

**34th session of the Human Rights Council – Item 6 – UPR Outcome
Zimbabwe
Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van
Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland
Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association**

Delivered by Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera

Dear Mr. President,

This Statement is made on behalf of the Sexual Rights Centre and the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe still faces many violations of the rights of LGBTI people that go directly against international human rights standards and the new Zimbabwean constitution. Next to the fact that same sex relations are still criminalized, the community faces discrimination and violence in many aspects of life. From a lack of protection by law enforcement to a lack of equal access to health care.

Even though Zimbabwe has sought grants from the Global Fund to target the LGBTI community and men who have sex with men (MSM) in its HIV prevention programmes, the government has failed to implement the programmes due to its local contradictory and discriminatory policies. And this contradiction is also reflected by the discriminatory implementation of the new Constitution, which stipulates non-discrimination, equality, dignity and privacy for every person. In law, policy and practice, the principle of non-discrimination is still not adhered to by the government when it comes to LGBTI people.

Mr. President,

We seek the decriminalisation of all sexual acts between consenting adults, regardless of their gender, in the interests of their privacy, and in ways which will align the Criminal Code with the new Constitution. Decriminalisation will go some way to restoring our right to dignity and equality before the law.

GALZ and the Sexual Rights Centre believe that leaders in Zimbabwe have a duty to lead Zimbabwe towards a new and democratic order, which abandons the politics of hatred and intolerance. The government should adhere to international human rights standards and abandon unfair discrimination against any group, regardless of how popular or unpopular the group may be in society. We believe that the new Constitution should be interpreted as rendering discrimination against the LGBTI community as unconstitutional and unjustifiable in a democratic society, which seeks to take its place in the community of nations.

Thank you Mr. President.