



50th Human Rights Council session

17 June 2022

ITEM 3 - Interactive dialogue with the Working group on discrimination against women and girls

Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Angelica Polmonari

Mr. President,

We welcome the thematic report of the Working group on discrimination against women on girl's and young women's activism. We acknowledge that the mandate has been instrumental in making LBTQI women and girls' struggles visible and guaranteeing their rights. We commend the report's references to SOGI and its intersectional approach to gender and age, narrowing civic space and economic insecurity. Indeed, according to Frida Young Feminist Fund, young feminists are diverse and organise intersectionally.¹

We join the Working Group's concerns expressed in the report on the increased risks of harassment and violence for young women and girls in the context of gender backlashes and barriers to freedom of expression on SOGI issues around the world.

These barriers target and disproportionately affect young LBTQI women and girls. Russia's 2013 legal ban on so-called 'propaganda' of homosexuality among minors; recent laws in Hungary banning LGBT content in schools and ending gender recognition of trans and intersex people; the continuous attempts to adopt laws protecting minors from so-called 'harmful information' in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – these are just some examples. But these and similar developments imperil youth activism, increase social hostility and violence against LBTQI women and girls, and violate their right to freedom of expression, including right to receive and impart information concerning their development, and enjoyment of rights.

The intersectional positionality of girl and young women LBTQ activists exposes them to an increasing vulnerability and marginalisation both offline and online. Already lacking safe spaces, such as shelters, were shut down during the pandemic, and mainstream spaces were not accessible in many cases.

We encourage the Working Group to continue with its commitment to acknowledge and support LBTQI women and girl activists. We particularly believe that underfunding of LBTQI women and girls' activism, and the dangers of digital surveillance are critical issues that needs to be covered further in the mandate's future work

I thank you, Mr. President.

¹ Frida, Brave, Creative, Resilient: The Global State of Young Feminist Organizing. Available at: https://youngfeministfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/frida-awid_young_feminist_organizing_research.pdf.