

Oral Statement
International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA)
24th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 4: Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
Tuesday 17th September 2013

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Thank you (Madame) Chair

Many human rights situations require the Council's attention. One is the human rights situation of LGBTI people.

LGBTI people exist, and indeed have existed forever, in all countries, among all ethnic groups, at all socioeconomic levels and in all communities. They are your fellow-citizens, your co-workers, your friends, your family, and your children.

Yet acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals because of their perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity also occur in all regions of the world. Here are some examples:

Lesbians, often made invisible, face discrimination in many areas of life and are at risk owing to entrenched gender inequalities that restrict autonomy in decision-making about sexuality and family life.

Gay men live in fear of homophobic hate crimes, police abuse and torture, both in those countries where same-sex relations remain illegal and those where it is not.

Bisexuals also face discrimination. Some schools discriminate against bisexual young people, sometimes leading to their being refused admission or expelled.

Trans people are unable to obtain legal recognition of the gender they identify with on ID documents and so face difficulties when applying for employment, housing or loans, or when travelling.

Intersex people – those born with sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, and/or chromosome patterns that do not fit the typical definition of male or female – are ignored or forgotten, despite the discrimination and human rights violations they face. As children, they are often subjected to medically unnecessary surgery, performed without their informed consent, or that of their parents, in an attempt to “fix” their sex to assuage society's anxiety about them, but in violation of their human rights.

L-G-B-T-I persons – each one a human being born free and equal in dignity and human rights – continue to struggle to be who they are and to live free from discrimination, fear and violence. This Council must, therefore, remain committed to protecting and promoting their human rights.

Thank you