



Statement by
the Republic of Slovenia
at the
41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Geneva, 24 June 2019

Mr. President,

Slovenia aligns itself with the EU statement. We thank both mandate holders for their presentations today.

In recent years, considerable progress has been achieved with regard to ensuring human rights for LGBTI persons, however more than 70 countries still criminalize same-sex orientation. Even in certain countries with appropriate national legislation, LGBTI persons continue to face discrimination, hate speech, prejudice and stigmatization, which often entails violations of their civil and political rights as well as economic, social and cultural rights.

In addition, criminalization contributes to the impunity of perpetrators of violence against LGBTI persons and fosters intolerance and violence in societies. Therefore states should fulfill their obligations arising from the international human rights law and do everything in their power to ensure equal treatment of all people without discrimination on any grounds. Let us recall that Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." Awareness-raising and human rights education already in the domestic environment and in educational settings are essential to provide the basis for understanding, tolerance and non-discrimination.

Mr Independent Expert,

how does data collection directly contribute to address deeply rooted social stigmatization and prejudices which lead to exclusion and discrimination of LGBTI persons? How can we effectively address these challenges, in particularly in those countries that criminalize same sex orientation?

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate Slovenia's support for your work, constructive engagement with all stakeholders and mandate. We fully support its renewal at this Council session.

Thank you.