

30th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6
UPR – United States of America
Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association¹

delivered by Kara DeMilio

Mr. President,

We welcome the United States government's positive response to the recommendations relating to non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and we urge the United States to take all possible steps, including enactment of a comprehensive federal law, to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in its domestic and foreign policy.

Mr. President,

Despite significant steps forward, LGBT individuals in the United States lack basic legal protections in many states. While there are some state-level non-discrimination protections for LGBT people, the lack of federal LGBT civil rights protections leaves millions subject to uncertainty and potential discrimination that impacts their safety, their family, and their very way of life.

The United States should enact laws at the state and federal level that provide explicit, consistent non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity in credit, education, employment, housing, jury service, public spaces and services, and taxpayer funded programs. In addition to legislation, the United States should broadly apply existing protections to the greatest extent possible to protect LGBT people in these areas.

Mr. President,

Across the country, crimes against the LGBT population remain at disturbingly high levels. The levels of violence and harassment transgender people face – particularly transgender women and transgender women of color – constitute a national crisis. In the first nine months of 2015, at least 19 transgender women in the U.S. have been killed.

Hate crimes affect not only the victims and their families, but the entire community or group of people that they target. The United States should devote more resources at the state and federal level to combating violence and hate crimes, including education and training of law enforcement and outreach to communities.

Thank you Mr. President

¹ This statement is endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign