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ITEM 3 - Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants

Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland

joined by

International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Richie Maitland

Mr President,

This statement is also made on behalf of Micro Rainbow International, an organisation that aims to address the issue of poverty of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people across the world.

We congratulate the Special Rapporteur for stressing not only the multiple layers of exploitation that migrants face but also emphasising particularly vulnerable migrant groups.

As stated by the special rapporteur, people migrate for a variety of reasons including war, conflict, natural disasters, persecution, poverty and unemployment.

For lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans and intersex (LGBTI) migrants the main push factors are often the discrimination, stigmatisation, and persecution on the grounds of sexuality, gender identity and/or intersex status in home countries. Same sex intimacy is still criminalised in 77 countries in the world.

LGBTI asylum seekers and migrants often face multiple levels of discrimination.

LGBTI people are frequently stigmatised or ostracised by families and communities and in relation to accessing healthcare, public services, and employment where employers view them suspiciously. Many face exploitation in the labour market often with very low paid and irregular jobs as the only option. Many others are also at risk of sexual exploitation. Intersex asylum seekers are often subjected to invasive and humiliating medical interventions.

Traumatic experiences, both at home and in the recipient country have a long-lasting effect, reinforcing a sense of marginalisation and non-belonging within society.

We call on States to take all measures necessary to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence, which undermine LGBTI people's full enjoyment of their human rights.

We also call on States to take immediate steps to ensure that LGBTI migrants not only have equal access to employment opportunities, but also to ensure equal and decent treatment in the workplace.

Finally, we call on the Special Rapporteur to include LGBTI people in his future reports and country missions as one of the groups particularly at risk of exploitation.

We thank you.