



Civil society engagement with UN human rights mechanisms on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC)

INDONESIA

ABOUT THE COUNTRY BRIEF

This country brief charts efforts by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) activists to raise issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) within UN human rights mechanisms. This brief is based on a review of engagements with various mechanisms, including a desk review of civil society submissions and national-level discussions and individual interviews with activists and stakeholders. The discussions took place over the first half of 2016, with additional data gathered on review cycles. **The objective is to provide baseline information for LGBTIQ activists to help maximize their engagement with UN human rights mechanisms.**

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REPORT

1ST CYCLE (2008)

During the first cycle review, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Arus Pelangi, GAYa NUSANTARA, Srikandi Sejati Foundation, and the Asian Pacific Network of Sex Workers submitted a joint report.¹ It reported that *waria*² and other LGBTIQ people “face an increased risk of police harassment” because “police regularly interpret laws concerning prostitution as applying to homosexuality and transgenderism”. Also reported was the classification of *waria* as “mentally handicapped” under the Mentally Disabled Law, “effectively denied *waria* the right to work, or reduced them to working in low-paid jobs in the hidden economy.” The submissions recommended, among others, to “Uphold the rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression as enshrined within the ICCPR by ending arbitrary removal of LGBT people and sex workers from public spaces” and to “Amend the *RUU Adminduk* (Indonesian Civil Administration Law) to enable transgender people to receive identity cards that reflect their gender identity”.³

There were no references to SOGIESC issues during the Working Group review and during the adoption of the working group report by the Human Rights Council.⁴

2ND CYCLE (2012)

During the second cycle review, a joint report was submitted by Arus Pelangi, Community Alliance for Pulp Paper Advocacy (CAPPa), Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS), Consortium for Agrarian Reform (KPA), Front Line Defenders, Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Indonesia Corruption Watch (ICW), Imparsial, Legal Aid Foundation Jakarta (LBH Jakarta), NGO Cooperation Forum Papua (FOKER-LSM Papua), Press Legal Aid Foundation (LBH- Pers), Protection International, Setara Institute for Democracy and Peace, Walhi (Friends of the Earth Indonesia). They reported that “threats towards [human rights defenders] working to promote and defend rights of LGBTI people have starkly increased in recent years” owing to the rising influence of conservative political and religious groups. Such incidents reported include the attack on a regional ILGA Asia Conference and the attack on a training session for transgender persons organized by Indonesia’s national human rights institution. Among others, they recommended that the government “Repeal and amend all legislation which disproportionately restricts the right to defend and promote universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms” and “extend standing invitations to all UN Special Rapporteurs”.⁵

In addition, the UN Country Team noted the current situation of legislation as it relates to SOGIESC, observing that “decentralization had seen the issuance of by-laws, which were not always harmonized with national law and international conventions, and were sometimes discriminatory towards women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.” They also observed that, although Indonesia has laws prohibiting discrimination, “in practice groups such as male and female sex workers, injecting drug users, and people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community were vulnerable to violence and being marginalized, and had considerable difficulty in obtaining protection from violence, and accessing justice when their rights had been violated.”⁶

During the review, Switzerland expressed concern about acts of intolerance and discrimination perpetrated against religious and ethnical minorities or against people for their sexual orientation or gender identity.⁷

1 International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, 2007. Human Rights Abuses against sexual minorities in Indonesia. Retrieved from: http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session1/ID/IGLHRC_IDN_UPR_S1_2008anx_Briefingonhumanrightsabusesinindonesia.pdf

2 Kortschak, I., 2007. Defining Waria. Inside Indonesia. Retrieved from: <http://www.insideindonesia.org/defining-waria>.

3 International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, 2007. Human Rights Abuses against sexual minorities in Indonesia. Retrieved from: http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session1/ID/IGLHRC_IDN_UPR_S1_2008anx_Briefingonhumanrightsabusesinindonesia.pdf

4 UN Human Rights Council, 2008. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Indonesia, A/HRC/8/23.

5 Arus Pelangi, et al., 2012. Submission of Shadow Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Indonesia for the 13th Session of the UN Universal Periodic Review for Indonesia by the Civil Society Coalition for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. Retrieved from: http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/session13/ID/JS3_UPR_IDN_S13_2012_JointSubmission3_E.pdf

6 UN Human Rights Council, 2008. Compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with paragraph 5 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21: Indonesia, A/HRC/WG.6/13/IDN/2.

