

49th Human Rights Council Session

Item 6 -UPR Outcome of Thailand

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Mister President,

This statement is made in consultation with **Manushya Foundation and Young Pride Club**.

We thank the States which made 12 UPR recommendations to the Thai Government with respect to the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community in Thailand.

While we welcome the fact that the Thai Government accepted 7 recommendations, we are deeply concerned that it noted 5 key recommendations which were meant to recognize marriage equality and legal gender recognition.

The Thai Government argued that these 5 recommendations elaborate specific laws and timeframes which may not be attainable within the next cycle. However, the government response does not consider the rights of LGBTIQ+ and Youth persons.

As a reminder, in 2021, the Constitutional Court ruled that Section 1448 of the Civil and Commercial Code, which only recognizes marriage between a man and a woman is not unconstitutional. the Court has officially outlawed marriage equality, and has further compared the LGBTI community to animals, and to be against 'natural order'.

Furthermore, the LGBTI-led petition calling for the amendment of Section 1448 to adopt a gender-neutral language and allow two individuals to get married, gained nearly 300,000 signatures and represented the voices of the REAL Thailand.

We are concerned that the Government claims to support LGBTI rights by pushing for the Civil Partnership Bill, which only treats us as a second-class citizen, with adoption and property management rights not recognized for same-sex couples.

In addition, the absence of legislation recognizing gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics results in severe discrimination towards transgender and non-binary persons when accessing justice, health, education, and employment.

Finally, we urge the Thai Government to take concrete action to promote, protect, and fulfill the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons in Thailand. We are Equal Human Beings, not animals, not a second-class citizen. We demand EQUAL RIGHTS and True democracy, nothing less!

Thank you.