

37th Human Rights Council Session
March 15, 2018
Item 6 – UPR Switzerland
Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association

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Thank you, Mr. President,

This statement was made in consultation with the organization Transgender Network Switzerland.

Switzerland received 12 SOGIESC recommendations, including 4 trans-specific recommendations. Unfortunately, the government's report only refers to trans issues when it comes to invasive procedures to change one's legal name and gender or of lack of protection against discrimination. While these issues are and continue to be important, they are not the only problems. Trans people are trans in every step they take and in every sphere of their life. With every encounter with the State or with private parties, their human rights are under threat. The questions and recommendations raised by the Working Group reflect this reality.

We thank the governments that made the 12 SOGIESC recommendations. However, Switzerland noted 8 of these recommendations. The noted recommendations include the one made by Honduras that requested the development and implementation of a national action plan in cooperation with LGBTI civil society organizations. We are convinced that a comprehensive and inclusive national action plan is the only instrument to effectively make trans human rights a reality.

During the Working Group Session, Switzerland stated that "the situation in Switzerland does not endanger the life of LGBTI individuals". Such a statement is an affront to all of those who lost a beloved trans person due to suicide, because they didn't see a future for themselves in this country. We therefore express great concern that Switzerland noted 8 recommendations, including recommendations from Honduras and Slovenia to include LGBTI persons in national surveys on suicides.

We welcome the fact that Switzerland expressed its willingness to implement 4 SOGI recommendations. We look forward to cooperating with the government on providing training to security forces, prosecutors, judges and social workers and on awareness-raising campaigns directed to the broader public as well as to students and teachers.

We stand ready to continue working with the Swiss government in order to make human rights a reality for all trans people in Switzerland. May this third UPR cycle bring us one step closer to equal and effective cooperation between trans civil society and the Swiss government.

I thank you, Mr. President.