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ITEM 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on minority issues

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Gabriel Galil

Mr. President,

We welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues on his visit to the United States of America. We support its references to the discrimination, hate speech, and "racial wealth divide" suffered by ethnic and racial minorities in the country, such as indigenous, african-american, hispano, black and latinx communities. We also commend its focus on the particular consequences for these groups derived from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are concerned about the lack of mentions to LGBTI minorities, since the intersection of race and sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics plays a crucial role in the disparities and inequities that these communities live in the United States.

For instance, violence against LGBTI indigenous and women of color is widespread. According to the National Congress of American Indians, four in five Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime. These circumstances also couple with a rising trend in violence against LGBTI individuals. In 2020, at least 31 trans people were murdered in the country, and most of them were indigenous women and trans women of color.¹ According to Human Rights Watch, more than three-quarters of the transgender and non-binary people killed in the United States in 2020, were people of color, with Black transgender women at particular risk of violence. From 2016 to 2021, at least 88 percent of the transgender people killed in Florida, 91 percent of the transgender people killed in Ohio, and 90 percent of the transgender people killed in Texas were people of color.² In 2019, during the two months of Pride season (15 May to 15 July), the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs recorded 14 homicides of LGBTQ people. Ten of these victims were Black, and seven were Black trans women. They also recorded two fatalities in detention, both victims were trans women of color.³

Moreover, Black LGBTI individuals experience heightened levels of discrimination in the workplace healthcare systems, and police interactions, leading to gaps in economic improvement and mental and physical health outcomes.⁴

Likewise, LGBTI indigenous and people of color living in rural areas may experience even further isolation and lack of support structures. They are at risk of multiple types of discrimination, further limiting their chances to access quality services, legal support, health care, and employment. Further amplifying this problem, many

¹ See <https://www.advocate.com/crime/2020/10/10/saving-indigenous-trans-women>

² HRW (2021) "I Just Try to Make It Home Safe": Violence and the Human Rights of Transgender People in the United States

³ NCAVP (2019), Pride and Pain: A Snapshot of Anti-LGBTQ Hate and Violence During Pride Season 2019

⁴ For more information see CAP (2021) [Black LGBTQ experience heightened levels of discrimination](#) and [CAP \(2020\) The State of the LGBTQ community in 2020](#)



service providers in United States rural areas are religiously affiliated and are covered under religious exemption laws that may allow them to discriminate.⁵

We acknowledge that the mandate has addressed problems faced by LGBTI minorities in its previous work, since 2011 the mandate has referenced LGBTI minorities in 8 thematic and 2 country visit reports. Therefore, we encourage the Special Rapporteur to continue with these developments and join forces with the Independent Expert on SOGI, who is taking a country visit this year to the United States, to contribute to new solutions for LGBTI minorities in the country.

I thank you Mr. President

⁵ For more information see Equality Federation Institute (2019) [Where we call home: LGBT people of color in rural America](#).