



44th session of the Human Rights Council

**Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based
on sexual orientation and gender identity**

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Statement by the European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Federation

Joined by: International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association

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Thank you, M. President,

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association wholeheartedly welcomes the report presented today by the Independent Expert, Victor Madrigal Borloz.

This is the first time that a United Nations mandate holder devotes a whole report to shed light on the phenomenon of so-called “conversion therapy” and we are glad that such attention has been given to this issue.

We emphasize the recommendation to adopt legal measures against “conversion therapy” included in the independent expert’s report. Policy makers need to take into account that these practices have the potential of leading people to extreme anxiety, depression and suicide. This harm and these completely unfair, avoidable deaths are one of the most deplorable outcomes of the ideas that support the existence of “conversion therapies”. Ideas that kill people by completely depriving them of their self-esteem, by preventing them from feeling loved and appreciated as they are, and—in the case of LGBT people of faith—by leading them to believe that they are not worthy of god’s love.

We truly hope that this report will contribute to raise awareness among UN Member States, and even within UN mechanisms, about these and other many harms caused by “conversion therapies”.

I thank you, M. President.