7 UN Human Rights Council, 2012. Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Indonesia, A/HRC/21/7.

The government of Indonesia was “unable to support” the following recommendation:

“Eliminate the legislation which criminalizes sexual relations among persons of the same sex, as well as all legislation which discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation, particularly in the Aceh province, where since the establishment of the Sharia Law in 2002 these kind of relations are not allowed” **(Spain)**

Arus Pelangi, the Indonesian LGBTIQ Forum, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, and ILGA presented an oral statement to the Human Rights Council during the formal adoption of the Working Group report in September 2012. Among others, they challenged the government’s denial of the existence of legislation criminalizing same-sex relations. They point to a 2009 law of the province of Aceh, writing that Aceh “has become the province where inhuman punishments such as caning are now practiced”.⁸

3RD CYCLE (2017)

Several organizations submitted information related to SOGIESC during the third cycle review:

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

JOINT SUBMISSION 6 (JS6) by The LGBTIQ Forum of Jakarta, Indonesia

JOINT SUBMISSION 10 (JS10) by Rutgers WPF Indonesia, Ardhanary Institute, Yayasan Pulih, Suara Kita, Aliansi Remaja Independen, and Perempuan Mahardhika; GWL-INA; and Sexual Rights Initiative

JOINT SUBMISSION 14 (JS14) by The Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence, and Democracy Education Association

JOINT SUBMISSION 35 by Arus Pelangi, KontraS (Commission Disappearances and Victim of Violence), National Legal Aid Reform Consortium (KRHN), Legal Aid Foundation for the Press (LBH Pers), Protection Desk Indonesia (Yayasan Perlindungan Insani Indonesia), Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Indonesian Forum for the Environment (Walhi), Mining Advocacy Network (Jatam), Association for Community and Ecological Based Law Reform (HuMA), Imparsial, Greater Bogor Legal Aid Foundation (LBH KBR), Linkar Borneo, Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (YLBHI), Indonesia Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI), Semarang Legal Aid Foundation (LBH Semarang); Yogyakarta Legal Aid Foundation (LBH Yogyakarta), National Network for Domestic Workers Advocacy (JALA PRT), the Association of Journalists for Diversity (Sejuk); and the Setara Institute (Indonesia).

JS10 noted that public controversy surrounding LGBTIQ issues peaked in the first half of 2016, with statements by public officials describing LGBTIQ people as “a serious threat to the nation, contrary to positive law, dangerous, should be banned in Indonesia, whose aid funds are similar to those of terrorists and thus should be blocked.” Compounding the controversy were statements by professional associations such as the Association for Clinical Psychologist-Association of Psychologists Indonesia (IPK-HIMPSI) and Central Board of Indonesian Psychiatrist Association (PP PDSKJI), who called LGBTIQ mentally ill and supported efforts to “heal” them. They observed further that, among other things, “the right to freedom of thought and expression was lost when those who were seen as LGBT or pro-LGBT”.⁹

8 Summary SOGIESC issues during Indonesia’s UPR. Retrieved from: <http://arc-international.net/global-advocacy/universal-periodic-review/i/indonesia-2nd-cycle/>
Rutgers WPF Indonesia, et.al., 2016. Universal Periodic Review of Indonesia – 27th Session April/May 2017. Retrieved from:

9 https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/js10_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) affirmed this, noting that “public anti-LGBT campaigns were increasing, encouraged by anti-LGBT public comments, including by ministry representatives and members of Parliament.” These have had consequences to LGBTIQ people’s lives, including “acts of expulsion, persecution, torture, arbitrary detention, prohibition of conducting seminars and bullying”. Komnas HAM recommended that the government “to make a firm commitment to implementation of protection and respect of human rights for LGBT persons pursuant to the Constitution and the Human Rights Act.”¹⁰

Regarding existing legislation, the submission by Amnesty International noted the Aceh Islamic Criminal Code or *Qanun Jinayat*, put into force on October 2015, and which “criminalizes consensual sexual relations and same-sex relations and extends the use of caning as a form of punishment.”¹¹ This problem was also raised by JS10, writing that “anyone doing *liwath* (anal sex between two consenting men) or *musahaqah* (tribadism between two consenting women) will be punished by the maximum of 100 lashes or 1,000 grams of gold fine or 100 months of imprisonment.” This implies, based on a 2015 case reported by Indonesia’s Commission on Violence Against Women, that “two women hugging in public can be accused of breaching this bylaw”.¹² JS10 reports other discriminatory laws: Law No. 44/2008 on Pornography, which categorizes “lesbian” and “homosexual” as “deviant sexual behaviour”; Government Regulation No. 54/2007, which prohibits same-sex couples from adopting; and Government Regulation No. 61/2014, which uses the term “sexual orientation disorder”.¹³

