



50th Human Rights Council session

20 June 2022

**ITEM 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women
Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association**

Delivered by Angelica Polmonari

Mr. President,

The statement has been prepared in consultation with the LGBT Centre (Mongolia).

We strongly support the recent work of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women since **her** appointment in 2021 and **her** constant focus on LGBTI women. We **also** welcome her report on indigenous women and girls and its references to diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. We particularly commend the report's decolonizing approach by highlighting the intracommunity and State-driven violence experienced by women and girls with diverse SOGI and underlining the wide spectrum of indigenous perspectives towards LGBTI identities, which could include acceptance and attribution of important roles inside a community. However, we believe that the report could have benefited from more regional examples of the challenges faced by indigenous women and girls with diverse SOGI. We find it extremely important that regions such as Latin America should **have** a prominent representation in indigenous-related discussions.

In addition, we find tremendous value in the Special Rapporteur's visit to Mongolia and her special attention to sexual and gender diverse persons in her report. LGBTI persons are entirely overlooked by the State policies in Mongolia, despite many LGBTI-specific recommendations provided by UN treaty bodies and the UPR in the last decade, excluding them from State Development Strategies and National Programs. LGBTI persons, especially women belonging to this group, continue to be deemed as non-citizens, rendering them unable to access equality and non-discrimination rights afforded to everyone else. The LGBT Centre believes the Government of Mongolia has acted in contravention of the spirit of the CEDAW through its direct engagement in - or systematic ignoring of- exclusionary practices that deny LGBTI women their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and has failed to provide an environment that is conducive for LGBTI persons to fully participate in society. On this aspect, we would like to ask if the Special Rapporteur has any follow-up plans regarding the implementation of her recommendations to Mongolia, and if so – how civil society can contribute.

Lastly, we encourage the Special Rapporteur to continue with her commitment to LGBTI women and join forces with the Independent Expert on SOGI to draw more attention to these specific groups and monitor the implementation of policies and laws targeting violence against women based on SOGI.

I thank you, Mr. President.