

UPR INTERVENTION FOR ALBANIA

ILGA-Europe

Wednesday September 18th 2014

Thank you Mr President,

This statement is also supported by Albanian LGBT organisations.

Albania has undertaken significant steps to improve its legislation in order to protect the LGBTI community from discrimination.

We commend the government for formulating a Plan of Measures against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In the last two years, it has brought together several ministries, organizations working on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, the People's Advocate, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination and the international community in an effort to effect positive changes regarding the rights of LGBT persons.

Drafting good laws and voting them in the Parliament should however not be the end, but the start of a process that should focus on the law implementation. We call on the government to specifically pay attention to the implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Law and the new amendments to the Penal Code, which protects LGBTI people from potential hate motivated crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

We urge the Albanian government to start a serious plan to establish concrete services for the LGBTI community, specifically focused on employment, housing and securing full access to education.

We urge the Albanian Parliament to vote for the draft law on amending the Family Code in order to finally have legal recognition of same sex partnerships as it was presented by civil society and supported by the government. There is no time to lose anymore.

We encourage the Albanian state agencies to further participate into concrete public awareness campaigns in order to educate and emancipate the broader society on diversity and human rights.

Moreover, we urge the government the need to fully include and integrate LGBTI concerns into the new Strategy for Social Inclusion and to consider LGBTI couples as full beneficiaries from the new National Housing Strategy of Albania.

Thank you.