

UPR: Belarus
United Nations Human Rights Council
Intervention by ILGA-Europe and COC Netherlands
Geneva. 23rd September 2010

Delivered by: Björn van Roozendaal

Mr. President,

During the UPR process of Belarus, stakeholders recommended Belarus to promote equality for all people, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity; to include these grounds in antidiscrimination legislation and programmes; and to develop public education and police sensitivity programmes. These recommendations are consistent with Belarus' commitment to equality and non-discrimination expressed as in the Working Group report, and we therefore urge Belarus to accept and implement these recommendations.

We in particular call on Belarus to provide sensitivity training to police, judicial and other authorities, as to promote the respect for all persons, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens are treated equally to all other citizens by state authorities.

We would like to reiterate the various calls that were made during the Working Group process to guarantee the freedom of expression, assembly and association for all citizens. Earlier this year, authorities in Minsk did not grant permission for a peaceful demonstration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Organizers and participants in the peaceful gathering were consequently met with a violent crack-down by authorities. We urge the government of Belarus to respect the fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly and association accordingly to obligations stemming from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Thank you Mr. President.