

**UPR Iceland**  
**COC Netherlands, ILGA-Europe**  
**United Nations Human Rights Council, Geneva. 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Madam president,

The delegation of Iceland during the UPR working group process stated that it has taken important steps to improve the rights of individuals and groups, this despite the difficult times that the country is facing. We wish to recognize some of the efforts that the country has made, such as the unanimous adoption by parliament allowing for a neutral-definition of marriage and thus granting the same legal status for heterosexual and same-sex married couples.

As stated during the UPR process, the government has also taken important steps to improve the legal status of transgender people. Efforts are made to simplify name and gender recognition for gender people. Madam president, could I ask the government to clarify what timeframe it envisages for introducing and implementing the necessary legislation?

The government of Iceland during the UPR process rightly pointed out that providing its citizens with equal legal status alone does not ensure full equality. In this light, could we ask the delegation what other steps are planned to advance non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity?

We encourage Iceland to share best practices in the field of combating discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity with other countries. Finally, we urge Iceland to consider applying the *Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity* as a guide to assist in policy development.

Thank you madam president.