

33rd session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6 – UPR Outcome United Republic of Tanzania

**Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van
Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland**
Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by: John Kashiha

Mr. President

This statement has been prepared in consultation with Key populations, gender and sexual minorities, formal and informal organizations in Tanzania.

We congratulate the government of Tanzania for the commitments in their frameworks and strategies which recognize Key populations as important partners in the fight against HIV and call for fighting stigma against Key Populations to increase access to HIV prevention and services for them. We also commend Tanzania for its commitment to ending AIDS by 2030, as part of the 2016 Political Declaration of the UN General Assembly High Level meeting which emphasizes the need to leave no one behind, including key populations key populations

However recent experience shows that civil society organizations (CSOs) working with and for KPs interests in Tanzania are denied formal registration, and are receiving threats of deregistration. This is a violation of the freedom of association, discriminatory and unconstitutional.

We are highly concerned about the continuous human rights violations to the Key Populations community. People suffer serious abuse and violence, are stripped by police, raped in custody by fellow inmates, denied health care, and fired from their jobs – because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Sexual and gender minorities are often afraid to report violence because they themselves are considered criminals under the law. Criminalization and lack of legal protection, along with high levels of stigma, violence and discrimination, constitute significant barriers to the provision and uptake of HIV services by key populations. This puts entire communities at risk. It drives new HIV infections and prevents people from access to life-saving interventions

Although Tanzania recognizes Key populations as a most at risk populations in the fight against HIV, hate speeches by some political leaders fuel violence against Key populations and creates a hostile environment.

We call upon the government to:

- To respect, protect, promote and fulfil the human rights of all Key Populations, notably their right to health (including availability, access and quality of HIV related services), right to freedom of association, opinion and expression.
- Implement government's strategies and frameworks particularly the National Multi Sectoral Strategic Framework on HIV/AIDS for Mainland Tanzania 2013/14-2017/18 and the Guideline for Comprehensive Package for HIV interventions for Key Populations of 2014
- Leave no one behind by addressing the legal and policy challenges hindering the HIV response.

Key Populations, are neither criminals nor HIV carriers.

A Tanzania without HIV, Violence and Discrimination is possible!