

UPR POLAND

Delivered by Agata Chober

Madam President,

ILGA-Europe ~~COC Netherlands~~ (Ecosoc Status)

We wish to recognize some of the efforts of the State's Secretary for Equal Treatment to mainstream LGBT issues. For the first time has a Government Body proposed a National Equality Programme that includes LGBT needs. Implementations in police training are being made with the help of NGOs as well.

Nonetheless – homophobic and transphobic hate speech and hate crimes are common and threaten individuals, their families, friends and the whole community.

During the UPR process the implementation of an 'Antidiscrimination Law' was mentioned. We would like to point out that this act does not insure equal treatment, as it excludes LGBT persons in the scope of health services, education and access to goods and services. Gender identity is not mentioned at all. Transgender persons have been neglected by the State – they suffer violence and ridicule, the procedures of legal gender reassignment are stigmatizing and inaccessible. The Polish State does not refund any part of the medical procedure.

The government has also refrained from announcing their position on introduction of a civil partnership act. The current legislation and its interpretation does not give sufficient rights to same-sex partners.

We urge the government of Poland to:

- Adopt hate crime and hate speech laws pointing specifically to 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' as motives of crime.
- Amend the Antidiscrimination Act so it fully protects LGBT persons.
- Regulate the situation of same-sex partners.
- Support the pending gender recognition law and insure that transgender person's rights are secured.
- Guarantee trans person's access to refunded treatment and at the same the right to life in accordance with their gender identity and expression.

Thank you, Madame President.