

40th session of the Human Rights Council – Item 6

UPR Outcomes Congo

**Statement by Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van
Homoseksualiteit - COC Nederland**

Joined by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Cavid Nabiye

Dear President,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the Coeur Arc-en-ciel association, ASGV, CJJ and ODDHC. We would like to thank France and Iceland for making recommendations to the government of Congo regarding the protection of individuals against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Both recommendations were noted by the government.

During the working session, the government indicated that its development policy against HIV includes LGBT people. However much we welcome this inclusion, HIV prevalence among men who have sex with men sky-rocketed in the past few years. Much more needs to be done. Not only to combat HIV, but certainly also to combat violence and discrimination against Congolese LGBTI people.

As long as article 331 of the penal code is in place, law enforcement bodies will continue to extort and intimidate homosexuals. As long as Congo does not introduce protective legislation, LGBTI Congolese will be facing stigma, violence and discrimination and will remain victim of the HIV epidemic.

Dear President,

We call on the Congolese government to change its position, commit to the full application of international human rights standards and start combatting violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. As soon as the government is ready for cooperation, it will find our coalition on its side in the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights for all.

I thank you President