Human Rights Watch highlighted various other issues. They cite Indonesia’s Commission on Violence against Women, who reported that “the number of discriminatory national and local regulations targeting women and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people had risen to 422 in 2016 from 389 in 2015”. They also accused the government of encouraging “an unprecedented attack on the security and rights of sexual and gender minorities in early 2016”, ranging from anti-LGBT pronouncement by public officials to censorship of information and other media “that portrayed the lives of LGBT people as “normal””. Among their recommendations was for the government to “publicly condemn all major incidents of anti-LGBT violence that occur in Indonesia, including attacks on individuals, organizations, or gatherings” and to “publicly acknowledge the scope and gravity of the problem of violence and harassment against LGBT people in Indonesia, and commit to taking steps to end these abuses”.¹⁴

The submissions also documented various cases. JS6 reported that “at least five alleged hate killings against transgender women in North Sulawesi between 2012–2016.”¹⁵ JS35 reported a case dated 21 November 2014 when, during the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, a “group of about 10 Islamic hard-liners broke up a peaceful demonstration in Yogyakarta”, assaulting demonstrators which included one transgender woman.¹⁶ Compounding this, as reported by JS14, was the fact that “state protection for the LGBTI community is too weak and does not actively prevent intolerance and discrimination often experienced by these groups, including rights related to the freedom of religion and belief.” One submission recommended for the government “Not to curtail their citizenship rights and prevent any influence on state regulations by discriminatory religious opinions against the LGBTI community.”¹⁷

10 Komnas HAM, 2016. Summary of the NHRI for 3rd Cycle UPR: Indonesia. Retrieved from:

https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/komnas_ham_upr27_idn_e_main_rev.pdf

11 Amnesty International, 2016. Indonesia It’s Not Good Enough: Amnesty International Submission for the UN Universal Periodic Review, 27th Session of the UPR Working Group, May 2017. Retrieved from: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa21/5345/2016/en/>

12 Rutgers WPF Indonesia, et al., 2016. Universal Periodic Review of Indonesia – 27th Session April/May 2017. Retrieved from: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/js10_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

13 Rutgers WPF Indonesia, et al., 2016. Universal Periodic Review of Indonesia – 27th Session April/May 2017. Retrieved from: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/js10_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

14 Human Rights Watch, 2016. Human Rights Watch Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Indonesia. Retrieved from: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/hrw_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

15 UN Human Rights Council, 2017. Summary of Stakeholders’ Submissions on Indonesia, A/HRC/WG.6/27/IDN/3.

16 UPR Info, 2016. [JS35]. Retrieved from: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/js35_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

17 The Lutheran World Federation, et al., 2016. Republic of Indonesia Joint Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review – 27th Session of the UPR Working Group – May 2017. Retrieved from: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/document/indonesia/session_27_-_may_2017/js14_upr27_idn_e_main.pdf

Numerous SOGIESC-related remarks and recommendations were made by reviewing states during the review. Noting that “the human rights situation for LGBTI groups in the country deteriorated”, Sweden reminded that “Indonesia is party to several human rights treaties that includes obligations to protect against discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” Similarly, Iceland urges that the government “to fulfil its international obligations and ensure human rights for all its citizens homosexual and heterosexual alike.” Slovenia asked that the government “continue its efforts to fight discrimination on any basis in law and in practice.”¹⁸

THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS¹⁹ WILL BE RESPONDED TO BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA BEFORE SEPTEMBER 2017:

Norway

Review and repeal local bylaws that may limit rights guaranteed by the Constitution, especially as they relate to the rights of women, sexual minorities and religious minorities.

Austria

Work towards repealing regional or local bylaws discriminating persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Brazil

Guarantee the rights of minority groups, particularly those of religious minorities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, through effective legal action against incitement to hatred and violent acts, as well as by revising legislation that can have discriminatory effects.

Czech Republic

Review and amend the national legislation in order to reinforce the protection against discrimination, including based on religion, sexual orientation and gender identity, and introduce education programmes preventing such discrimination and stigmatization.

Spain

Put in place a national policy to ensure the rights of LGTBI persons, and to punish cases of discrimination and those guilty of discrimination.

