



Human Rights Council  
5 March 2020

**Interactive Dialogue:  
SR on adequate housing**

Statement by: International Lesbian and Gay Association

***Delivered by: Kseniya Kirichenko***

Mr. President,

This statement was prepared in consultation with the Alliance Against Discrimination of LGBT (Aleanca LGBT) and ERA – LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey.

We welcome the thematic report of the SR on adequate housing, and we commend the consistent intersectional approach adopted by the mandate, including her attention to the housing situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons.

LGBTI persons around the globe face discrimination in accessing housing. They are kicked out from their homes by their own families, they are not welcomed by lessors, and often do not have adequate access to shelters.

Some groups, such as trans persons, LGBTI children, older people, and refugees, are in a particularly vulnerable situation. For instance, an estimated 20-40 per cent of homeless youth identify as LGBTI across the UK, US and Canada. A recent study in Angola determined that 23 per cent of trans women had been homeless in the preceding 12 months.

Homelessness increases vulnerability:

On 24 February 2020, Alexa, a homeless transgender woman in Puerto Rico was harassed, hunted and brutally murdered.<sup>1</sup>

On 12 November 2019, Anxhela, a homeless trans woman living in Tirana, was brutally beaten by five men. Before, she was frequently attacked. Only after 10 years of pleas from LGBTI organisations and activists to help Anxhela, the Municipality of Tirana secured her a spot in social housing.<sup>2</sup> The support by the municipality should be acknowledged and taken as a good example – many other LGBTI people remain living in streets, being vulnerable to violence and stigmatization.

For these reasons, we welcome the SR on adequate housing call to States to recognize LGBTI persons as belonging to groups that often suffer stigmatization, discrimination and criminalization with respect to housing and experience widespread homelessness. LGBTI persons must be included in

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.washingtonblade.com/2020/02/24/homeless-transgender-woman-brutally-murdered-in-puerto-rico/?fbclid=IwAR3nEtgFbMteB4twli66ZW9K5uHRRNzgzq6-Fzhhk40ZhSvD6CqMIHmkc2o>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lgbti-era.org/news/homeless-trans-woman-brutally-attacked-tirana>.

legal protections from discrimination in housing and protected from being forcibly evicted from their homes.

We also would like to ask the SR if she could identify particular good and best practice examples from different States aimed at ensuring access to adequate housing for LGBTI people in general, and for most vulnerable groups within the community.

I thank you, Mr. President.