

Human Rights Council – Agenda Item 6 – Universal Periodic Review – Portugal

Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development

Thank you Mr. President.

This statement is supported by the Sexual Rights Initiative.¹

We congratulate Portugal for its acceptance of recommendations concerning the protection of migrants and domestic violence but are disappointed that the recommendation related to the co-adoption of children by same-sex couples was not accepted.

Aligned with Portugal's Council election pledge to promote the elimination of all forms of discrimination, including that based on, inter alia, gender and sexual orientation, we urge Portugal to:

- Remove legal, administrative and financial obstacles and eliminate discriminatory practices that hamper LGBT individuals from the full and equal enjoyment of human rights in the family context, including by approving the PS bill allowing LGBT individuals to co-adopt ;
- Approve the law to prohibit discrimination against people based on HIV status;
- Include rights and specific concerns of Women living with HIV in health priorities including the National Programme for HIV/AIDS and the National Plan for Equality, Gender, Citizenship and Non-Discrimination;
- Align the comprehensive sexuality education curriculum with a nationwide strategy to reach all children;
- Establish a Sexual Work Reform Act in order to legalize sex work, similar to the measures adopted by the Laws pertaining to Drug Users (in 2000) that reduced HIV transmission by more than half; and
- Integrate specific regulations pertaining to sex workers' labour rights into the Labour Code.

Thank you.

¹ The Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) is a coalition including: Action Canada for Population and Development (Canada); Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt); Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland); Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (India); Coalición of African Lesbians (Africa); Akahata Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Generos (Latin America) and others.