Sweden

Ensure that national and regional laws and policies do not discriminate against any individuals in society, including LGBTI persons, and are in line with Indonesia’s international obligations, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Iceland

Repeal or revise legislation, notably the relevant provisions of the Aceh Islamic Criminal Code, which criminalizes sexual relations among consenting adults of the same sex, as well as legislation, which discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Norway

Take further steps to ensure a safe and enabling environment for all human rights defenders, including those representing the LGBT community and other communities.

Ireland

Ensure that existing legal and constitutional provisions protecting human rights in particular expression, association and assembly are fully implemented nationwide; repeal discriminatory local by-laws contrary to Indonesia’s own Constitution; prioritize progress on equality and non-discrimination, including in relation to LGBT persons; take action to prevent extremist groups from harassing, intimidating or persecuting religious and other minorities; and provide human rights training to officials in the legal and judicial system.

Australia

Intensify all efforts to respect and uphold freedom of expression, assembly, and religion and belief, and to prevent discrimination on any grounds including sexual orientation and gender identity.

Argentina

Take urgent measures to repeal norms and regulations that discriminate against women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender persons, as well as to investigate and punish perpetrators of acts of discrimination and violence against them.

France

Put an end to violence and discrimination in law and in practice against women, to violence and discrimination against homosexuals, and to female genital mutilation.

18 International Gay and Lesbian Association, 2017. 27th UPR Working Group Sessions-SOGIESC Recommendations. Retrieved from: http://ilga.org/downloads/27TH_UPR_WORKING_GROUP_SESSIONS_SOGIESC_RECOMMENDATIONS.pdf.
19 UN Human Rights Council, 2017. Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Indonesia, A/HRC/WG.6/27/L.5.

TREATY MONITORING BODIES

INDONESIA HAS RATIFIED¹⁹ THE FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES:

- 01 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- 02 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- 03 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- 04 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- 05 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- 06 Convention on the Rights of the Child (and Optional Protocols 1 & 2)
- 07 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
- 08 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Human Rights Working Group coalition shadow report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) review of Indonesia in 2013 addressed SOGIESC issues. They referred to Indonesia's Anti-Pornography Law and its categorization of "lesbian" and "homosexual" as deviations, writing that the "binary perception and viewpoint of the State on sexual orientation and gender identity intensifies discrimination against LGBT".²¹

In its Concluding Observations, the CESCR noted with concern that "laws and by-laws which discriminate against women and marginalized individuals and groups such as sex workers, and LGBT persons are in force in provinces, districts and autonomous regions, in spite of the review mechanism in place in the State party (art. 21)," and recommended that such laws be repealed.²²

20 UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d. Ratification of 18 International Human Rights Treaties: Indonesia. Retrieved from <http://indicators.ohchr.org/>

21 Indonesian NGO Coalition on ICESCR, 2013. Alternative Report to the Indonesia State Report on the Implementation of ICESCR. Retrieved from: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CESCR/Shared%20Documents/IDN/INT_CESCR_NGO_IDN_15360_E.doc.

22 UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 2014. Concluding observations on the initial report of Indonesia, E/C.12/IDN/CO/1.

SPECIAL PROCEDURES

In 2008, the Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders (HRDs), on her mission to Indonesia, noted about “the lack of protection for defenders who are engaged with issues that are socially sensitive such as the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons or public awareness on HIV/AIDS”. Among the cases she cited were of an HRD who was assaulted and whose subsequent police complaint was not registered “allegedly in the absence of national legislation on LGBTIs”; and a case of “intimidation” of an HRD “who was who was warned in 2003 not to attend the funeral of a patient who had died from AIDS”.²³

The same year, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment issued a letter of allegation regarding the assault and sexual abuse of two men on basis of sexual orientation by civilians and law enforcement. The State responded that “the assault was a direct result of the disapproval felt in their community for their sexual misconduct which contravened the local laws, traditions and religious values.”²⁴

In 2010, Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression issued a joint urgent appeal regarding the forced closure of the ILGA Asia conference due to protests and threats of religious groups and fundamentalists.²⁵

In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and others issued a joint urgent appeal regarding the province of Aceh’s adoption of an “Islamic Civil Code, which imposed severe sentences for consensual extra-marital sexual relations, rape, homosexuality, alcohol consumption and gambling.” The government of Indonesia responded only by explaining “the special status of Aceh as an autonomous region” and its power to legislate. They argued further “that many people who had been sentenced to flogging were done so by their own choice as they considered it a form of religious penance.”²⁶

In 2013, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living wrote that she had received reports of “several cases of forced evictions of LGBT people by private landlords in various regions across Indonesia.” She recommended that “the Government should review and repeal national and regional laws, policies and practices which perpetuate discrimination (by State and non-State actors) in access to adequate housing of marginalized groups (such as women, LGBT people, internal migrants and religious minorities).”²⁷

23 UN Human Rights Council, 2008. Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Hina Jilani, Addendum: Mission to Indonesia, A/HRC/7/28/Add.2.

