

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO LITHUANIA – ADD.2

NETHERLANDS

Legal Framework vs. reality

Paragraphs 3-9 of the national report refer to the legal and institutional framework for the protection of human rights in Lithuania. This legal framework for respecting human rights and persecution of their violations is in place. However, there seems to be a gap between legal provisions and proactive policy development and enforcing and promotion of human rights in the public domain. Could you elaborate on the reasons why there is no government policy on human rights or an independent national human rights institution that supports policy development and implementation?

LGBT

Although the general legal framework for the protection of human rights in Lithuania is in place there are considerable concerns on legislative initiatives and omissions when it comes to rights of LGBT people in general and transgender persons in particular. Therefore the Netherlands has a number of questions regarding this issue.

- Taking into account paragraph 57 of the OHCHR-compilation could the Lithuanian government elaborate on the choice not to include a chapter on LGBT rights in its national report? Could the government elaborate on the measures taken to ensure the rights of LGBT-people?
- Could the Lithuanian government explain how a legislative proposal to ban gender reassignment, which goes against basic human rights treaties signed by Lithuania, can be put on the fall 2011 agenda of Parliament when subsidiary legislation of the Civil Code on the gender-reassignment of transsexuals has not yet been passed?
- Paragraph 15 and 33-35 of the stakeholders report mentions that a legislative proposal to punish the “public promotion of homosexual relations” by a fine can pass a first reading in Parliament in November 2010 and still be on the agenda of Parliament even though the draft law is contrary to both EU and international law? Could the Lithuanian government explain what this says about the attitudes of both parliamentarians and society as a whole towards tolerance and non-discrimination and the need for further Human Rights education policy?

NORWAY

- Which measures will Lithuania take to improve the general level of knowledge and attitudes within the population as regards minorities, in particular sexual minorities?
- Is Lithuania satisfied with the capacity and scope of mandate for the Equal Opportunities Ombudspersons Office, and are you aiming at having an

institution that qualifies as National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris principles?

- Changes in the Education Law in order to increase the use of the Lithuanian language also in minority language schools just entered into force (1 September 2011). Could you outline Lithuania's motivations for the amendments, and which expectations and goals you have for the results?
- What does Lithuania do to further educate the population on Holocaust and to reduce anti-Semitic tendencies in the society?
- Could you please outline the strategy and the achievements so far when it comes to your work on reducing domestic violence?