

**41st session of the Human Rights Council**  
**UPR Outcomes Vietnam**  
**Statement by LGBTI - UPR Working Group in Vietnam, COC Netherlands and ILGA**  
**World.**

**Delivered by Ryan Silverio**

Mr. President,

This statement is prepared by the LGBTI - UPR Working Group in Vietnam. We thank the governments of the Netherlands, Malta, Iceland, Chile, Canada and Norway for making recommendations on human rights for LGBTI people and welcome Vietnam's decision to accept 03 out of 07 recommendations.

We note Vietnam's decision to accept the recommendation on enacting a legislation to ensure access to gender affirmation treatment and legal gender recognition and its commitment to implement the recommendation in line with Vietnam's circumstances. We would like Vietnam to clarify whether the legislation will be in accordance with international standards and transgender people's self-determination will be respected.

We are deeply disappointed with Vietnam's decision to note recommendations on legalizing same-sex marriage. Without legal recognition and protection, same-sex couples will continue to be denied basic human rights and excluded from legal protections enjoyed by others. Vietnam needs to uphold the principle of non-discrimination stated in the Constitution and re-consider its decision as well as include same-sex marriage in the reviewing process in the upcoming mid-term review.

We remain concerned with the lack of legislation that explicitly protects LGBTI people. Though Vietnam has committed to introducing legislation against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, we are calling on the government to clarify its plan to implement the accepted recommendations as well as set a clear deadline for legalizing same-sex marriage since the Netherlands' recommendation was noted because of its "prohibitively impossible deadline".

We hope the accepted recommendations will be implemented in consultation with civil society. We would like to express our willingness to collaborate with the government on these issues to work towards a society that embraces equality and diversity.

Thank you.

