

Seminar on Equality and Non-Discrimination for Latin American Parliamentarians

San Salvador Statement of Commitment

Recalling the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of human rights

Reaffirming, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, among others, that all individuals are equal as human beings by virtue of the inherent dignity of each human person and that no one should suffer discrimination on any grounds including sexual orientation and gender identity and expression

Welcoming the growing prominence of international and regional instruments and norms on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, including United Nations Human Rights Council Resolutions 27/L.27 and 17/19 on this topic adopted in September 2014 and June 2011, respectively; the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance; the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance of June 2013, including the resolution project on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression of the Organization of American States adopted on June 2014; the final report of the *Global Commission on HIV and the Law* (2012); and the Declaration from the Central American Council of Attorney Generals and Defendants of Human Rights (CCPDGH, in Spanish) in relation to the Human Rights to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity issued in Panama, in March 2013

Recalling further the Santo Domingo Plan of Action adopted on October 10, 2013 by our colleagues from Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Uganda and Uruguay, where they committed to guaranteeing the equality of all persons and to combatting discrimination in their countries

Mindful also of our duties as Parliamentarians to represent, empower and protect the basic rights of all individuals, without distinction, including on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression

We, participating Legislators in this PGA *Parliamentary Seminar on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Latin America and the Caribbean*, commit to undertaking the following actions:

1. Introduce and encourage legislation and public policies that improve the promotion and defense of human rights, in particular those aimed to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression, with colleagues in Parliament, the Executive Branch of Government, the Office of the Attorney General for the Defense of Human Rights, and among our constituencies.

2. Review domestic legislation regarding non-discrimination with the objective to harmonize existing regional and international obligations in our respective countries, repeal discriminatory laws if they exist, and promote and strengthen non-discrimination legislation on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression with relevant stakeholders, including at the Ministerial level, the private sector and the media.
3. Review also national legislation pertaining to criminal matters to promote the inclusion of hate crimes in our Penal Codes in accordance with international human rights law standards.
4. Closely collaborate with the Offices of the Attorney General for the Defense of Human Rights and the *Ombudsman* in our countries to understand and address the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersexual (LGBTI) persons, prioritizing the prevention and prosecution of hate crimes, non-discriminatory healthcare service delivery, and the registry correction for gender identity and expression on official documentation, as well as respect and compliance with the human rights of LGBTI persons that are imprisoned, among others.
5. Establish a dialogue with civil society organizations advocating in favor of the rights of LGBTI persons, and with groups of people living with HIV/AIDS in our countries, to learn from their testimonies and experiences in accessing systems of health, justice, registry, and other public services.
6. Include and promote the discussion of human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression issues within the framework of existing regional cooperation mechanisms and facilitate the exchange of information and best practices among member countries.
7. Report to the PGA Secretariat, every 6 months, on the steps and actions we have taken pursuant to this Statement of Commitment with the objective to share, on a regular basis, with our colleagues worldwide such initiatives and build a resource for parliamentary action in this field.

Done and adopted on this 3rd day of November, 2014 in San Salvador, El Salvador