take further steps to promptly implement these measures. As there was also adopted a resolution on the ban of conversion therapies in the same meeting, that was already adopted once in 2019, we hope the two resolutions will result in real change this time.

As being an LGBTIQ organisation as well and being in close contact with other community organisations, we regret that 4 recommendations targeting a harmonization and broadening the scope of national antidiscrimination legislation were noted by Austria. While the Austrian delegation states that the antidiscrimination legislation as already sufficient, that doesn't reflect the situation on the ground. There still is discrimination within the antidiscrimination legislation, for instance, on grounds of sexual orientation in access to goods and services) and the fragmentation of regulations is as well a big problem for victims in the access to justice.

One recommendation targeting free access to non-binary gender markers was noted. We urge the Austria government to take positive action in this matter as the current regulation imposes barriers for non-binary people to access their rights.

VIMÖ and fellow LGBTIQ organisations in Austria will continue to advocate for equality and respect towards LGBTI people and we are willing to cooperate with the Austrian government and other stakeholders to implement an effective ban of nonconsensual medical unnecessary treatment on intersex minors, as well as other recommendations made during this 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle.

Thank you Madam President