

50th Session of the Human Rights Council

High-level panel discussion on countering the negative impact of disinformation on the enjoyment and realization of human rights and on ensuring a human rights-based response

Joint Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association and the Center for Reproductive Rights

Mr. President,

We would like to call the attention of the Council to the disproportionate impact of the disinformation on the human rights of women, girls and LGBTI persons especially concerning their sexuality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, right to legal gender recognition, right to bodily autonomy and to be free from torture.

We have noted with concern the rising number of reports of disinformation campaigns targeting these groups articulated by retrogressive lobbies organizations, far-right and fundamentalist religious groups.

Disinformation on access to safe abortion, contraceptives, gender-affirming health care and promotion of conversion therapies, as well as harmful gender-based stereotypes against women, LGTIQ persons and those who defend their rights, are some examples of the topics covered by these campaigns.

These disinformation campaigns significantly hinder the full realization of the human rights of women and girls and LGBTIQ persons and endanger the health of sexual and gender minorities. Even more worryingly, they are also connected to discriminatory policy and legislative changes that are detrimental to the human rights of these individuals.

Ensuring access to accurate human rights and comprehensive sexuality education, as well as ending stigma and discrimination preventing the enjoyment of human rights is an integral part of states' obligations under IHRL.

Access to comprehensive sexuality education is fundamental to guaranteeing access to SRHR and stopping sexual and gender-based violence, both online and offline.

These disinformation campaigns are often coupled with smear campaigns against activists and women human rights defenders. They are enabled by the lack of a filter of social media companies when it comes to their advertising policies, which allows these retrogressive groups to intentionally spread misinformation and disinformation.

We would like to ask the panelists if you could identify the main steps both states and corporations need to take to stop the spread of disinformation on SRHR and LGBTI human rights? Thank you.