

30th session of the Human Rights Council

**Item 6 – Consideration of UPR Outcome of Croatia
Statement by the Allied Rainbow Communities International**

Delivered by Jelena Poštić

Mr. President,

My name is Jelena Poštić and I speak in consultation with Zagreb Pride and TransAid. As a trans identified person living in a Croatian society, I am a part of the often excluded and marginalized people who are still not granted access to basic human rights.

We recognize the progress made in the area of protection of rights of lesbians, gays and bisexual persons, and point out that gender identity issues remain neglected. There is no adequate legislation that provides access to legal gender recognition.

Regulation on obtaining medical documentation and determining requirements and preconditions for gender affirming surgery and/or life in different gender identity has been adopted in 2015, but the implementing body (National Health Council) still rejects or remains silent about requests for change of gender marker. We would like to stress that this Regulation is ineffective and violates human rights of trans persons.

We call on the Government of Croatia to urgently ensure respect of right to gender identity and right to bodily autonomy and ensure respect of dignity and access to rights of trans persons in Croatia. In line with developments in some European countries and worldwide, we will advocate for the right to self-definition and self-expression to be enshrined in the legislation as the most effective solution for ensuring that rights of trans persons are respected.

We call on the Government of Croatia to accept and implement recommendation made by the United States of America to strengthen human rights protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, in line with Croatia's international obligations and commitments as well as with domestic legislation. In addition, we stress the vital importance of close cooperation with LGBTIQ and human rights organizations in Croatia when working on advancement of our rights.

Thank you Mr President.