



**45th Human Rights Council Session**

**21st September 2020**

**Item 3 –General Debate Item 3**

**Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association, joined by Stichting CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland, Swedish Federation of LGBT Rights - RFSL, International Service for Human Rights, OutRight Action International**

Delivered by Gabriel Galil

This is a joint statement.

Madam President,

In eleven UN Member-States it is still possible to be punished by death, simply because of who you love. This is a flagrant violation of the fundamental right to life, as enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and reiterated by various UN treaty bodies, UNGA resolutions and by this very Council, most recently in its resolution 42/24.

We therefore welcome the report of the Secretary General on the Question of Death Penalty<sup>1</sup>. The report touches upon this appalling situation and concludes that capital punishment must never be imposed because of consensual same-sex sexual acts between adults.

Madam President,

We welcome the findings of the report of the HRC Advisory Committee on National Policies and Human Rights, particularly its approach to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda<sup>2</sup>. The report emphasizes that LGBTI people have been left behind and excluded from most national policies. Existing challenges are aggravated by the current COVID-19 pandemic. If States are truly committed to leaving no one behind, there is an urgent need to adopt national policies that combat violence, discrimination and stigma based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics and to include LGBTI persons and organizations that defend their rights since the creation, implementation and monitoring of the responses to the current and future crises.

Both aforementioned reports, as well as many others addressed to this Council, recognize that young people and LGBTI people are often victims of human rights violations. This highlights the urgent need to debate and address issues of LGBTI youth, to ensure their meaningful participation in different fora and to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights.

I thank you, Madam President.

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/45/20 Question of the death penalty – Report of the Secretary-General

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/45/39 Study on national policies and human rights – Report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee