

**STRATEGY SESSION ON THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS IN PROMOTING
NON-DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTITY**

Hotel Hilton Princess, Liverpool conference room,
San Salvador, El Salvador

Sunday, November 29th, 2015
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Agenda

Objectives and structure of the session:

Section 1: To share best practices and effective strategies among Parliamentarians, human rights practitioners and NGO representatives from different regions of the world in promoting non-discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI). Parliamentarians and civil society representatives from the same country/region will offer their perspectives on opportunities and challenges to promoting non-discrimination, followed by an informal, facilitated discussion. Participants will be asked to keep comments to 2-3 minutes to allow a broader interactive dialogue.

Section 2: To review, discuss and provide input to a draft version of a user-friendly, Parliamentary Handbook on Human Rights and SOGI prepared jointly by PGA and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and to be published in mid-2016. The moderator of this section will project on the screen the main elements of the handbook and request feedback from participants. An electronic version of the draft handbook will be shared with participants in advance of the meeting.

Expected participants: Parliamentarians from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Africa, and Asia, NGO Representatives from the LAC region, and human rights experts.

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Welcoming remarks from Chair

Dip. Minou Tavárez Mirabal, Chamber of Deputies, Dominican Republic
President, Parliamentarians for Global Action

9:15 – 9:30 a.m.

Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity in International Human Rights Law – Demystifying the topic

Mr. Colin Robinson, Executive Director, CAISO making sexual and gender diversity part of Trinidad & Tobago's national identity & Secretariat, CariFLAGS: the Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders & Sexualities

Section 1 – Sharing Best Practices on Promoting Non-discrimination Based on SOGI

9:30 – 10:40 a.m.

Sharing experiences from various regions: Parliamentarians and LGBTI civil society reflect on challenges and opportunities

a) Latin America and the Caribbean

Dip. Cristina Cornejo Amaya, Member of the Committee on Legislation and Constitutional Affairs,
Legislative Assembly of El Salvador

Karla Avelar, COMCAVIS-TRANS, El Salvador

Dip. Jorge Cálix, National Congress of Honduras

Dip. Margarita Stolbizer, Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, *PGA Board Member*

Dep. Jean Wyllys, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil

Tieneke Sumter, Chair of the LGBT Platform Suriname

John Waters, Co-Chair, Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral, Caribbean Vulnerable
Communities (COIN/CVC), Dominican Republic

Ms. Desirée de Sousa-Croes, MP, Parliament of Aruba

Mixair Nolasco, Network of Transgender People, Panama

Dip. Marvin Atencio, Costa Rica

Dip. Edgar Herrera, Guatemala

b) Africa

Hon. Ursula Owusu-Ekufu, MP, Parliament of Ghana

Hon. Dr. Pindi Chana, MP

Deputy Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children
Chair, PGA's International Council

c) Asia

Hon. Prem Singh, MP, Parliament of Fiji

Hon. Ramesh Lekhak, MP, Parliament of Nepal

Interactive Discussion

10:40 – 11:00 a.m. - Coffee Break

**Section Two – Consultation on Draft Parliamentary Handbook on Human Rights, Sexual
Orientation and Gender Identity**

11:00 – 11:05 a.m.

Introductory comments by Moderator

Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI Persons, Inter-American Human Rights Commission

11:05 – 11:15 a.m.

Overview of the draft Parliamentary Handbook on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Francisco Berreta, Consultant, PGA

11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Facilitated discussion of content, use and dissemination strategies of Parliamentary Handbook on Human Rights and SOGI

Tracy Robinson, Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI Persons, Inter-American Human Rights Commission

12:45 – 1:00 p.m.

Closing remarks and next steps

Dip. Berta Sanseverino, Parliament of Uruguay, President of the Commission on Health and Social Welfare
Co-Convenor, Gender, Equality and Population Program & PGA Board Member

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. – Lunch in the Windsor Terrace

About PGA's SOGI Campaign:

In 2013, PGA launched its *SOGI Campaign* to promote the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination and to sensitize parliamentarians on the obligations that States have to all individuals regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression under regional and international conventions to which their countries are party.

Through actions and consultations on sexual orientation and gender identity, PGA has engaged more than 100 parliamentarians from the following countries: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Peru, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

Acknowledgments:

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PGA would also like to thank UNDP for facilitating the participation of LGBTI civil society representatives in this consultation.