24 UN Human Rights Council, 2009. Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Manfred Nowak- Addendum- Summary of Information, Including Individual Cases Transmitted to Governments and Replies Received, A/HRC/10/44/Add.4.

25 UN Human Rights Council, 2011. Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue- Addendum- Summary of cases transmitted to Governments and replies received, A/HRC/17/27/Add.1.

26 UN Human Rights Council, 2010. Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo- Addendum- Communications to and from Governments, A/HRC/14/22/Add.1.

27 UN Human Rights Council, 2013. Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Raquel Rolnik- Addendum- Mission to Indonesia, A/HRC/25/54/Add.1.

OTHER POSITIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Indonesia voted against the inclusion of references to sexual orientation and gender identity in resolutions on extrajudicial executions at the General Assembly in 2010, 2012, and 2014.^{28,29,30} In addition, it joined a statement delivered to the General Assembly in 2008, opposing attention to sexual orientation at the UN.³¹ Indonesia voted against Human Rights Council resolutions on “Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity” in 2014.³²

In June 2016, the UN Human Rights Council approved a resolution establishing a new special procedure called the “Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity” (IESOGI), whose mandate is to assess the implementation of existing international human rights instruments with regard to ways to overcome violence and discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to identify and address the root causes of violence and discrimination.³³ Indonesia voted against the resolution, stating in an explanation of the vote that HRC should take a constructive and cooperative approach especially when concerned with issues touching on morality, and wanted to put on record that Indonesia would not engage with the mandate-holder.³⁴

In November 2016, the African regional group filed a resolution in the UN General Assembly that sought to block the work of the IESOGI. When a counter-resolution was filed to amend the earlier resolution by deleting the postponement of the IESOGI's functions, Indonesia voted against it.³⁵ Indonesia once again voted against the IESOGI on another attempt to halt the mandate in December 2016.³⁶

28 UN General Assembly, 2010. 65th Session, 71st Plenary Meeting, A/65/PV.71.

29 UN General Assembly, 2012. “Amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.36” as contained in document L.68 (list of votes). Retrieved from http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/67/docs/voting_sheets/L68.pdf.

30 UN General Assembly, 2014. Amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/69/L.47/Rev.1, A/C.3/69/L/64. Retrieved from http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/69/docs/voting_sheets/L64.L47Rev1.pdf.

31 ARC International., 2008. Response to SOGI Human Rights Statement, read by Syria - 18 Dec 2008. Retrieved from: <http://arc-international.net/global-advocacy/sogi-statements/syrian-statement/>

32 UN Human Rights Council, 2014. HRC Resolution 27/32, Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, A/HRC/RES/27/32.

33 UN Human Rights Council, 2016. Resolution 32/2: Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, A/HRC/32/L.2/Rev.1.

34 UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, n.d. Council establishes mandate on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Retrieved from <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20220>.

35 UN General Assembly, 2016. Amendment to draft resolution A/C.3/71/L.46, A/C.3/71/L.52. Retrieved from: https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/71/docs/voting_sheets/L52.pdf.

36 APCOM, 2016. Another Victory of the UN Rejecting Another Effort to Suspend the Mandate of Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Retrieved from: <https://apcom.org/2016/12/21/lgbtiq-regional-organizations-asia-pacific-welcome-decision-ungas-5th-committee-meeting-safeguard-mandate-independent-expert-sexual-orientation-gender-identity/>



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ASEAN SOGIE Caucus (ASC) is a regional organization of human rights defenders from various countries in Southeast Asia. ASC advocates for the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of all persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). The organization aims to support capacities of local activists to engage with domestic and international human rights mechanisms. The organization envisions a SOGIESC-inclusive Southeast Asian community, and advocates for the human rights of all persons regardless of SOGIESC to be respected, protected, promoted, and fulfilled.

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