

Thank you Mr. ~~Chair~~,

My name is Adrian Coman. I am delivering this statement on behalf of ILGA-Europe, the Romanian NGO ACCEPT, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission.

The Universal Period Review gives all of us the opportunity to look at the future and identify how to better respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

In this respect, as per the report of the working group recommendation # 4 from Argentina and Canada, we encourage the Romanian government to continue its efforts in combating discrimination and to take additional measures, which we believe should include the following: (1) strengthening the antidiscrimination mechanism, in particular the National Council for Combating Discrimination, (2) including gender identity and expression in addition to sex among the non-discrimination criteria of Ordinance 137/2000, so that transgender people are explicitly protected by the law, (3) raising awareness about discrimination of LGBT professionals in the education and health systems, and (4) eliminating discrimination in regards to rights accessed through the institution of marriage, which is currently available only to heterosexual couples.

In regards to recommendation # 8 from Finland, we encourage the Romanian police to finalize the investigation of a few cases of violence instigated by the 2006 and 2007 LGBT marches in Bucharest.

Last but not least, we commend the Romanian government for several important achievements, including the repeal of art. 200 of the Penal Code which criminalized private same-sex relations among consenting adults, the development of the anti-discrimination mechanism which from the beginning included sexual orientation among non-discrimination grounds, and the police protection ensured at LGBT marches in the last four years in Bucharest.

Thank you Mr. ~~Chair~~,

