

38th Human Rights Council Session

June 18, 2018

**Item 3. Clustered Interactive Dialogue: SR on health and SR on leprosy
European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Federation**

Delivered by: Dr. Lourdes Hunter

Mr. President,

My name is Dr. Lourdes Hunter, of the African diaspora. I am representing 23 trans and gender diverse activists and scholars from 19 countries.

Trans communities are disproportionately impacted by violence sanctioned by the state.

Trans and gender diverse children are taken away from supportive homes by state, religious, or traditional authorities based on their identity, and denied their rights as children to family life, often ending in foster care or detention. Additionally, children and adults are regularly denied access to toilets at school and public spaces, leading to health complications such as urinary tract infections, disordered eating, and mental health impacts.

Trans people are denied access to basic HIV and tuberculosis care, crucial gender affirming treatment, and general health care, particularly in detention. We are involuntarily forced into psychiatric facilities or pathways, or forcibly sterilized as a condition of medical transition. Others are coerced into conversion treatments. The requirement of medical transition for legal gender recognition is, in itself, a form of involuntary treatment.

These health inequalities compound other forms of discrimination, making for multiple human rights abuses, in particular towards trans women of color, sex workers, and migrants in detention.

This is an international crisis.

Your Excellencies, in what concrete ways will you commit to working with our communities to establish accountability of Member States and ensure access to competent care for all trans people?

Thank you for your time and consideration.