



HE The President
United Nations (UN)
Human Rights Council,
Geneva.
hrcpresidency@un.org

Vitit Muntarbhorn
Faculty of Law,
Chulalongkorn University,
Phyathai Road, Bangkok 10330.
Vitit.M@Chula.ac.th

8 September 2017

Excellency,

First of all, may I wish you very Warm Greetings from Bangkok!

I would be most grateful for your kind attention as follows. In 2016, I was appointed by the President of the UN Human Rights Council as the first Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. My functions started in November and it has been a great pleasure to serve the global community on this issue for the past year.

I regret that I am now tendering my resignation (effective on 31 October 2017) for the following reasons. The main reason for the resignation is illness: I have been unwell for the past few months and have also been hospitalized. I am now recovering and I wish to reduce my workload generally. In addition, there is a family reason; a key member of my family/household is ill and I am now having to undertake additional family obligations which consume both time and energy.

I would like to thank profoundly the Presidency of the UN Human Rights Council, the UN system, States, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, individual and other stakeholders who/which have been most kind to me and have greatly assisted the functioning of the mandate. Special thanks are conveyed to the core group of States and the vast range of organisations which have been very supportive and helpful.

My work during the past year includes: the first report on the mandate for the UN Human Rights Council, the first report for the UN General Assembly, the country report on Argentina (now being processed), communications on behalf of victims, presentations at various conferences, and teaching on the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity. In September-October, I look forward to continue the work to the best of my ability. In particular, I am planning to present the first report for the UN General Assembly at the Assembly itself in October. If the session concerning my report is delayed beyond October, the effective date of the resignation (31 October) can be adjusted accordingly.

Again, I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to all who have supported the mandate and my work. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration, my warmest thanks and very best regards.

Vitit Muntarbhorn

Professor Emeritus