

Human Rights Council 30 Statement under Item 6 UPR Outcomes Mongolia

Submitted by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland

Delivered by Alexander Hammelburg

Dear Mr. President,

This statement is made on behalf of COC Netherlands and in consultation with the LGBT Centre of Mongolia and the community this organisation represents. Since the first cycle of the UPR, Mongolia has made huge strides in the direction of enabling all people the enjoyment of their human rights regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. As a follow-up of the UPR recommendations, the government has initiated and drafted amendments to the Criminal Code to criminalise hate crimes and hate speech. The National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia has commissioned a study on the situation of LGBTI people. Two ministries have passed ministerial resolutions to outlaw discrimination in any form, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

These very positive developments are however contrasted by a seemingly lack of implementation and commitment of the government. Mongolia still does not have a legal framework that protects everyone from any type of discrimination, especially on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Despite the draft bill of the criminal code being ready, the bill has not been passed by parliament. This means that LGBTI people continue to suffer from various types of discrimination and hate crimes, some to the extent of losing their lives.* Rights violations against LGBTI people are still going unpunished.

Mr. President,

As long as the government of Mongolia continues to neglect its obligations under both domestic and international legal frameworks, the lives of all Mongolians will be affected, with intolerance, hate, violence and discrimination still being the norm. We urge the government of Mongolia to scale up its efforts and to finally begin upholding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Mongolian constitution, and to ensure equality before the law and non-discrimination to everyone. Moreover, the government should train public servants on the human rights of LGBTI persons, reassess its human rights programs and projects, and include the LGBTI community in the processes of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation.

Thank you Mr. President

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^{*} In February 2014, a gay man was found dead due to external causes in Ulaanbaatar city. A few months prior to that, he had lodged a complaint of sexual assault involving a certain, retired lawenforcement officer. In March 2014, two trans women were detained by the police and their identities ridiculed publicly, criminalised and exposed on television through the deliberate actions of a high-ranking police officer. In September 2014, a state funded cultural organisation (Ulaanbaatar Chuulga) denied a reasonable access to and use of the public space for the Pride event. In October 2014, a trans man was beaten by a police officer while in the police custody, denied toilet and water for 13 hours. Needless to say, the only ground for his detention was he was in a social space for LGBTI people at the time of the detention, and his presumed sexual orientation. In May 2015, the Ministry of Human Development and Social Welfare denied the LGBT Centre an opportunity to organise a panel on discrimination and youth issues. In August of 2015, the walkers for equality were denied entry into the Chinggis Sqaure, the main square of Ulaanbaatar city by the police officers of the Metropolitan Police Department and Sukhbaatar District Governor's Office. The Walk for Equality was a part of the Pride events. During the same period, the Metropolitan Governor's Office also denied a reasonable access to and use of the main square for the Pride launch event, a public, non-profit concert Voices-4-Equality.