



42nd session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6 – UPR Outcome Albania
Statement by: International Lesbian and Gay Association
19 September 2019

Delivered by: Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera

Thank you, Mr. President,

This statement is made in consultation with the four LGBTI CSOs from Albania: Aleanca LGBTI, PINK Embassy, Pro LGBT and Streha, as well as ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

We thank the 13 States who made the 14 UPR recommendations based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issues. We commend Albania for accepting 9 of these recommendations and also commend Albania for supporting the extension of the mandate of UN IE on SOGI.

However, we strongly regret that Albania noted 11 recommendations out 197 in total, 5 of them being SOGIESC based, stating that in relation with the amendments of the Family Code to provide legal recognition for the same sex partnership, Albania is currently not planning (for the next 4 years) proposals to include these amendments on the Family Code.

The situation of LGBTI persons in Albania remains of great concern. No adoption of amendments of the Family Code in order to introduce same-sex partnership is contrary to 2016-2020 National Action Plan for LGBTI Persons and leaves same-sex partners in legal gap and uncertainty, affecting their everyday lives. Designing and implementation of an integrated institutional protection mechanism for this Action Plan is missing and there is no increase in reporting rates of discrimination, violence and bullying towards the LGBTI communities. Harassment of LGBTI children and youth is on-going, and there are no psychological support measures to reduce the dropout rates of LGBTI students. There is still no legal gender recognition available in the country and no trans affirmative health services. Intersex persons remain legally invisible and unprotected, and there is no adequate data available.

We urge the Government of Albania to make their position public on various issues related to rights of LGBTI persons, including family violence, peer violence, access to education, access to health services, access to social services (with special regards to the LGBTI shelter), access to justice, employment, sex workers' rights, empowerment of the LGBTI youth etc. and to strengthen the services provided to the LGBTI communities.

Albanian LGBTI CSOs will continue to advocate for equality and respect of LGBTI people and stand ready to work with the Albanian governments on the implementation and follow-up of all SOGIESC recommendations.

I thank you Mr. President

