



## 49th Human Rights Council session

16 March 2022

### General Debate – Item 3

#### Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Thank you Mr. President,

We welcome the High Commissioner report on women's and girls' human rights in humanitarian situations.

Indeed, certain groups of women are at increased risk of violations of their rights and their situation is worsened in times of crisis as a result of intersecting forms of discrimination, including on the basis of their gender identity and sexual orientation<sup>1</sup>.

Discrimination, violence and exclusion shape the lives of women with diverse SOGIESC even before they interact with the humanitarian system, or with disaster risk reduction initiatives. These violations are exacerbated by a humanitarian system that exclude people with diverse SOGIESC.

Access to livelihoods and other support may be inaccessible, or may result in harassment from other community members; and aid allocations made on the basis of families or households often exclude non heterosexual relationships.

This increased risk is present in the current human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression. We have seen reports of trans women not being able to cross borders, experiencing difficulties with travelling within the country and considered fit for military duty.

It is important to establish clear and accessible protocols for evacuation of trans persons. It is also crucial to ensure that any humanitarian aid that is and will be delivered to Ukraine, is accessible for LGBTI persons - ideally, through securing certain parts of the aid and distributing it through LGBTI organisations.

We urge all stakeholders to ensure that women with diverse SOGIESC are duly considered in humanitarian responses.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Dwyer, E, (2021) The Only Way Is Up: Monitoring and Encouraging Diverse SOGIESC Inclusion in the Humanitarian and DRR Sectors. Edge Effect report for UNWomen. Accessed at: [https://www.edgeeffect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TheOnlyWayIsUp\\_Web.pdf](https://www.edgeeffect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TheOnlyWayIsUp_Web.pdf)